

In Your Community

About Methane in Water

Recently, some people have raised concern about methane in water. The reality is that methane gas occurs naturally in some water wells throughout Alberta. As a coal bed methane developer, and as a neighbour, EnCana takes the issue of safeguarding water very seriously. EnCana is confident that our energy development activities have not increased the presence of methane in groundwater aquifers.

METHANE CAN OCCUR NATURALLY IN WATER

According to Alberta Agriculture, and countless anecdotes, many of Alberta's water wells contain methane naturally. Methane is the most common gas in groundwater in the province.

Alberta Environment has 2006 records in its Groundwater Centre database indicating gas, assumed to be methane, was detected in groundwater. These records are mainly for water wells used for domestic, stock and municipal needs. The database also shows that about 26,000 water wells in the province have coals present. The methane gas from these coals can be released when water is pumped from the water well.

To learn more about naturally occurring methane in groundwater, visit the Alberta Agriculture Web site at: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/eng9758](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/eng9758).

REGULATION PROVIDES PROTECTION

For many decades, the Government of Alberta has had strict and comprehensive regulations governing oil and gas operations. Part of these regulations have been developed and enacted to protect groundwater. Following the practices EnCana has in place, we do not complete any

coal zones shallower than 175 metres below surface, well below groundwater aquifers.

RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

EnCana has developed and put in place rigorous practices to protect groundwater over the past 30 years in the terms of

gas wells industry has developed in Southern Alberta. We've had 30 professional, independent water well investigations in the last seven years and all concluded that there was no damage caused as a result of our drilling, completion and production operations activities.

Last year EnCana drilled 1000 wells in the area of Wheatland, Kneehill and Vulcan counties, and the Municipal District of Rockyview. We could not have drilled one of them without the support of our neighbours and the approval of our regulator. This means we must operate responsibly. While it might take a matter of hours to drill an average well in this region, each well takes about 18 months of careful planning and consulting. If we can't develop responsibly or safely, then we won't.

If you have any questions about EnCana's oil and gas development activities, please send an email to inyourcommunity@encana.com or visit www.encana.com.

Many of Alberta's water wells contain methane naturally.

Our commitment to you

We encourage anyone concerned about the source of methane in their water to call us at 403-645-3333. In areas where we operate, EnCana will investigate your water well concern. If we created a problem, we will endeavour to fix it and make changes to our operating practices.