



**BISON**  **PIPELINE**  
P R O J E C T

Bison Pipeline Project  
Open Houses – March 2002

*Summary of Public Comments*

## Overview

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In early March, Bison held public open houses to provide an opportunity for people to discuss the proposed pipeline project with Bison representatives. The open houses, held at Fort McMurray, Anzac, Boyle and Bruderheim, were attended by a total of 209 people. Participants were invited to complete comment sheets and Bison has received 88 completed sheets. Bison representatives also recorded comments from their discussions with open house attendees.

Stakeholder input was summarized from comment sheets and notes from discussions with participants. Comments were grouped into two major categories – the project and communication about the project. Within these two categories, comments were grouped by topic.

## Comments About the Project

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The most frequently mentioned topics included local benefits, the route and environmental considerations. Secondary topics included compensation, First Nations liaison and project need. There were differences in priority topics between the four centres. In Fort McMurray and Anzac the most frequently mentioned topic was local benefits while in Bruderheim and Boyle the most frequently mentioned topic was route selection. A summary of the points mentioned by attendees under each topic follows.

### Local Benefits

- Local hiring and contracting, opportunities to bid on contracts
- Provide a list of services, contractors and supplies that will be needed

### Route

- Use existing corridors
- Make site-specific routing changes
- Concern about proximity to Boyle
- Concern about loss of agricultural land
- Commit to one route

## **Environmental**

- Reduce smoke problems through more mulching of wood debris
- Follow up on Vegetation Management Erosion Survey
- Concern about river crossings i.e. Muskeg River
- Concern about spills/ruptures
- Concern about impacts on skidoo and quad trails
- Need for fresh water in Grassland water lagoon
- Clarify which environmental studies will be undertaken
- Concern about abandoned pipelines
- Concern about loss of land
- Concern about heated line (drying out soil, heat loss to ground)

## **Compensation**

- Implement annual payments for landowners and/or municipalities
- Base compensation on small acreage prices not farmland
- Treat landowners with respect

## **First Nations**

- Continue to dialogue with Fort McKay First Nation
- Review Aboriginal ceremonial sites around Meadow Creek projects
- Capitalize on work projects
- Resolve traditional land use concerns and trapping concerns

## **Need for Project**

- Project required for new plants, needed to keep future projects going
- Complements other area projects
- Positive way to proceed with no need for diluent
- Benefits Albertans

## **Engineering**

- Insulation
- Maximum time without flow
- Pipe seals

## **Construction**

- Use same standards for right-of-way management as used for Corridor spread
- Use rocks from county
- Use competent tradespeople

## **Traplins**

- Concerned about damage to the trapline
- Fair and equitable compensation required



## **Safety**

- Interest in Emergency Response Plans - notification zone

## **Nuisance – Noise, Odour**

- Concern about noise or fumes from stations close to communities

## **Cumulative Effects**

- Need for overall, long-term comprehensive study of the Fort McMurray region's energy future

## **General/Other**

- Future considerations
- Statements of support
- Use of non-union contractors for Corridor

## **Comments About Communication with the Public**

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There were many comments about communication, most of which were positive. Positive comments included:

- Friendly, informal open house with helpful staff
- Informative displays and website
- Appreciate early communication, opportunity for discussion
- Well advertised, publicized
- Good land man
- Good environmental information

### **Concerns about communication included:**

- Vague, too early to be consulting
- Land agency only interested in getting signatures
- Concerns based on Corridor experience
- Not very well advertised

### **Suggestions for communication included:**

- Quarterly update letters
- Bring a section of pipe to the open house
- Provide information about which contractors will be used
- Provide larger route map
- Post bulletins in towns along route at least one week prior to open house

The comment form asked respondents to check 'yes' or 'no' to indicate if the open house helped them understand more about the project and if their questions and comments were satisfactorily answered. 81 out of 88 respondents indicated that the open house was helpful, while 72 out of 88 respondents indicated that their questions were answered satisfactorily.