



Natural Gas Update

Atlantica Centre for Energy

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Natural Gas Development Update

prepared by the Atlantica Centre for Energy

Saint John, NB (April 12, 2016) – The Atlantica Centre for Energy today released an update on natural gas development in the province.

As a collective of stakeholders interested in a sustainable energy sector, the Atlantica Centre for Energy has followed the development of natural gas in New Brunswick for over a decade.

Historically, New Brunswick has developed its oil and gas resources for well over a hundred years. Onshore oil and gas extraction has been an integral part of many New Brunswick communities since the 1800s.

When the development of onshore natural gas came to a halt, it resulted in layoffs and closures. In addition to direct jobs in exploration and extraction, the supply chain around the province has been damaged as well.

As job creation is the number one priority of today's government, it is imperative that this industry proceed. The energy sector has the capacity to lift the economic situation of the province, however it relies on a positive investment climate.

As the government explores ways to address its long term goals, the immediate goal of putting people to work must proceed. Those companies already operating in the province must be allowed to proceed with their investments. Corridor Resources, whose environmental and safety records are stellar, whose investment in New Brunswick has been ongoing, and whose interest in proceeding remains steadfast, should be allowed to continue their development.

Financial investments have been significant, noting over \$500 million from Corridor Resources alone. In addition to the employment created, natural gas has been available for local and export use. Using state of the art technologies, its environmental stewardship has also been exemplary.

We are all committed to the same long term goals of a prosperous province. The following energy Update discusses how natural gas development can assist in reaching these goals.

Energy Update – Atlantica Centre for Energy

New Brunswick is at a critical juncture as it attempts to stimulate a lack-lustre economy without alienating parts of the province and putting existing businesses in jeopardy. The reality is beginning to sink in: the status quo in New Brunswick is not sustainable.

We all want the same thing – a prosperous, growing economy and ample access to, and protection of, our natural environment. The devil, as they say, is in the details.

At the Atlantica Centre for Energy we do not consider these goals to be mutually exclusive. The task ahead of us is to determine how we can work together to achieve them.

It is imperative to support the protection of our natural environment. Indeed, one of the reasons so many technological advancements have been created is to do just that.

By the same token, we must also have employment in financially-viable businesses to support our local communities.

As the province moves forward, we have to acknowledge there will be short term gains, a transitional phase, and longer-term goals. We must be realistic that to meet those end goals, we need to develop and accept a transitional strategy.

As the lowest emitting carbon fuel, natural gas plays an important role in this 25 year transitional phase. In addition to helping us reduce our carbon emissions, the development of the natural gas sector in New Brunswick will support the province's number one priority: job creation.

The independent survey conducted by Corporate Research Associates found that 52 per cent of New Brunswickers polled completely or mostly support the development of shale gas in New Brunswick. This result is up from 41 per cent the year prior. The poll also indicates those opposing the development of shale gas fell to 38 per cent from 45 per cent.

Given access to New Brunswick-specific information, the public's confidence has risen over ten-points to 52 per cent in support, which is considerable. In addition, opposition to shale gas development has declined to 38 per cent, which is a significant drop.

By engaging New Brunswickers and reaching out to identify their primary concerns, people across New Brunswick have an increased level of confidence on the process here. The track record of Corridor Resources, which has been operating in New Brunswick without incident for over a decade, certainly is an indicator that this industry can go forward safely.

The province must continue the natural gas development that has been ongoing in the province for over a decade and allow New Brunswickers to get back to work. We can benefit from the investments of energy companies still interested in operating here.

While offshore natural gas may be part of our distant future, onshore natural gas is part of our present.

We have witnessed another energy project getting cancelled (LNG export), and the regulatory process for the Energy East pipeline has now been extended into 2018. New Brunswick needs to embrace the development of its own natural gas resource now, while there remains an interest.

The province can continue to develop its energy, environmental, and economic strategies as longer term goals. The tragic mistake will be to ignore current opportunities while doing so.

The Atlantica Centre for Energy serves as a bridge between researchers, community groups, users and producers of energy to engage in energy-related issues and help realize opportunities associated with energy resources in Atlantic Canada and the American Northeast.

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About Atlantica Centre for Energy

The Atlantica Centre for Energy is dedicated to increasing energy literacy for community leaders and stakeholders. The Centre has expanded to include leading energy professionals, national and international organizations in Maine, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland & Labrador and Ontario.

The Centre serves as a bridge between organizations operating in the energy sector and the community to help realize opportunities associated with energy resources in Atlantic Canada and the American Northeast. It provides a meeting ground for government, the education and research sectors, and the community at large to foster partnerships and engage in energy-related issues.

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