



ALBERTA
ENERGY

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Grande Prairie - Smoky*

May 29, 2008

08-00464-01 ERCB

Mr. Terence Gannon
3553 - 31 Street N.W., Suite 417
Calgary, AB T2L 2K7

Dear Mr. Gannon:

Thank you for your recent email. As Minister of Energy, I am pleased to respond.

The information that you are requesting from the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) is a very rich and complex dataset that covers a broad spectrum of data from all oil, gas, oil sands, and licensed water wells in the province of Alberta. This dataset has been compiled over many decades, and is extremely valuable to the work of the ERCB and, therefore, to Albertans.

The ERCB does not charge the full value for the data that they offer for sale. Instead, data collections are provided at a cost that helps to offset the significant cost of collecting, managing and making the data available, thereby, reducing the operating costs that are paid for by all Albertans. I recognize that this approach is different from other jurisdictions that charge the full amount of these activities to all taxpayers and stakeholders.

We support those who would like to utilize this data by providing the same opportunity to all who are interested in accessing the ERCB's data and information. The data and information, including pricing, is available to all Albertans and is described in the ERCB's Publications Catalogue – Guide 01: Publications, Maps and Services which can be found in the "Publications" area within the ERCB's website (www.ercb.ca).

My understanding is that staff members at the ERCB have engaged with you in multiple telephone meetings to understand your request, to confirm the availability of the data that you have requested, and to confirm the costs for this data. They have also discussed with you the ERCB's operating model including the availability and the cost of the ERCB data.

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I support the operating model and approach taken by the ERCB because it provides the opportunity for access to data while offsetting a portion of the costs that the organization invests to collect and maintain the data.

I encourage the ERCB to continue its dialogue with you to ensure that you understand the opportunities for accessing the data collections and the cost recovery model that is in place.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mel R. Knight', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Mel R. Knight
Minister

cc: Harry Chase
MLA, Calgary-Varsity

Alana Delong
MLA, Calgary-Bow