Public Participation in Alberta’s Energy and Natural Resources Development:

*Is There Room For Improvement?*
Roles in Public Participation

- Informed Observer (Student of Public Participation)
- Practitioner
- Participant
- Decision maker

Our role colors our perceptions of PP

- Who is here today?
My Perspective - Lots of Room for Improvement

- Need to Create Clarity on the ‘What’ vs. the ‘How’ in the Resource Development Policy Framework
  - Public Interest
  - Standing
- Public Participation Approaches Have Changed Little Since 1970’s
- Regulatory Approaches to Public Participation Matter (Prescriptive vs. Outcome Based)
  - Is a regulatory hearing public participation?
Stakeholder Engagement in the Energy Industry - What Has changed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publics</th>
<th>Late 70’s – Mid 90’s</th>
<th>Post Mid 90’s</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complex</td>
<td>More complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry Profile</td>
<td>Small group of dominant majors</td>
<td>Income trusts, Juniors, Majors N/OS/EC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Business Planning</td>
<td>Long term stakeholder focus, Recognition of strategic role of stakeholders, Corporate memory, Quasi business case (enlightened self-interest)</td>
<td>Short term stakeholder focus, 1/4ly Income focus, Juniors – 5 yr. exit, No corporate history, Stakeholder understanding limited</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regulatory Compliance</td>
<td>Little or No Regulatory Requirement, Part of the process to build relationships, Resourced by specialists</td>
<td>Prescriptive Requirements, The objective (check the box), A land function</td>
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Opportunities for Improvement

- Defining the “Public Interest” in Policy (not in the context of individual regulatory decision making processes)
- Provide outcome based regulatory compliance requirements for public participation
- Incent innovation in consultation process and approaches
- Expand regulatory decision making tool box to more than just regulatory hearings
Conclusions

- Establish participation requirements and expectations around the LUF and regional/sub regional plans
- Practitioners - get more creative
- Participants - get smarter and demand more clarity
- Don’t confuse regulatory hearing adjudication processes with public participation - they are not the same