

# Letters

## Power lines should be made higher

Dear Editor,  
I just read yet another article in a local paper promoting power line safety.  
The statement reads: "Since 1950 the height of farm equipment has doubled, power lines have stayed the same."  
The article lists all the utility

companies involved in a joint utility safety team who are promoting power line safety.  
Farmers like us feel they are missing the point.  
The power lines need to be raised where they cross roads.  
Yes it is no longer 1950. I urge all concerned about this issue to

contact their MLA to demand the government reset the required height of all lines. This would insure safety.  
"Where's the line" is their slogan. I hope soon - much higher than at present.

LINDA GATEZ,  
Crossfield

## There are proven cases of fracking contamination

Re: "Documented cases of fracking contamination are not proven" June 23  
Dear Editor,  
There are proven cases documented and industry admits they don't know what their fracks do. A 1987 Report to Congress: Kaiser fracked about 4,000 feet deep "allowing migration of fracture fluid from the gas well to Mr. Parson's water well. This fracture fluid, along with natural gas was present in Mr. Parson's water rendering it unusable." www.nytimes.com

1989 Industry: "hydraulic fracturing stimulation" for light oil, in several wells in Manitoba propagated into a water zone. www.frackingcanada.ca

2001, 2004 Groundwater Database entries: Gas wells 02-06-04 perforations at 100.5 metres, 05-14-27-22-W4M intentionally fractured Rosebud's drinking water aquifers. www.tgwc.ca

2005 - Current: "Oil wells on the Campbell property have caused gas from 1,757 metres to enter their aquifer," said Muehlenbachs www.http://theyee.ca

2005/06 Industry: "...industry still has much to learn about hydraulic fractures. Fractures from both horizontal and vertical wells can propagate vertically out of the intended zone, ... potentially connecting up with other hydraulic fracturing stages or unwanted water or gas intervals."

www.slb.com  
2006 Regulator: "Information provided by industry to date shows that there may not always be a complete understanding of fracture propagation at shallow depths and that programs are not always subject to rigorous engineering design." www.ernstversusencana.ca

2008 Industry: "We Can Safely Say That We Know Everything There Is To Know About Hydraulically Created Fractures EXCEPT How Deeply They Penetrate; Their Vertical Extents; Their Symmetries About the Wellbore; Whether They Are Planar or Multi-stranded; Their Geometries At The Perimeter; Which Directions They Go; What Their Conductivities Are" www.docstoc.com

2010 Regulator: "Fracture propagation via large scale hydraulic fracturing operations has proven difficult to predict. Existing planes of weakness in target formations may result in fracture lengths that exceed initial design expectations." www.bcogc.ca

2012 Regulator: "High-Risk Enforcement Action against Crew Energy Ltd." for a frac incident that contaminated groundwater. "The concentrations of chloride... remains elevated. Benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX) concentrations remained unchanged..." www.ernstversusencana.ca

Mr. Meikle's letter: "Again when oil companies are going to hydraulically stimulate wells, they test all surrounding water wells for water quality and production rate." In my experience, companies refuse to do this, don't test for all chemicals used on the few wells they do test and refuse complete chemical disclosure before drilling, preventing appropriate testing. And after a community's water is contaminated and water tower explodes, Alberta regulators argue in court they owe 'no duty of care' to anyone harmed by industry's contamination. www.ernstversusencana.ca and http://www.ernstversusencana.ca

Mr. Meikle's letter: "All chemicals used in fracking have to be reported to the AER." Not according to the regulator's General Counsel: "the ERCB does not currently require licensees to provide detailed disclosure of the chemical composition of fracturing fluids." https://www.frackingcanada.ca

I asked what chemicals were injected in my community's aquifers. Encana and the regulators refuse to cooperate.

Let's hope more proof doesn't involve Mr. Meikle's water or loved ones. Fighting for accountability, justice and safe water, is an expensive, full-time job.

JESSICA ERNST  
Rosebud

# Comment

## Get the facts on Canada's new anti-spam law

BLAKE RICHARDS  
Wild Rose MP

Over the past two weeks, my email inbox has been flooded with requests to continue sending me unsolicited messages. I suspect many of you have experienced the same wave of emails, as Canada's new Anti Spam Law (CASL) took effect.

This law, which received support from all parties in the House of Commons and Senate, was approved by Parliament in December of 2010.

It came into force on July 1, 2014 introducing new rules to protect Canadian consumers from the most damaging and deceptive forms of spam and online threats, such as identity theft, phishing and spyware.

The new law will help to pro-

tect you against receiving emails and text messages without consent; having computer programs installed on your system without consent; and having your electronic addresses and personal information collected without consent. As of Canada Day, this law gives you more control by requiring your consent to receive emails and text messages.

Even with your consent, companies have to identify themselves in their emails and provide a way to unsubscribe from receiving further messages.

Spammers who do not comply risk major financial penalties.

Moving forward, on January 15, 2015, it will be illegal for spammers to install programs such as malware without consent.

On July 1, 2017, individuals and organizations can officially file

lawsuits against someone who they allege has violated the law.

It is important to note that Canadian businesses still have three years to renew consent with existing clients, if a business already has your express consent, it can continue to communicate with clients through email and not be in violation of the law. Under the new rules, express consent never expires unless the client withdraws it. You can report spam to the Spam Reporting Centre (SRC), at www.fightspam.gc.ca

The bottom line is that spam, email fraud and phishing schemes are favoured tools of criminals; it is estimated that spam costs the Canadian economy more than \$3 billion per year.

For more information, visit www.fightspam.gc.ca

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