

News Release

Industrial Rail Yard Next to Two Protected Natural Areas (Don't Albertans Have Any Landowner Rights?)

(Edmonton) June 24, 2010. Bulldozers started clearing land on June 21, 2010 for an industrial rail yard for storing petroleum tanker cars next to two protected natural areas in the Bretona community just outside the Edmonton City limits.

Cando Contracting Ltd. is building an industrial rail yard on 5.2 acres of land to store petroleum tanker cars for Imperial Oil Limited. The rail yard will consist of a siding (extra track) next to the existing CN railway plus 10 tracks built side-by-side. It will essentially be a parking lot for tanker rail cars that are used for hauling various petroleum products. The land is being leased from CN.

Local residents are upset because they have been trying to halt this project ever since they found out on May 12, 2010 that a rail yard was planned next to their homes and protected natural areas. "We found out only by accident that this industrial project was planned right next door", said John Kristensen who lives on an acreage next to the rail yard. One of the contractors who was bidding on the earthworks construction visited the Kristensens and their neighbors, the Trelenbergs, on May 12, asking if they wanted to sell some fill material for the project. The bidding contractor approached the neighboring landowners in hopes of making a deal for nearby fill material even though, according to the contractor, Cando Contracting Ltd. had asked the bidders not to speak with the adjacent landowners so as not to alert them to the project.

The Kristensens and Trelenbergs immediately contacted the County of Strathcona to eventually find out that Cando Contracting Ltd. had contacted the County about their proposal last fall. "We could not believe that we were the last people to find out about this project", said Kristensen, "How can anyone plan a project, hire consultants to prepare engineering design drawings, meet with the municipal government, and not bother providing notice to the landowners living right next door?" John and Sharon Kristensen's house is located only 163m from the rail yard and Dave and Leann Trelenberg's house is only 68m from the site.

In addition to contacting Strathcona County Planning and Development, the Kristensens and Trelenbergs contacted their Councillor, their Member of Parliament, CN, Alberta Environment, Environment Canada, Imperial Oil Limited, and the Canadian Transportation Agency. Following many e-mails, phone calls and meetings over the past month, they were told that no one had any jurisdiction or authority to request approvals for this project. "How is this possible? How can a private company come into our neighborhood and build an industrial rail yard next to our homes and protected natural areas without

approvals from anyone, and without contacting us as the people who live next door?”, said Kristensen.

When the bulldozers moved in on June 21, and Cando Contracting Ltd. was approached by Kristensen, he was told that all the approvals were in place and the neighbors couldn't stop the project. Now, the trees are already cut down and earth is being moved and piled.

“We have no one to turn to”, said Kristensen. “Everyone we have spoken with or contacted has told us it's somebody else's responsibility. Don't Albertans have any rights to protect their properties or to protect natural areas?”

- 30 -

For background see the 4 attachments, and for more information contact:

John Kristensen
780-467-1432 (home)
780-722-9866 (cell)

Attachments: Bretona Area Fact Sheet No. 1
Bretona Area Fact Sheet No. 2
Bretona Area Fact Sheet No. 3
Bretona Area References