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Calmar wellhead dispute prompts meeting with Imperial
12:20am

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 3/9/2011

A Calmar controversy could really hit the fan tonight.

There's a meeting this evening with everyone affected by an abandoned wellhead. It was discovered after a new development in Calmar was built about five years ago on Evergreen Crescent. Imperial Oil needs to buy those properties to make sure the well is sealed.

Local MLA Diana McQueen says "tonight is about listening," but she is also looking at new regulations to make sure this doesn't happen again.

"They'll be required to ensure applicants, such as developers, have provided evidence that they have consulted with the ERCB for the presence of abandoned oil and gas wells before any development would happen," McQueen explains, adding that's only one of several proposed changes to the regulations.

McQueen says representatives of all sides of the debate will be at the meeting: residents, Imperial Oil, the ERCB, Municipal Affairs, the Town of Calmar, and McQueen herself.

Some neighbours say the town was warned of potential problems up to 15 years ago but went ahead and approved the development anyway. Four of the five properties next the well have been bought by Imperial Oil, but one other neighbour is holding out for a better offer. (bd)

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