



Council of Canadian Academies
Conseil des académies canadiennes

GAS HYDRATES IN CANADA PUBLIC CALL FOR EVIDENCE

The Council of Canadian Academies has been asked by the federal Minister of Natural Resources: “What are the challenges for an acceptable operational extraction of gas hydrates in Canada in terms of: economic impact, social acceptability, and accessibility?” An Expert Panel on Gas Hydrates has been appointed by the Council to address this question and provide an account of the science and technology relevant to the safe extraction and use of gas hydrates in Canada. Scientific knowledge is broadly interpreted to include natural sciences and engineering as well as social sciences. The panel would welcome evidence from the public on the nature of the scientific, but also environmental, economic or social considerations potentially arising from the exploration and potential development of gas hydrates.

1. Deadline and Where to Send Responses

Please send your responses by **Friday, December 14, 2007**.

Responses are likely to have the greatest impact if they are restricted to at most four pages, plus appendices if appropriate. Responses should be sent by email to gashydrates@scienceadvice.ca, or alternatively by regular mail to:

Christina Stachulak, Program Director
Council of Canadian Academies
180 Elgin Street, suite 1401
Ottawa, ON, K2P 2K3

2. Specific Questions

The Expert Panel on Gas Hydrates welcomes, as evidence for its deliberations, your responses to any or all of the following questions:

1. Do you believe gas hydrates have the potential to become a commercially exploitable energy source for Canada? If so, roughly when and where? If not, why?
2. Are there social, environmental or governance issues that you believe should be addressed in the context of the eventual potential exploitation of gas hydrates? Explain.
3. Do you have any additional concerns or insights on the exploitation of gas hydrates which you believe would be helpful to the Expert Panel?

3. Publication

The final report of the Expert Panel will list the individuals and organizations who submitted evidence. We may also publish, electronically or otherwise, the evidence submitted along with the final report of the panel. We may contact contributors for clarification or follow-up meetings.

Please indicate clearly:

- Whether your response is a personal or institutional position;
- If you do not wish your submission to be made public;

- If you do not wish to be identified as a contributor;
- If you do not wish to be contacted by the Council of Canadian Academies in relation to your submission. (The Council will only contact those parties that are identified by the Expert Panel after review of the evidence).

Please feel free to circulate this document to others who may be interested.

About the Council of Canadian Academies (www.scienceadvice.ca)

The mission of the Council of Canadian Academies ("Council") is to provide a source of independent, expert assessment of the science that is relevant to matters of significant public interest. The Council thus facilitates access by government and by the broad public to the best available scientific knowledge with the objective of informing debate and decision-making.

The Council is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in April 2002 under the Canada Corporations Act. It became effectively operational in March, 2006 with the support of a \$30 million founding grant from the Government of Canada. The grant is intended to support core operations of the Council for ten years.

The principal client of the Council, at present, is the Government of Canada. The Council has agreed to undertake up to five assessments per year on topics proposed by the government. In future, clients could also include provincial governments, non-governmental organizations, foundations and possibly the commercial sector. The cost of studies, other than those proposed by the Government of Canada (as referred to above), would be funded by these additional clients.

Council studies are undertaken by independent panels of experts (often from universities) appointed by the Council. Panel members serve voluntarily, without fees or honoraria. The Council provides staff support for expert panels and covers the cost of panel meetings and other costs incidental to the expert panel process. All assessment reports of the Council are made public in both French and English.

The Council's Member Academies are: RSC: The Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences of Canada; Canadian Academy of Engineering; and Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Appendix

A panel of experts (see below) has been appointed by the Council to assess the science and technology that would be needed to safely and profitably extract gas hydrates in Canada.

Dr. John Grace (FRSC, FCAE) Chair	Professor, Chemical and Biological Engineering and Canada Research Chair in Fluidization and Clean Energy, University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC)
Dr. Timothy Collett	Research Geologist, Geologic Division, US Geological Survey (Denver, CO)
Dr. Frederick Colwell	Professor, Geomicrobiology, College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University (Corvallis, OR)
Dr. Mehran Pooladi-Darvish	Associate Professor, Chemical & Petroleum Engineering, University of Calgary (Calgary, AB)
Dr. Peter Englezos	Professor, Department of Chemical & Biological Engineering, University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC)
Dr. Emrys Jones	Project Manager, Chevron (Richmond, CA)
Dr. Robert Mansell	Managing Director, Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy, University of Calgary (Calgary, AB)
Dr. J. Peter Meekison	Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria (Victoria, BC)
Dr. Rosemary Ommer	Adjunct Professor, Department of History, University of Victoria; Principal Investigator of the Coasts Under Stress Project (Victoria, BC)
Dr. Michael Riedel	Associate Professor, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, McGill University (Montreal, QC)
Dr. John Ripmeester (FRSC)	Principal Research Officer and Group Leader, Materials Structure and Function Group, National Research Council Canada (Ottawa, ON)
Dr. Craig Shipp	Team Leader, Geohazards Assessment and Pore Pressure Prediction Team, Shell International Exploration and Production Inc. (Houston, TX)
Dr. Eleanor Willoughby	Research Associate, Marine Geophysics Group, Department of Physics, University of Toronto (Toronto, ON)