



## You Asked Us... ...about Noise Control and Compressors on Private Property

### ***A round-up of recent questions we've received, and the answers...***

*Red Deer County staff regularly answers questions from the public about everything the County does, including levels of service, programs offered, proposed increase in service level or changes to services provided. Since many of these inquiries are of interest to all County residents and ratepayers, we would like to share the questions and answers in this column, along with contact information if you have any further questions relating to this topic.*

### ***What governs noise from compressors on private property?***

Agreements are made between the landowners and industry representatives prior to any compressors being located on private properties. Landowners have the ability to address noise concerns when the agreement is being negotiated, and it appears the Energy Industry is amenable to addressing these concerns by installing quieter compressors.

### ***What is the County's jurisdiction?***

Any law (bylaw) adopted is effective only if it can be enforced. The County has adopted a Noise Control Bylaw (No. 2007/19) that provides for the abatement and control of noise.

The County does not have the ability to pass valid bylaws in areas that are beyond its jurisdiction. Following are excerpts from the **Municipal Government Act**:

Section 7 states "A council may pass bylaws for **municipal purposes** respecting the following matters: (a) the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property...."

Section 9 states "The power to pass bylaws under this Division is stated in general terms to (a) give broad authority to councils and to respect their right to govern municipalities in whatever way the councils consider appropriate, **within the jurisdiction given to them under this or any other enactment...**"

When there are other enactments (provincial or federal) in place that give authority/jurisdiction to another body (i.e. ERCB, NRCB), a municipal Council does not have the ability to adopt an 'enforceable' bylaw in relation to the matter. Consequently, Red Deer County or any other municipality does not have the ability to adopt a bylaw that is 'more restrictive' than ERCB requirements.

Any questions about the Noise Control Bylaw can be directed to County Patrol at 403.343.6301