WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

(Photos and captions by Will Koop, May 2010)

In the sparsely populated farming lands of BC's northeast Peace River country visitors might notice some strange painted red and white metal towers protruding above the wooded canopies. "What's that honey, a communications tower?" "No dear, it's just farmers drilling for well water!"

Or, while driving along the main highways and along the main country access roads, sightseers might also notice posted red and white metal WARNING signs concerning buried pressurized gas pipelines alongside the path of newly disturbed corridors through fields and wooded areas.

Or, travellers speeding by may get a glimpse of much larger signs erected on metal gates or on wooden posts alongside the highway.

Or, travelling visitors might also notice less frequent and informal signs posted alongside the highways by country residents.

Or, if for some reason, while touring through the farming country access side roads, travellers might notice new and widened corridors popping up everywhere.

And, along these country roads, are new wide side roads with gates leading to rather large rectangular clearings with strange curved and shiny metal pipes sticking out.

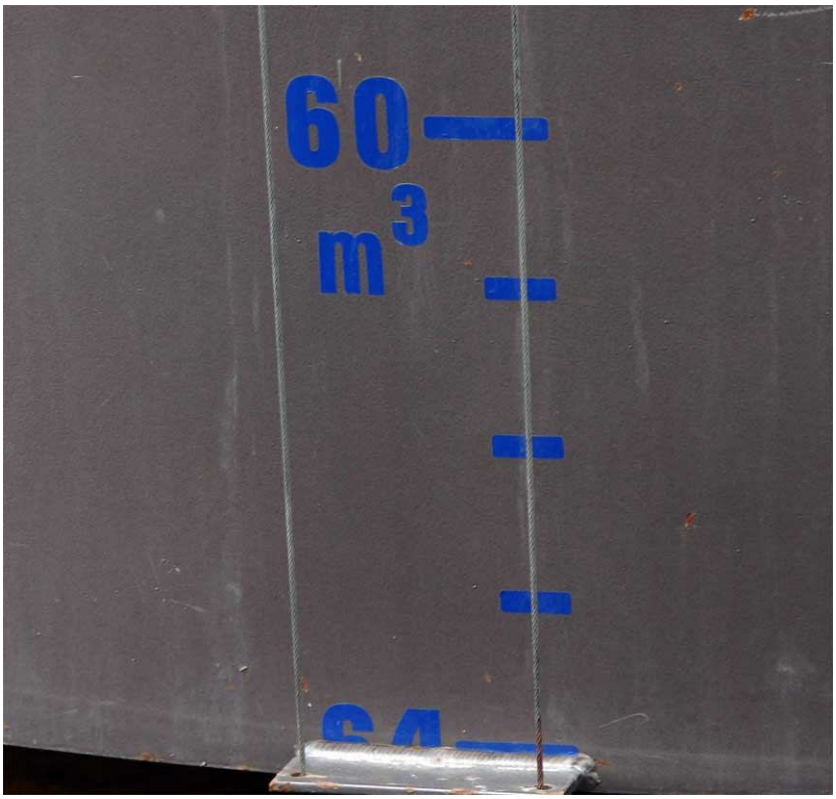
More curious visitors may drive up new access roads built high off the farming land to new large rectangular clearings built some 20 to 25 feet higher than the land around it and see drilling rigs.

The twin and triple tower drilling rigs force 9 inch diameter pipes sometimes a mile or more deep into the earth to penetrate “trapped” poisonous gases. Toxic drilling fluids are required to drill underground, and hundreds of trucks access the cleared, built up pads to service the drilling site.

Toxic drilling fluid wastes are temporarily stored in containers on the cleared rectangular pads.

Huge storage tanks for water, with each tank holding a maximum capacity of 64 cubic meters (14,080 imperial gallons), are individually hauled in by trucks and placed on each pad, organized side by side, to be used for the hydraulic fracturing (fracking) procedure.

On this pad site, about 60 water tanks were used. About 1/200th (0.5%) of the water volume pumped into the ground is made up of toxic chemicals. For 60 full tanks, that's about 4,224 imperial gallons, or 19.2 cubic meters, of toxics per frack.



The successful distribution of the 60 tanks is organized through a complicated series of hoses and a main delivery pipe connected to powerful diesel compressor engines to deliver the payload for fracking deep underground.

The fracking service industry has numerous promotional signs.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