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**PETROLEUM RESEARCH ATLANTIC CANADA RELEASES
GREENFIELD GAS REPORT**

Halifax, NS – Petroleum Research Atlantic Canada (PRAC) has released a study designed to assist decision makers assess the socio-economic benefits and costs of introducing natural gas into Greenfield areas. The study was jointly funded by PRAC and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

The three main objectives of the Greenfield Gas Study were to determine the type of impacts that could be expected from making natural gas available, to develop a framework model to gauge the potential impacts of natural gas introduction and to apply the framework model to case studies on three regions in Atlantic Canada.

To fulfill the first objective the study reviews Greenfield sites that have received or expanded the use of natural gas within the last decade. These sites are Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast, Southwestern Manitoba, Wingham, Blyth, Brussels – Ontario, Lewis County, New York State and Chittenden and Franklin Counties, Northern Vermont.

The framework model provides a series of structured questions and data sources that are needed in order to make informed decisions in new areas seeking natural gas service. This includes such things as the region's energy objectives, energy supply and market structure and distribution system costs just to name a few.

The case studies use the framework model to assess three specific regions in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

PRAC is a federally incorporated, not for profit, public-private partnership that began operations in 1999. PRAC is committed to increasing the capacity and scale of petroleum related research in Atlantic Canada and operates from full time offices in St. John's, Newfoundland and Halifax, Nova Scotia, as well as a part time office in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The mandate of PRAC is to foster within Atlantic Canada inter-disciplinary research and development (R&D) related to oil and gas and the diffusion of that knowledge.

For a complete copy of the Greenfield Gas Report, visit the PRAC website at www.pr-ac.ca.

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