

Southwestern Energy response re First Peoples Worldwide report

18 Nov 2013

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Southwestern Energy to respond to the following items:

- Press release: ["The Next Financial Bubble: Indigenous Peoples Rights - Report Exposes Risk to Shareholders When Indigenous Rights Are Ignored,"](#) First Peoples Worldwide, 28 Oct 2013
- Full report: ["First Peoples Worldwide's - Indigenous Rights Risk Report for the Extractive Industry - Preliminary Findings"](#), First Peoples Worldwide, 28 Oct 2013

Southwestern Energy sent the following response:

"At Southwestern Energy, our mission is to produce and provide energy for our world. In New Brunswick, Canada, we are in the early stages of an exploration program to determine the viability of future energy development. These operations are being conducted in accordance with our license to explore granted by the Province and with all local laws and regulations.

Over the course of the past three years, we have been gathering data at the surface and are currently in the process of gathering seismic data. We have not drilled any wells, nor have we conducted any hydraulic fracturing operations.

We have held discussions with the leadership of 14 First Nations in New Brunswick over the past year and a half. Prior to the start of seismic testing, an agreement was reached that allowed us conduct our seismic testing operations with the oversight and cooperation of those First Nations. Some protest activity occurred earlier this year while we shot two seismic lines, but we were able to get the lines completed.

Due to its proximity to First Nations traditional territory and the increased potential for protests, we met with First Nations and provincial government officials before beginning work on our third seismic line. The location of the third line was selected as result of several meetings with elected councilors from Elsipogtog, the closest First Nation to the planned seismic work. The selection being for us to record the line down a major highway, removed from undeveloped land used by Elsipogtog for traditional purposes. When our seismic equipment was brought in to the staging location, it was surrounded by protestors. We were unable to access the equipment for approximately 30 days, despite numerous attempts by us, the Province and RCMP to negotiate a peaceful end to the blockade. Since that time, we have continued our discussions with the surrounding communities and First Nations and recommenced our seismic operations last week.

Our objective of being an important member of each community in which we operate compels us to continuously carry out our operations responsibly and with high standards. Our employees are dedicated to the safety of people and the environment, as well as ensuring we are in full compliance with all regulations. All aspects of our operations are influenced by our company's Formula for success, which begins with "the Right People doing the Right Things."

We respect the right of all citizens to voice their beliefs and opinions, when conducted in a safe and lawful manner. Southwestern Energy has been and will continue to work closely with local authorities and community leaders to conduct our operations safely and responsibly, and in full compliance with the laws of the country and Province."