



# News Release

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For Immediate Release

March 10, 2009

## **Beaver County and Town of Viking Break Ground on Business Park Where ATCO Gas Opens New Geothermal Facility**

VIKING, ALBERTA - ATCO Gas, the Town of Viking and Beaver County jointly celebrated the ground breaking for the Viking/Beaver Business Park. The celebration included the grand opening of ATCO Gas' new geothermal Viking Operations Centre.

"As we celebrate the official opening of the new business park, jointly-owned with the Town of Viking, we look towards a prosperous future together," said Beaver County Deputy Reeve Vern Hafso. "We may be in the midst of a worldwide recession, but our new business park speaks to the optimism that still exists in Alberta."

ATCO Gas' new Viking Operations Centre is the first business located in the new business park. It's also the first ATCO building to be equipped with geothermal heating technology. The geothermal heating system will draw on heat energy from within the earth's crust.

Cindy Lefsrud, Mayor for the Town of Viking remarked, "Viking is delighted to recognize two more milestones in the same year as the Town's centennial. Growth in our area of Alberta is great news."

The new 5,576 square-foot ATCO facility includes heat-exchanger pipes installed into 14 bore holes drilled 200 feet deep into the earth. It also contains energy efficient lighting, insulation and a high-efficiency water heater. The building has been designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 15 tonnes annually.

"The Viking Operations Centre showcases ATCO's commitment to the environment by piloting the use of alternative energy technology," said Siegfried Kiefer, Managing Director, Utilities & Chief Information Officer, ATCO Group. "This flagship facility raises the bar for sustainable-building standards at ATCO."

With the opening of the new centre, ATCO Gas has the facilities and capabilities to better serve customers in Viking and 27 other growing communities in the area, including Irma, Provost, Vegreville and Vermilion. Fifteen employees now work out of the facility.

"Today marks another great milestone for ATCO Gas," said Brian Hahn, President, ATCO Gas. "The new Viking Operations Centre helps us reduce our local carbon footprint at this site while improving operational efficiency and quality so we can maintain delivery rates among the lowest in Canada."

ATCO Gas provides safe, reliable natural gas distribution to more than one million Albertans. It is part of the ATCO Group of Companies. ATCO Group, an Alberta-based worldwide organization of companies with assets of approximately \$8.7 billion and more than 7,700 employees, is comprised of three main business divisions: Power Generation, Utilities (natural gas and electricity transmission and distribution) and Global Enterprises (industrial manufacturing, technology, logistics and energy services).

More information about Beaver County is available at [www.beaver.ab.ca](http://www.beaver.ab.ca).  
More information about the Town of Viking is available at [www.town.viking.ab.ca](http://www.town.viking.ab.ca).  
More information about ATCO Gas is available at [www.atcogas.com](http://www.atcogas.com).

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