



Backgrounder

BEAVER COUNTY / TOWN OF VIKING BUSINESS PARK

- Purchased in 2005, the new 45-acre business park is jointly owned by Beaver County and the Town of Viking.
- This is the second business park within Beaver County, and the first business park in Viking. It is located adjacent to the Town of Viking's existing industrial/commercial area with easy access to Highway 36, one of Alberta's high-load corridors.
- The ATCO Gas Viking Operations Centre is the first business located in the new Viking/Beaver Business Park.
- The County and Town welcome inquiries from light industrial and commercial developers for future development in the Park.
- Phase 2 of the servicing for the Park is also being planned, including expansion of the road and the addition of sewer, water and power services.

ATCO GAS VIKING OPERATIONS CENTRE

- ATCO Gas has consolidated operations to better serve customers in Viking and 27 other rapidly growing communities in the area, including Irma, Provost, Vegreville and Vermilion. Fifteen employees now work out of the facility.
- The Viking Operations Centre is the first ATCO building to use geothermal technology.
- The Viking Operations Centre's geothermal mechanical system involved drilling 14 vertical bore-holes 200-feet deep and installing two ¾ inch heat exchanger pipes in each hole. The mechanical system supporting the geothermal system includes electric-fired heat pumps and heat exchangers that minimize the use of roof-top HVAC systems.
- Additional energy-efficiency features within the building's design include high-efficiency T8 lights and lighting fixtures, a high-efficiency water heater, and use of high insulation materials in the walls (R27) and in the roof (R50).
- The facility is 5,576 square feet in size and located on a 3-acre parcel of land in the Viking/Beaver Business Park in Viking, Alberta.
- Total cost for the new facility was approximately \$3.2 million, including land costs. Project was on budget and completed ahead of schedule.
- ATCO Gas has a deeply historic connection with Viking. ATCO Gas has served the Town of Viking - the birth place of Alberta's natural gas in the north - and surrounding communities for 86 years.

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ATCO GAS

- ATCO Gas is Alberta's largest natural gas distribution company serving more than one million customers in nearly 300 Alberta communities. The company owns and operates a safe, reliable natural gas distribution system of more than 36,487 kilometres of pipeline.
- ATCO Gas is on call 24 hours a day to respond to gas odour calls, carbon monoxide calls, customer needs and emergencies involving natural gas. We are committed to providing customers with information to help them live and work safely around natural gas.
- ATCO Gas is headquartered in Edmonton, Alberta and has 62 district offices across the province. ATCO Gas has more than 2,000 employees who live and work in the communities they serve.
- ATCO Gas provides service to municipal, residential, business and industrial customers.
- ATCO Gas provides expert safety, energy-efficiency and conservation, and nutritional advice through ATCO EnergySense and the ATCO Blue Flame Kitchen
- Other recent ATCO Gas environmental initiatives include:
 - Partnering with Avalon Master Builder and Ener-West Geo-Energy Services Inc. to install renewable energy technology in geo-solar homes in the McKenzie Towne subdivision in Calgary. Space heating and cooling for each home will be supplied by a geothermal system while two roof-mounted solar collectors will serve to heat a portion of the domestic hot water. These improvements have the potential to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to six tonnes per house per year.
 - Winning an Energy-TV Award in November 2007 for the Drake Landing Solar Project which supplies 52 homes with 90 per cent of their annual heating needs. The project is North America's first large-scale solar seasonal storage system and the first in the world to deliver such a high percentage of space heating from energy collected through solar panels. The system will reduce each home's greenhouse gas emissions by nearly four tonnes a year.