

**LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION:**

Series

**No.:**

AU023.005S

**FORMS PART OF:**

AU023 Martha Kostuch fonds

**TITLE:**

Air quality series

**CREATOR:**

Kostuch, Martha

**DATE RANGE:**

1967-2008

**EXTENT:**

5.62 meters of textual records and other material

**ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY/BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:**

Martha Kostuch was an active member on more than thirteen organizations concerned with air quality. During her activist years, she was the recipient of seven national and provincial awards, either individually or as a team for working to improve air quality.

Kostuch worked to reduce noxious emissions into the atmosphere and sat on many provincial, national and international committees, seeking ways to reduce all emissions and to improve the quality of Alberta's air. Many committees were composed of multi-stakeholder members that included government, non-government and industry, which often created conflicting aspirations. Kostuch became known as tenacious and steadfast in working through the issues, even if it meant compromise, to achieve the mandate of the committee. However, she learnt that being firm about her goals while setting the committee mandate at the onset meant less compromise later.

Some of the work Kostuch and other committee members did concerned specific emissions or issues, such as sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), hydrogen sulfide, target loading, ethylene, particulate matter, ozone, smog, benzene, flaring and venting, ambient objectives and long range transport of pollutants. Usually the work of these boards included analyzing technical monitoring data and scientific reports regarding emissions, and then setting reduction targets, guidelines and recommendations. She also worked on several boards to set Canada wide standards for air quality that would be incorporated into Environment Canada's directives. Since 1979, Kostuch also worked jointly with the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) and representatives of the Ram

River and Strachan sour gas plants to monitor, analyze and set lower emission caps for SO<sub>2</sub>. Many of Kostuch's recommendations were incorporated into the EUB's directives and guidelines for SO<sub>2</sub> and other emissions. Her work with these sour gas plants and others in the Rocky Mountain House area continued until her death in 2008.

With other committees Kostuch had wider-ranging focuses such as advising and setting policy and recommendations to Alberta Environment, the Canadian Environmental Network, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, the National Air Issues Coordinating Committee and other groups. As well, she was on the board of directors for the Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ) since its inception in 1997. One of the main purposes of PAMZ was to monitor emissions as well as set standards for the quality of monitoring equipment. Kostuch also consulted with, and attended workshops jointly sponsored between the Alberta Lung Association and the Alberta Environmental Network.

**CUSTODIAL HISTORY:**

In April 2008, Martha Kostuch signed an agreement with Athabasca University to have her records digitized but she passed away before this work could be started. After her death on April 23, 2008, her records went into the custody of her son Edward and in July 2008, he donated the records to Athabasca University.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The series consists of Martha Kostuch's work to reduce air pollution and improve air quality through tighter emissions standards and changing provincial and Canadian environmental policy.

Records in this series include, textual and electronic records that include correspondence, agendas, meeting minutes, presentations, reports, newspaper clippings, news releases, newsletters and notes.

Most of correspondence, and all the agendas and meeting minutes, are from the committees and organizations that Kostuch worked on. The minutes often include presentations written by Kostuch and by others. Most of the reports were used for information and reference, with topics including animal and human health, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, soil, and water, and information on specific air pollutants. A number of the reports are written by the committees Kostuch worked with and contain their guidelines and recommendations. As well, much of the material has been annotated by Martha Kostuch.

The DVD and CDs consists of reports and proceedings from workshops. Three photographs are of Martha Kostuch with a group of air quality committee members and four photographs are of flarings from gas plants. The posters depict air quality diagrams. The videotape is a report on flaring and venting in Alberta.

**SOURCE OF TITLE:**

Title taken from the contents of the fonds.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Fonds also includes 9 CDs. -7 photographs. – 2 maps. – 2 posters. – 1 video. – 1 DVD.

**CONSERVATION:**

Conservation copies have been made of some of the newspaper clippings, thermal fax paper and mimeograph paper.

**ARRANGEMENT NOTE:**

Series have been based on the major topics identified from the creator's arrangement, though some records may pertain to a number of series.

**LANGUAGE NOTE:**

The material is in English.

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:**

None.

**USE CONDITIONS:**

Permission for use required. Subject to *The Copyright Act*.

**FINDING AIDS:**

Box list and file list are available. Some of the material is available in electronic form.

**INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACCESSIONS:**

2008.015

Further accruals are not expected.

**GENERAL NOTE:**

Information for the administrative history was obtained from the records and from *The Edmonton Journal*, *Calgary Herald* and *Red Deer Advocate* newspapers.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Air - - Pollution

Acid rain

Ecology

Environmental policy

Pollutants