

Noise Issues Related to Badlands Motorsports Resort

This statement was prepared by Paul Lassen, a resident of Rosebud, and an acoustician employed by ATCO Emissions Management. This statement is Paul's own and does not come from ATCO.

Noise emissions are naturally a major concern in a rezoning hearing for a development like that being conducted today. It is therefore assumed that the Noise Impact Assessment prepared by Acoustical Consultants Inc. for the Badlands Motorsports Resort Area Structure Plan will also play a role in evaluating the rezoning application being discussed today.

There are three fundamental noise-related issues that really must be addressed well if the proposed rezoning is to protect the nearby residents from the incursion of unreasonable noise into their lives.

First, the noise impact assessment must be redone. In Appendix I of their report, ACI disavowed itself of the validity of the client supplied source sound pressure levels on which the entire report, and its conclusions depend. This noise source data was supplied by the proponent of this development, and its origin is unknown. Further, the supplied values are broadband, without important noise spectra data included. Therefore the validity, and accuracy, of the predicted noise levels at each receptor is as big a question mark as the validity of the source sound levels and the noise spectra that should have been supplied with them.

Second, the ACI noise Impact Assessment presents the predicted 'Noise Equivalent', or Leq, sound pressure levels at the receptors. This is a measure of average noise levels and is of virtually no interest for a noise level that will vary as much as the noise from a race track. The measure of primary interest is the maximum sound pressure level, or Lmax, and not the Leq. The presentation of Leq noise levels instead of Lmax sound levels severely discounts the noise emissions that nearby residents will have to endure. In short, the presentation of Leq levels only is largely irrelevant.

Finally, until we find that council has ruled otherwise, there are no binding regulations that will require BMR to adhere to any of the noise standards they have stated they will impose in their ASP application. Further, the mitigative measures described in the ASP application are insufficient to curb excessive noise emissions in any practical way. I request that the council enact performance-based noise regulations, with real teeth, so that noise levels that exceed a given threshold can be dealt with effectively and quickly.

I thank council for there time and consideration of this matter.