

A Letter from the Chief Executive Officer of the Alberta Energy Regulatorwww.aer.ca

I am writing to you because a representative of a petroleum company proposing development has recently approached you, and you may have questions. The company plans to apply to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) for an energy development (which may include a facility, a pipeline, or a well) on your lands or your neighbours' lands. The AER requires the company to either notify or personally consult you before obtaining a licence and provide you with information that may include the documents described below. When the AER does not require that the documents be provided, you may request them from the company.

AER Public Information Documents—These include this letter, the brochure *Understanding Oil and Gas Development in Alberta*, *EnerFAQs* publications *Proposed Oil and Gas Development: A Landowner's Guide*, *Expressing Your Concerns—How to File a Statement of Concern About an Energy Resource Project*, and other *EnerFAQs* publications related to energy development. These documents contain information about your rights and options, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the AER in the regulating energy development in Alberta and how we can help you.

Company's Information Package—This includes information about the proposed project so that you can understand the nature, scope, and potential impacts the proposed development may have on you and your family. You will be asked to bring forward any questions or concerns you may have and to go over the specifics of the proposed development with the company representative. The company is required to answer all reasonable questions posed by you.

I encourage you to carefully review the information provided and to meet with company representatives to discuss the proposed development. Discuss any measures that the company could put in place to reduce potential impacts, any existing alternatives to the proposal, and the overall future of the development proposed in your area.

If there are matters that cannot be resolved, the AER can provide you with more information on its Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program, which includes AER facilitation and third-party mediation. Unresolved issues could ultimately result in the AER holding a public hearing to consider the application. If you have questions about our materials or our processes, please call the AER for assistance at the numbers listed on the back of this letter.

For more information about the AER and its regulations, visit our website at www.aer.ca.

Sincerely,

Jim Ellis
President and CEO

AER Field Centres and Contacts

Field Centres

Bonnyville
780-826-5352

Drayton Valley
780-542-5182

Grande Prairie
780-538-5138

High Level
780-926-5399

Medicine Hat
403-527-3385

Midnapore
403-297-8303

Red Deer
403-340-5454

St. Albert
780-460-3800

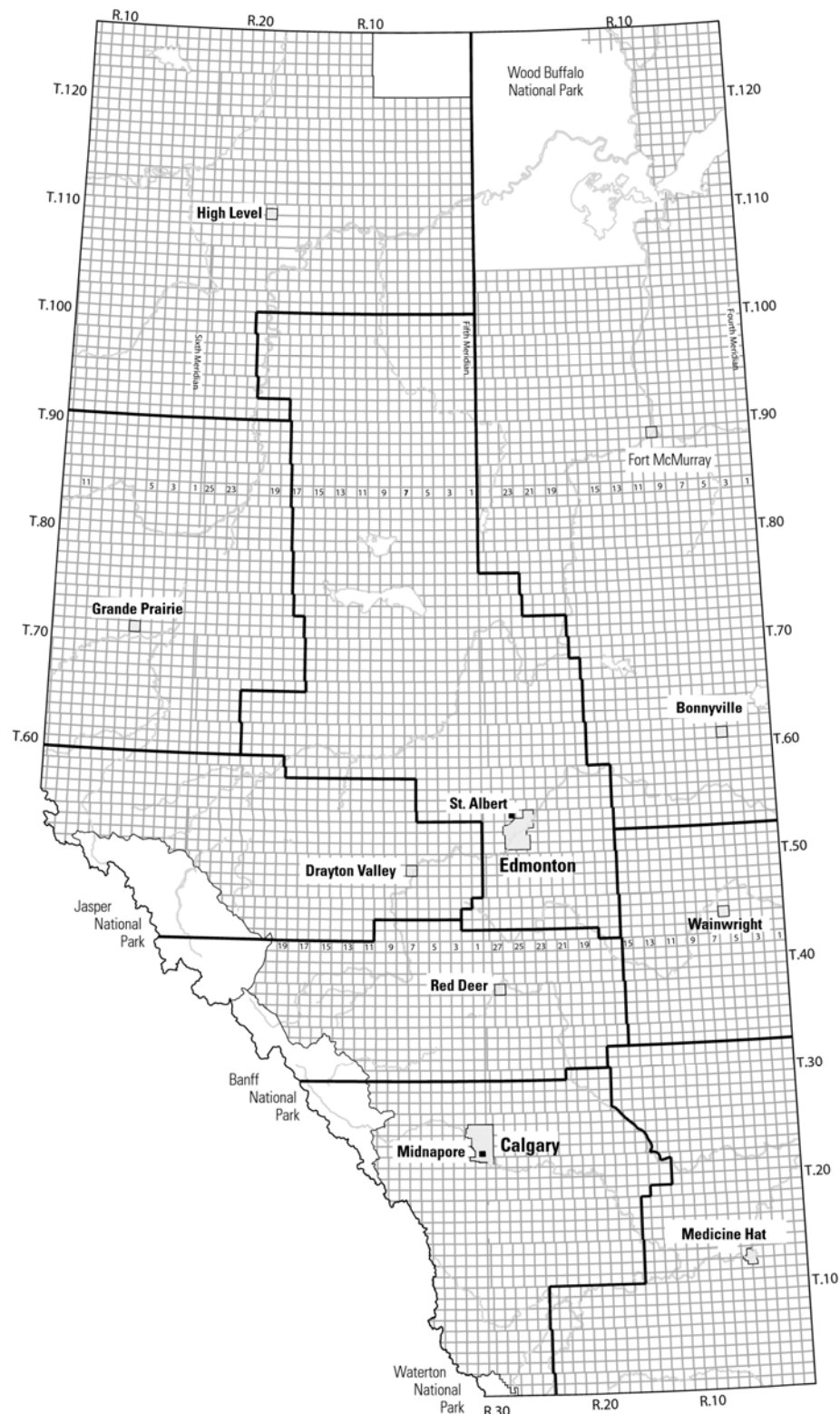
Wainwright
780-842-7570

**Fort McMurray
Regional Office**
780-743-7214

Calgary Head Office
Customer Contact Centre
403-297-8311
1-855-297-8311
(toll free)

**Facilities Applications
Group**
403-297-4369
E-mail:
Directive56.help@ aer.ca

**Alternative Dispute
Resolution Team**
1-855-297-8311



To call the above numbers toll free, dial 310-0000 and follow the prompts or ask the operator for the desired number.

AER Brochure: Understanding Oil and Gas Development in Alberta

This brochure contains information to help you understand what sort of development is being proposed and how it affects you.

An oil and gas company representative has approached you and wants to conduct oilfield activities on or near your land. You and the company will be discussing the proposed development and its potential impact on you, as well as alternatives and measures to minimize impacts. You may also be negotiating a surface lease agreement (for example, on the location of a well and access road) and discussing compensation.

AER Requirements and Expectations for Stakeholder Involvement

The AER believes that any individual, organization, community, or group with a stake in Alberta's energy resources is a stakeholder, having both roles and responsibilities. All stakeholders are encouraged to develop relationships that are respectful, responsive, and responsible. While other groups also have a stake in energy development, the three main stakeholder groups are the public, industry, and the AER.

The public: The AER application process provides the public with an opportunity to share its questions and concerns with the company. There are many things the public, individually or collectively, can do to participate in the planning of proposed developments. Many communities have formed groups with members from industry and the AER. These groups try to find ways to resolve issues at the local level. The company will provide you with contact information if there is a group in your area.

Industry: When proposing an energy resource activity, industry is required to conduct a stakeholder involvement program. Industry is also expected to communicate with landowners and residents on a regular basis throughout the life of the project, which may be 30 years or longer.

The AER: As the regulator of the energy industry, the AER has the authority to approve or deny proposed energy resource activity in the province of Alberta and to place enforceable conditions on any licences issued. The AER also assists individuals, communities, and other interested groups in understanding the regulatory requirements and expectations and how they apply at the local level.

Your Rights and the Company's Rights

In Alberta, both the landowner and the company have rights.

Rights to information: Under AER regulations, rules, requirements, and guidelines, the company must provide information to stakeholders so they can fully understand what is being proposed. If you are concerned about surface impacts, the company must give you details about how and why it chose the proposed well site, pipeline route, and access road location. The company should also tell you what to expect in terms of equipment and operations during the production phase.

The company may provide any agreements you make with it, as well as records of discussions, to the AER during the application process. That material becomes part of the AER's record of the application, which is public and available to anybody. In addition, information provided to the AER (whether as part of the application process or otherwise) may be publicly available under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Mutual rights to use the land: Most land in Alberta carries two titles and two sets of rights. The surface title gives the landowner full control of the land's surface and the right to work it. The mineral title gives the company or person who owns the minerals under that land the right to explore for oil and gas. In some situations, title to land will give the owner both the surface and the mineral rights. If title to the land is split, the mineral owner needs access to the land surface to drill and produce oil and gas.

Two important conditions apply to the company's right to explore. First, drilling and production activity must be done in a way that is environmentally and technically acceptable. Second, a company must operate in ways that minimize possible interference with the landowner's use of the land.

Planning an Oil or Gas Project Selecting a Pipeline or Facility Location

When selecting a pipeline right-of-way or a facility site, the company must consider potential impacts on present and future land uses. The company must

- ensure that you understand what substance the pipeline is to transport or the facility is to handle,

- answer your questions on its plans for soil handling and reclamation, and
- address any other concerns you may have related to the proposed pipeline or facility.

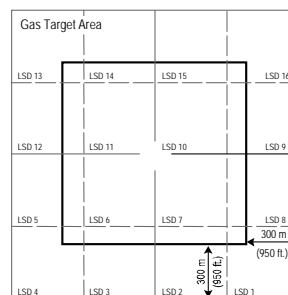
Selecting a Well Site

When selecting a well site, the company considers subsurface geology, land surface conditions, current and future land use, environmental sensitivity, and reclamation. Well spacing regulations provide requirements about where wells may be located.

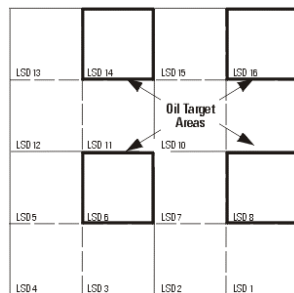
A **spacing unit** is the subsurface area that one well can drain. The spacing unit for oil wells in Alberta is normally one well per quarter section of land; for gas wells it is normally one well per section of land. However, reduced spacing and directional drilling are common practices in Alberta.

Inside the spacing unit is a **target area** where the bottom of the well should end.

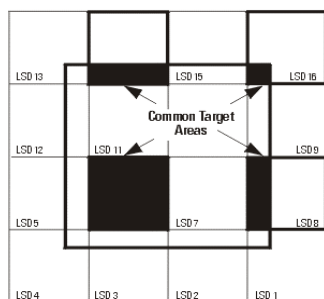
In the example below, the **gas target area** is the centre 100 hectares (250 acres) of the section. Keep in mind that the target area dictates the **subsurface** location for a well, not the **surface** location.



The **oil target area** is the northeastern 16 hectares (40 acres) of the quarter section, as shown in the example below.



Together, the oil and gas target areas overlap and form a **common target area**, as shown in the shaded portions of the figure below. Many companies prefer to drill the common target area if there is a chance to encounter both oil and gas.

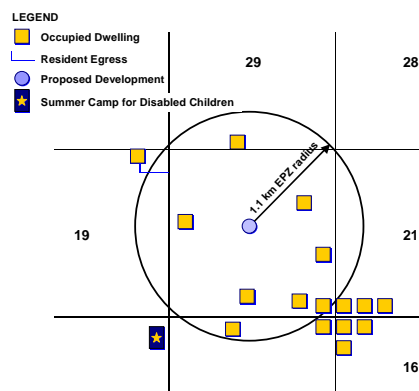


If you disagree with a proposed well location, you may ask the company representative to sketch the spacing unit and target area for the well. This will help you determine if there is flexibility for moving the well site.

Consultation

In many instances it is appropriate for a company to complete public consultation and notification beyond the requirements

stated in AER *Directive 056: Energy Development Application and Schedules*. The following figure illustrates how a company expanded its stakeholder involvement program beyond the requirement to take into account the special needs and circumstances of the community.



During the initial planning stage of a well, a company began preliminary development of its stakeholder involvement program using the public consultation and notification requirements. With further development of the stakeholder involvement program, the company identified that the requirements would not take into account egress of the resident just outside the northwest area of the development, residents in the community to southeast of the development, or the special needs of the summer camp for disabled children located in the southwest.

The company then adapted its stakeholder involvement program to include the residents, summer camp, and community. By including all the parties during the initial planning stages, the company was able to identify and address the concerns raised by the residents and summer camp prior to its application to the AER.

Having Your Say

Landowners, residents, and communities that have concerns related to the development of Alberta's energy resources should become involved as early as possible in the development planning process. It is usually easier to resolve issues at the local level before they become matters of greater concern. Ongoing dialogue also builds trust and is one way for you to have greater influence on energy resource activity.

There are a number of options available to help you resolve concerns about proposed development. As a landowner or resident, there are several key points in the application process when your questions and concerns may be addressed.

Usually, a company will offer to discuss the proposed development with you at your home. If you and the company cannot resolve your concerns, either party may ask an AER staff member to facilitate a meeting or meetings between you and the company.

If concerns continue to be unresolved, you or the company may request that the AER arrange for a third-party mediator to assist you. This is part of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process. If you can resolve issues through such discussions with the company, with or without a facilitator or mediator, you may find that you have greater influence on project planning and reducing its impacts.

However, if concerns cannot be resolved, you may file a statement of concern with the AER.

If you show the AER, through a statement of concern, that you may be directly and adversely affected if the Board approves a proposed energy resource activity, the AER may decide to proceed to a public hearing.

Required EnerFAQs

The AER has put together a number of EnerFAQs on topics of general interest to the public. Regardless of whether the proposed development is a well, pipeline, or facility, the company must either provide or offer all current AER EnerFAQs publications as set out on the AER website.

EnerFAQs continue to be published on topics of general interest to the public. As new EnerFAQs related to energy development become available, they will be posted on the AER website. EnerFAQs may be obtained from the AER website at www.aer.ca or by contacting AER Communications through the Customer Contact Centre at 403-297-8311 or toll free: 1-855-297-8311.

AER Field Centres and Contacts

Field Centres

Bonnyville

780-826-5352

Drayton Valley

780-542-5182

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High Level

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St. Albert

780-460-3800

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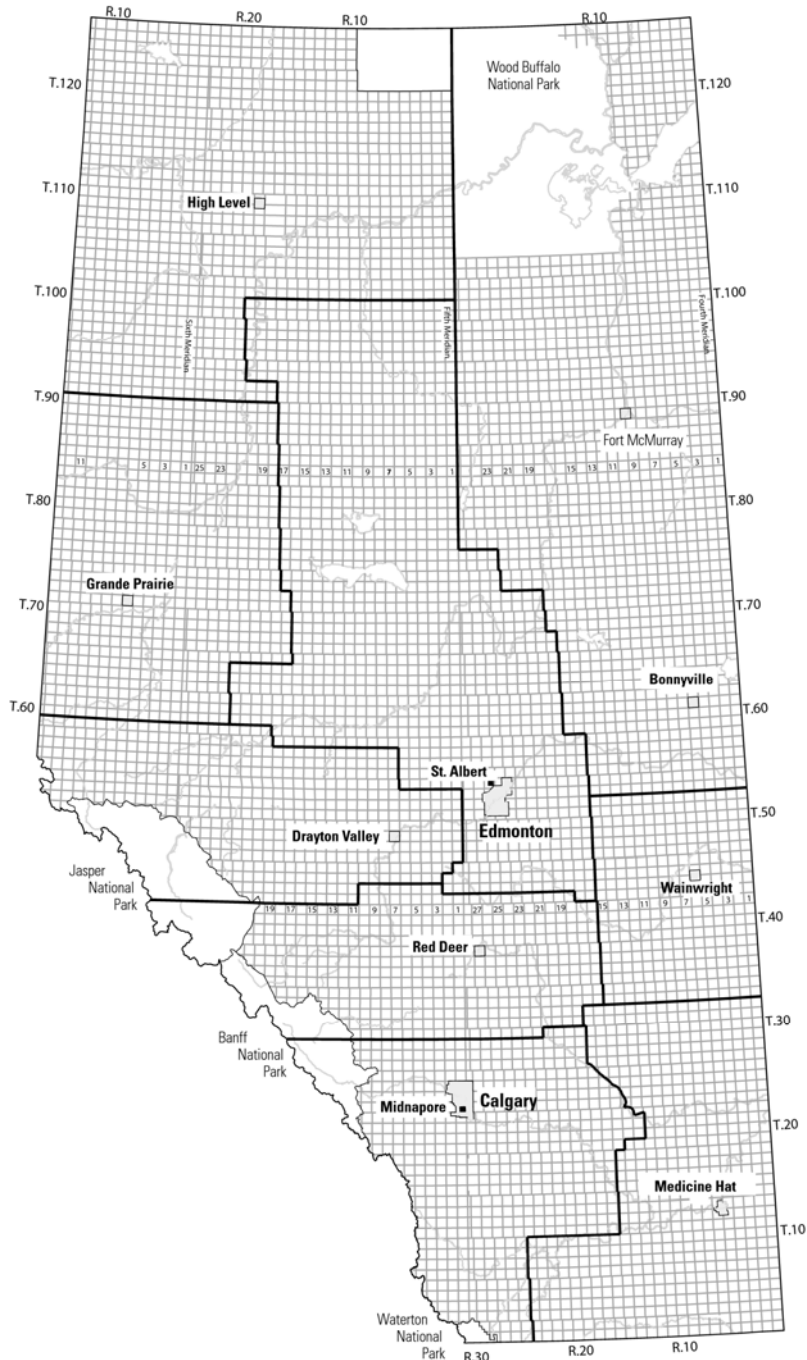
E-mail:

Directive56.help@aer.ca

Alternative Dispute

Resolution Team

1-855-297-8311



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Proposed Oil and Gas Wells, Pipelines, and Facilities: A Landowner's Guide

When oil and gas companies propose development on or near your property, you want to be aware of your rights as a landowner and the options available to you. The EnerFAQs *The AER and You: Agreements, Commitments, and Conditions* should be read with this document.

» What are my rights when a company proposes a development on or near my property?

Under Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) requirements and guidelines, a company applying to develop an oil or gas project may be required to provide notification and information about the proposed activities so persons receiving the information can fully understand what is being proposed and what the potential impacts could be. The information a company gives must include details about how and why it chose proposed locations for any wells, pipelines, facilities, or access roads and what to expect in terms of equipment use and operations during the production phase. We post public notices of application on our website, and you may file a statement of concern to an application if you object to the proposed development.



» What are the company's rights?

Most land in Alberta carries two titles and two sets of rights:

- A **surface** title gives the landowner ownership of the land's surface and the right to work it.
- A **mineral** title gives the company or person who owns the minerals under that land the right to explore for oil and gas, in the case of a petroleum and natural gas or oil sands lease.

Sometimes, a title to land will give an owner both the surface and the mineral rights. However, if a title to the land is split, the mineral lease holder may need access to the land's surface to drill and produce oil and gas. In this case, two important conditions apply to the company's right to explore. First, drilling and production activity must be done in a way that is environmentally and technically acceptable. Second, a company must operate in ways that minimize possible interference with the landowner's use of the land.

» What can I expect the company to do first?

One of the early steps in the well site, facility, or pipeline route selection process is a survey. A survey helps a company identify the exact location of the proposed well site, access road, pipeline, or facility and the surface area required. *Alberta's Surveys Act* and *Surface Rights Act* give the surveyor the right to enter your property for the purpose of surveying. It is common practice—and common courtesy—for a company representative to contact you before surveying. The purpose of the visit will be to advise you of the approximate well and road or pipeline location being proposed. The company is responsible for the cost of damages caused by the survey.

» What kinds of arrangements are most common between a landowner and a company?

Pipeline Right-of-Way

The pipeline easement (right-of-way) is an agreement between a landowner and a company in which the landowner receives financial compensation in return for allowing a company to create an easement for pipeline routes. Normally, this pipeline easement (or facility

surface agreement) is obtained before we approve an application to construct a pipeline or facility—except in cases where a dispute between a landowner and a company exists.

Pipelines link the oil and natural gas industry's "upstream" sector, which produces oil, natural gas, and related products from underground reservoirs and surface facilities, to the "downstream" sector, which handles refining, marketing, and product distribution.

The upstream sector operates gathering or flow lines, which move raw product from remote wells to processing facilities or directly to larger transmission pipelines. Product travels through pipelines under pressure created by compressors and pump stations. Compressors powered by gas engines or electric motors can compress the natural gas in pipelines to up to one hundred times the normal atmospheric pressure.

You will be informed about what kind of pipeline project is being planned on or near your land. Under our requirements, a company must

- give you a description of the project and tell you how it will affect you,
- ensure that you fully understand the proposed construction schedule and methods to be used,
- make sure you are familiar with the product to be transported by the pipeline or to be handled at the facility, and
- address all concerns about soil handling, site reclamation, and other issues related to the planned pipeline or facility.

Pipeline and facility construction must also meet Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development's environmental protection guidelines. Pipelines typically stay in the ground after abandonment and reclamation.

Again, we post public notice of all applications on our website, and you will have an opportunity to file a statement of concern in response to an application.

Well Site Selection

Geologic and seismic data are important in choosing a well site. A company will normally select the location of a well based on the geology of nearby wells or on seismic information. Some of this information may be confidential. However, a company should give you basic geologic information so that you know what restrictions there may be in choosing a different location for the well. Moving away from the best geological location could increase the risk of drilling a dry hole, a well that has no significant amount of oil or gas, or a well with less recoverable oil or gas.

» What should I expect during the negotiation process?

After a company initiates preapplication consultation and you begin negotiations, various situations could arise. You and the company might agree or disagree about the site of a well and related facilities or the route of a pipeline. If the proposed project is located directly on your land, you might agree or disagree about the compensation you should receive. Landowners receive financial compensation in return for allowing companies to place a well site or pipeline on their land.

Further information related to compensation is available from the Surface Rights Board (SRB) or from your local AER field centre. We do not have jurisdiction to deal with compensation issues, and the SRB, not us, deals with payments for right-of-way, crop loss, and other damages.

Negotiations often result in an agreement that meets the needs of both parties. We encourage a negotiated agreement and recommend that all commitments be confirmed in writing. An agreement that meets the needs of both parties can help maintain a good working relationship for the life of the proposed project.

If the operating properties on your land are sold to another company, it is important to review any existing agreements with a representative of the new company.

» **What if the company and I can't agree on a site location for the drilling of a well?**

If you are having difficulty agreeing on a site, directional drilling could be a solution. It involves drilling the well diagonally instead of vertically. Sometimes landowners prefer a well location outside of a target area or away from the best geological point. If this is the case, you can ask whether the well can be directionally drilled to the target from a surface location with less impact.

While a directional well may be technically possible in some situations, it increases the cost of drilling and producing the well. The increased costs and benefits of directional drilling must be weighed against the impacts of vertical drilling. You might want to ask the company to estimate the additional costs for a directional well in relation to the value of anticipated production.

Directional drilling technology has improved in recent years. It is now fairly common in some areas to drill several directional wells from the same surface location to reduce surface impacts. This practice is prevalent in areas where well spacing occurs at higher densities than the standard one well per section (gas) or per quarter section (oil).

» **What if my land-use plans change in the future?**

Before agreeing to a well site or to a location for a pipeline, facility, or access road, consider how it could affect your current and future land use (see EnerFAQs [Setbacks](#)). Also, make sure you understand the company's soil handling, lease preparation, and reclamation methods. A company should be considering land surface conditions, current and potential land use, environmental sensitivity, and reclamation. A company will have to apply for a reclamation certificate under the [Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act](#).

A company must also consider any negative effect a project might have on land use and the environment, as well as any associated visual impacts and concerns of persons who may be directly or adversely affected.

For example, a location on unproductive land, such as a slough or hillside, may seem like a good choice to you, but the company must consider impacts that could prevent the use of a site, such as environmental impacts, the ability to reclaim the site, and the impact on neighbours.

» **What if all parties agree on the site?**

If you and the company agree on the location of a well, facility, pipeline route, or access road, the company then applies to us for a licence to proceed with the development. If the application meets all legal and technical requirements, we will grant the licence.

» **What can I do to ensure the company abides by the agreement?**

Private surface agreements between landowners and energy companies operating on their property can now be registered with our new Private Surface Agreements Registry. If you feel a company is not meeting a term or condition of the agreement, you may ask us to determine whether the company has met the term or condition of the agreement. See our EnerFAQs [How to Register a Private Surface Agreement](#) to learn more about registering private surface agreements.

» **What if an agreement on a site can't be reached?**

If you and the company cannot agree on the location for a well, facility, pipeline, or access road, a party may ask for our assistance through our alternative dispute resolution (ADR) program.

ADR offers concerned parties a variety of options for managing disputes, including direct negotiation between the parties, mediation by our staff, third-party mediation, and arbitration.

Our staff are available to facilitate discussions between landowners and companies before an application is filed or early on in the application review process. The goal is to identify and resolve concerns before they intensify.

Through ADR, we might suggest that parties

- attempt negotiations again,
- use our ADR staff to facilitate, or
- use a neutral third party to mediate.

If these methods fail to produce an agreement, we may direct parties to use ADR to resolve outstanding concerns. For more information on ADR, see our EnerFAQs [All About Alternative Dispute Resolution \(ADR\)](#).

In some cases, we might decide that a hearing on an application is appropriate. An AER hearing is a formal proceeding that includes the presentation of evidence and the opportunity to question the positions of others. For more information on our hearings, see our EnerFAQs [Having your Say at an AER Hearing](#).

Note that if you continue to object to the company's location on your property, a well licence alone does not give a company the right to enter your land. If this is the case, the company can apply to the SRB for a right-of-entry order after acquiring a well licence from us. The order allows representatives of the company to enter your land to perform the tasks that we have approved. The SRB will then conduct a hearing to determine the compensation to be paid.

» **How much more development will occur if drilling is successful?**

If successful drilling leads to production, a wellhead or pump will be required on oil wells and a heater may be necessary for gas wells. Other equipment, such as pressure vessels and tanks, may be placed on the well site where it causes the least interference with farming operations (e.g., between the well and a nearby fence line).

Production facilities such as separators, heaters, and tanks make up what is called a battery. A company must discuss the location and details of production facilities with you and any other land occupants. Some facilities

require separate licensing, and you have the right to continue asking questions about these production facilities and voicing concerns about the construction of production facilities, even if a well site exists.

» **Will it cost me anything to reclaim the site if the well is unsuccessful?**

No. If a well turns out to be a dry hole, a company will likely abandon it and will have to reclaim the site. Before a company gives up the surface lease, it must obtain a reclamation certificate from us. This reclamation certificate is issued only after we are satisfied that the site has been properly reclaimed. You have the right to appeal. There are strict timelines for filing such a request. In many communities, neighbours meet with our representatives and area oil and gas companies to resolve local issues together. The public is strongly encouraged to participate in these local synergy groups. Synergy groups are in communities all over the province, and each is structured to meet the unique needs of the community and local operators. There is no cookie-cutter approach. Members of such groups have found that they are stronger and better informed together than they would be as individuals. If you would like to join or form a synergy group, contact your nearest AER field centre, as we participate in nearly all of the synergy groups in Alberta. A list of phone numbers can be found on our website www.aer.ca.

Remember, you can ask questions at any point in the development process about drilling, pipeline, and production operations that affect you and your neighbours.

Public notices of application will be posted on our website, and you can file a statement of concern to voice your objections to an application.

» **Questions you may want to use for discussion between you and a company. (Not all questions apply to every proposed project.)**

Proposed energy development

- Is there a community-based group dealing with energy issues in my area?
- What kind of development is being proposed?
- How was the surface location selected?
- How will drilling activities and production affect my land / farming operations?
- What authorizations will the company be seeking from the AER (energy, water, etc.)?

Sour gas and emergency response planning

- Will the well encounter hydrogen sulphide (H_2S), or will the pipeline transport H_2S ?
- What is the company doing to protect public safety?
- What are the details of the emergency response plan?
- Will I be compensated for any damage done during an emergency situation?

Setbacks

- What is the setback for the proposed development?
- May I develop my land if it falls within a setback?

Flaring, incinerating, and venting

- Will the proposed project involve any flaring or incineration of waste gas?
- If so, when and under what circumstances will flaring or incineration occur?
- What steps has the company taken to eliminate or reduce flaring, incineration, and venting?
- Will the company notify me when servicing work results in flaring or venting?

Odours, noise, and traffic

- What can cause odours during drilling and production operations?
- What are the plans to minimize noise levels?
- What type and volume of traffic should I expect at various stages of development?
- How will the company respond to issues or concerns that may arise in day-to-day operations of the facility, and whom may I contact?

Environmental issues: soil, water, and visual

- What steps will be taken to ensure protection of the environment and the least amount of impact on it?
- How will the soil quality be protected?
- What are the company's water needs?
- How will the company protect the supply and quality of aquifers and water wells at all stages of exploration and during ongoing operations?
- How will the company reduce potential visual impacts associated with facilities?

Animal health

- Will my livestock and pets be evacuated if there is an emergency?
- If not, who will feed and water them?
- Who will monitor the health of my livestock after an emergency, and for how long?

» What resource materials are available if I have more questions?

We have several publications on well, pipeline, and facilities applications available. These publications form part of *Directive 056: Energy Development Applications and Schedules*. Section 2 on participant involvement describes the minimum requirements a company must meet regarding public consultation and notification when applying to us for a well, pipeline, or facility. Contact us directly at 403-297-4369 or by e-mail at Directive56.help@aer.ca with inquiries related to *Directive 056*.

» Additional Information

For additional information on the AER and our processes or if you wish to speak with your local field centre or have general questions about energy projects in the province of Alberta, contact our Customer Contact Centre: Monday to Friday (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at 1-855-297-8311 (toll free).

This document is part of the EnerFAQs series, which explains the AER's regulations and processes as they relate to specific energy issues. Please visit www.aer.ca to read more of the EnerFAQs series.

Every year, we collect, compile, and publish a large amount of technical data and information about Alberta's energy development and resources for use by both industry and the general public. This includes raw data, statistics, hearing materials, and information on regulations, policies, and decisions.

Publications can be viewed at the AER library or obtained from the Information Product Services Section (IPSS). Both are on the tenth floor of our head office in Calgary. Publications may also be downloaded free of charge from our website (www.aer.ca).

To obtain a print or CD copy of a specific publication, contact IPSS by phone (403-297-8190), fax (403-297-7040), or e-mail ([infoservices@aer.ca](mailto:infoservices@ aer.ca)).

The following agencies provide supplementary information on oil and gas development in Alberta for use by both industry and the general public:

The Farmers' Advocate Office

Helps resolve disputes on matters relating to the farming community and provides information on farming community matters.

305, 7000 – 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6
Phone: 310-3276 (FARM)

Fax: 780-427-3913

Website: <http://www.farmersadvocate.gov.ab.ca>

Alberta Surface Rights Board

Provides information on entry or compensation related to oil and gas resource activity on privately owned or Crown-occupied lands.

1229 91 Street SW

Edmonton, Alberta T6X 1E9

Phone: 780-427-2444 (toll free by first dialing 310-0000)

Fax: 780-427-5798

Website: <http://www.surfacerights.gov.ab.ca>

The Registrar of Land Agents

Investigates concerns about a land agent or complaints dealing with matters pertaining to the *Land Agents Licensing Act* or the *Land Agents Licensing Regulations*.

Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education

Land Agents Licensing

7th Floor Labour Building

10808 – 99 Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0G5

Phone: 780-415-4600 (toll free by first dialing 310-0000)

Fax: 780-422-7173

Website: www.eae.alberta.ca/labour-and-immigration/land-agents-licensing.aspx

Head Office

Suite 1000, 250 – 5 Street SW

Calgary, Alberta T2P 0R4

Inquiries@aer.ca

inquiries

1-855-297-8311

24-hour emergency

1-800-222-6514

www.aer.ca



Expressing Your Concerns – How to File a Statement of Concern About an Energy Resource Project

This fact sheet is intended to help you understand what statements of concern are and how to file one with the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) if you have a concern with an energy resource development application. This fact sheet also answers questions we commonly hear and outlines what you must include in a statement of concern in order for it to be registered.

» What is a statement of concern?

Albertans concerned about a particular application may submit a “statement of concern,” which is a written submission that outlines specific concerns about an application. A statement of concern may be filed by anyone who believes they may be directly and adversely affected by an application. Upon proclamation of the *Responsible Energy Development Act*, statements of concern replaced objections as the way to file your concerns about energy project applications.



» What is the difference between a statement of concern and an operational complaint?

Statements of concern outline concerns about applications for proposed energy resource activities and developments, as well as any amendments to them. Operational complaints outline concerns about the operations of existing energy resource activities (e.g., noise, smells, etc.). An operational complaint can be made at any time during the life of a project. A statement of concern can only be made in response to a notice of application. If we determine that your correspondence is an operational complaint, it will be referred to the applicable field centre for follow up. If you have an operational complaint, please direct it to the nearest AER field centre.

» Who can file a statement of concern?

Anyone who believes they may be directly and adversely affected by an energy resource application can file a statement of concern.

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inquiries

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24-hour emergency

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Expressing Your Concerns – How to File a Statement of Concern About an Energy Resource Project

This fact sheet is intended to help you understand what statements of concern are and how to file one with the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) if you have a concern with an energy resource development application. This fact sheet also answers questions we commonly hear and outlines what you must include in a statement of concern in order for it to be registered.

» What is a statement of concern?

Albertans concerned about a particular application may submit a “statement of concern,” which is a written submission that outlines specific concerns about an application. A statement of concern may be filed by anyone who believes they may be directly and adversely affected by an application. Upon proclamation of the *Responsible Energy Development Act*, statements of concern replaced objections as the way to file your concerns about energy project applications.



» What is the difference between a statement of concern and an operational complaint?

Statements of concern outline concerns about applications for proposed energy resource activities and developments, as well as any amendments to them. Operational complaints outline concerns about the operations of existing energy resource activities (e.g., noise, smells, etc.). An operational complaint can be made at any time during the life of a project. A statement of concern can only be made in response to a notice of application. If we determine that your correspondence is an operational complaint, it will be referred to the applicable field centre for follow up. If you have an operational complaint, please direct it to the nearest AER field centre.

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