



Separating Facts from Friction

Across the Fence

"Where Conversations Happen"

Fall 2016

Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) Launches OneStop Tool for Reclamation Certificates

In June, the AER launched its new online reclamation certification tool. The tool, known as OneStop, gives Albertans unprecedented access to energy-related information through sophisticated interactive maps. Using these maps, people can zoom in on a specific part of Alberta and turn on (or off) different layers to see what's happening in that area.

In addition to showing specific regions, like cities, protected areas, indigenous lands, and military bases, the reclamation certification tool shows oil and gas assets such as facilities, wells, compressor stations, and pipelines, in addition to sites that have received reclamation certificates from the AER.

OneStop also includes an application statistics report where you can find information on reclamation certificate application numbers and trends and can view details about specific reclamation certificate applications.

The Government of Alberta sets the reclamation requirements. However, the AER issues the reclamation certificates to oil and gas operators when a site has been successfully reclaimed. This means that the land has been returned to a state equal to what it was before development.

You can find OneStop on aer.ca under the Systems & Tools tab. Click the arrow next to the OneStop Public Map Viewer link.

West Central Stakeholders Contacts:

Rick Anderson, Facilitator: 403-847-8086
wcs@westcentralsh.com
Miles Nielsen, co-chair: 403-845-8414
Gerald Knopp, co-chair: 403-729-2663
www.westcentralsh.com



Energy and Environmental Emergency
24-Hour Response Line
1-800-222-6514

For inquiries or regulatory questions,
contact the customer contact centre
at 1-855-297-8311

WCS MISSION:

To provide an open forum for the people of West Central Alberta to present and discuss information related to the oil and gas industry.



Husky's Rocky Mountain House District completes safe and successful turnaround

Husky Oil's Rocky Mountain House District conducted a major turnaround in May of this year. Rain, lightning, and snow didn't slow efforts, as the turnaround was safely completed over about 18 days/nights – 16,392 working hours.

Turnarounds are scheduled events where an entire plant is taken off-stream to tackle specific projects and perform maintenance. The Rocky Mountain House District goes through a scheduled turnaround every six years, which includes the following facilities:

- Ram River Gas Plant
- Stolberg Compression and Dehydration Facility
- Blackstone Compression and Dehydration Facility

Work was focused on a number of planned projects, and some identified as the work progressed. Some turnaround highlights include:

- Inspecting pressure vessels
- Servicing pressure safety valves
- Upgrading electrical systems
- Upgrading control systems at field locations
- Rotating equipment upgrades

A strong focus on safety was established well before the turnaround began. A strong safety culture was encouraged and shared with each individual across all companies working on the turnaround. The result:

- Zero Lost Time Incidents
- Zero Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Zero Restricted Work Cases

The commitment, diligence and hard work of Husky employees, contractors and safety companies contributed to a safe and successful turnaround.

Member Moment...

Meet long-time WCS member Eleanor Vokes...

"I started as an industry member in 2007 with an energy company with a goal of informing the community stakeholders of the activities and listening to concerns in the area which I worked. Over the time I have been a member of the West Central Stakeholders I have found it to be a forum in which all stakeholders and industry can come together with a mutual respect of concerns, suggestions, support and education from all sides.

In 2015 I became a community member and staying involved helps me to be aware of the changing environment in the industry, regulations, and all the stakeholders by learning and understanding with education and factual information sharing by all who are involved."



For a list of WCS member companies, contact information, and more:
Visit us on our website at www.westcentralsh.com

Farmer's Advocate Office Issues Advisories

Part of attending regular WCS meetings involves the opportunity to hear timely information on issues relevant to local residents and industry members. At our October 6, 2016 meeting, Michele Del Colle from the Farmers' Advocate Office (FAO) provided an update on trending issues with the FAO. The FAO issued two advisories this spring. The first advisory concerned unilateral reductions in surface lease rental payments, both mid-term and on the 5 year anniversary term. Some reductions were made citing plans for reclamation, while others referenced the state of the economy. Landowners should be aware that a company is responsible for paying the rental in full until a Reclamation Certificate has been issued. Legislation requires that rental reviews occur in good faith on the 5 year anniversary. Good faith assumes an honest, two-way conversation. The FAO encouraged landowners to communicate their rights to the company using template letters.

A second advisory was issued about private companies offering to purchase surface leases from landowners. The FAO encouraged landowners to exercise caution with this practice. It appears that this practice is capitalizing on landowner fears that the company holding the surface lease will go bankrupt. Recourse for unpaid rentals is available through the Surface Rights Board (SRB) under section 36 of the Surface Rights Act. The SRB has the power to suspend and terminate an operator's rights to a site, and award payment of rentals through General Revenue. Landowner fears may be particularly prevalent after the well-known triage of decisions concerning Petroglobe were issued this spring. The SRB has since clarified that these files represent issues of timing. A more detailed explanation is on the FAO website.

Michele also spoke about the FAO's plans to issue a third advisory shortly encouraging landowners to be diligent in watching their electricity bills if they have a surface lease on their land belonging to an insolvent energy company. An issue came to light this past summer where EPCOR was attempting to collect payment for three phase electric services that were provided to a now insolvent oil and gas company for its surface leases. This was based on EPCOR's terms and conditions of service relating to tenancy. Any landowner who believes they've been mistakenly charged for electrification services should contact the FAO.

For more information, you can contact the FAO through the Ag Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276) or farmers.advocate@gov.ab.ca. Stay up to date with all news from the FAO from signing up for the newsletter on the right side of the website at www.farmersadvocate.gov.ab.ca.

Upcoming Public Information Night – “Pipelines in Our Backyard”

Did you know you may have three different agencies regulating pipelines on your property? What are your responsibilities and limitations on the Right-of-Way? Do you, as a landowner, play a role in pipeline safety? What do companies do to maintain pipeline integrity? These questions and more will be addressed on November 15th at our fall Public Information Night at the Lou Soppit Centre in Rocky Mountain House. Doors open at 6:00pm with presentations beginning at 7:00pm. Come hear the presentations, ask a question, visit the information booths, and maybe win a door prize!



WCS 2016 Youth Member Bursary Recipients say...

"These past two years that I've been a student member with the West Central Stakeholders I have learned so much about the way the province works. I never realized that there were so many processes needed to make the oil and gas industry, government regulators, and landowners all work. By working together they strive to safely and fairly operate so that at the end of the day everyone goes to bed happy and safe.

I now have a much better understanding of how operations like drilling of oil and gas wells, reclamation, negotiations, and the completions of projects all work. I was even able to tour the New Alta site where I learned about how contaminated soils are handled safely. Also when I got to attend the 2015 Synergy Alberta Conference as a youth speaker I had the opportunity to improve my public speaking skills.

My time with the West Central Stakeholders has been spectacular and I am very grateful for being chosen to be a part of this incredible movement that is synergy. Being a student with them has allowed me to broaden my perspective of the different sides of situations. It has helped me develop my process of assessing situations which will be a lifelong skill that'll help me in my future career.

I wish every student could have the experiences I have had with the West Central Stakeholders, as it has been life changing. It's very beneficial to me for being involved and I recommend every student to attended and learn what they can from these inspirational people."

Bursary recipient Ashley Sands

"Throughout my time as a youth member of the West Central Stakeholders synergy group I have been welcomed with open arms given an abundance of knowledge that I never would have received otherwise. Not only do members get the first word of events happening in and around the community, but they are also given valuable information on many things related to what is going on in the oil and gas industry in that particular time frame.

While I was a part of WCS I did not experience any major issues being brought up by a disgruntled community member to the oil and gas groups, but I did get to listen in on many discussions on potential issues. The fact that there are not many issues being brought to the table by upset individuals is in fact a good thing, because it shows that the group has been doing what it was created to do.

During my time with the WCS, I did get to witness first hand the moment the group was told, by one of the men who worked in the firefighting industry, that due to the Fort McMurray fires there would be a full fire ban put into place for the whole county. That was in fact a very grounding moment for me, because before that point I had not really thought that the fires would effect me in any way.

Despite not experiencing any major issues, there were a few small ones brought about by a few community members. Although these issues were small, each discussion around them was thorough in making sure each concern was addressed with discussion, respect, and education.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity I was given to be a part of this group for as long as I was. Being a component - a small one, I might add - of this group made me feel as though I was teaching and helping those who saw the oil and gas industry in a bad light to see them as they truly are, just people. I would like to thank the whole group for teaching me and allowing me to be a part of this process."

Bursary recipient Haley Hanson