



<http://synergyalberta.ca/group/battle-lake-watershed-synergy-group>

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A meeting of the Battle Lake Watershed Synergy Group was held on Thursday, September 1, 2022, at the Lakedell Ag Society Hall B with Paul McLaughlin acting as Facilitator.

[AER increases industry-wide closure spend target for liabilities by \\$278 million to \\$700 million](#)

### **CALLED TO ORDER:**

Paul called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

### **AGENDA:**

- Introductions
- Review of Minutes
- Follow-up Action Items
- AER Updates
- Industry Updates
- Community Updates
- Next Meeting

### **ATTENDANCE:**

In attendance were {2} residents, {5} industry representatives and government officials. (See the attached list.)

### **Review of Minutes:**

### **Follow-up Action Items:**

1. Ask Kaleb at ALMs to speak to the group on findings of the Winter Lake Keepers reports at the November meeting.
2. Who was active on the lease south of highway south of 4H Center? Activity there now. NW-1-46-2-W5.

### **AER Update: Zoriana Wood**

September 1, 2022

### **News Releases:**

The AER has increased the industry-wide closure spend target for liabilities in 2023 from \$422 million to \$700 million and released forecasted targets through 2027, which are anticipated to increase annually by 9 per cent. "These increases ensure closure activity is prioritized by companies developing energy in Alberta," said Laurie Pushor, President, and CEO of the AER. "We are taking action to stop the growth of closure liability in the next five years. With these new requirements,

companies will be accountable to decrease inactive well sites across Alberta.” The AER reviewed recent closure spending, commodity pricing, and market conditions in determining the 2023 target. “Given the pronounced improvement in revenue and the continued recovery of the oil and gas sector, industry is well positioned to act decisively on closure liability in Alberta while providing a performance model that can be held up as an inspirational example,” added Mr. Pushor. Industry-wide spend targets support attending to inactive pipeline, facility, and well inventory reduction and are a part of the overall [Liability Management Framework](#) set by the Government of Alberta, which the AER uses to guide its work. Closure spend targets increase the amount of closure work that is occurring in the province as licensees are required to spend a minimum amount on closure annually. “As Alberta’s economic recovery continues, we are building on our promise to take bold and strong action under the Liability Management Framework,” said Sonya Savage, Minister of Energy, Government of Alberta. “The increased mandatory closure spend target upholds our robust regulatory standards by shrinking the inventory of inactive sites across the province and accelerating the timely restoration of land.”

In 2021, industry decommissioned 11,801 wells, 7,713 pipeline segments, and 570 facilities while 2,159 sites received reclamation certificates by the AER.

#### Alberta Oil and Gas Well Status

- Total Well Count: 461,200
- Producing Wells: 155,750
- Fully Reclaimed Wells: 132,200
- Decommissioned Wells: 83,300
- Inactive Wells: 88,900

#### [Alberta’s regulatory framework for geothermal resource development is complete](#)

The regulatory framework for geothermal resource development in Alberta is complete with the publication of the [Geothermal Resource Development Rules](#) by the Alberta Queen's Printer and the Alberta Energy Regulator's release of [Directive 089: Geothermal Resource Development](#). On December 8, 2021, the Government of Alberta proclaimed the [Geothermal Resource Development Act](#) (GRDA). Under the act, the AER has the authority to regulate the safe, efficient, and responsible development of Alberta's deep geothermal resources. As the regulator for geothermal development in Alberta, the AER implements government policy, rules, and regulations associated with the GRDA. As of August 15, 2022, the rules and *Directive 089* set out the requirements that industry must follow throughout the entire life cycle of a geothermal development when developing geothermal resources below the base of groundwater protection. "The robust regulatory framework we've drafted ensures we can address development requirements specific to geothermal energy," says David Helmer, senior advisor, Regulator Enhancement. "Having leveraged our experience and expertise in energy regulation, we are confident the rules and directive ensure responsible geothermal energy development in Alberta." The AER has issued [Bulletin 2022-25](#) with specific information regarding the changes to its regulatory instruments. More information regarding *Geothermal Resource Development Rules* and *Directive 089: Geothermal Resource Development* is available on [AER.ca](#)

A corrected edition of [Directive 050: Drilling Waste Management](#) has been released that restores requirements inadvertently removed from the edition released on March 28, 2022. The corrections reflect the requirements in the draft directive released for public feedback on November 19, 2021. Some corrections and clarification of terminology have also been made.

The following sections have been corrected to reflect current regulatory and operational requirements:

- Section 2, “Overview of Drilling Waste Management Methods,” requirement 4
- Section 6.4, “Remote Site Requirements,” requirement 73

### **Announcements:**

#### [ST98: Alberta Energy Outlook Released](#)

The AER has released its annual [ST98: Alberta Energy Outlook](#). Every year, we issue a report that gives stakeholders independent and comprehensive information on the state of reserves and economic outlook for Alberta's diverse energy resources, providing credible information that can be used for decision making. The report outlines Alberta's energy reserves, how they are produced and how they are used, and allows readers to customize data and create unique figures. An Executive Summary and Highlights Infographic are also available for convenient, quick access to feature information. This year's report also includes a new section on emerging resources, including geothermal, hydrogen, and helium.

### **Bulletins:**

#### [Directive 050 Correction](#)

- Section 8.3, “Disposal Onto Forested Public Lands Disposal Requirements,” requirements 86 through 89, 91(a)(c), and 92(a)(b)
- Section 9.3, “Pump-off Disposal Requirements,” requirement 99

#### [New Functionality Moving to OneStop](#)

On June 16, 2022, we will release new functionality and enhancements to the OneStop platform.

#### **Public Lands Act (PLA) Waivers**

Effective June 16, 2022, disposition holders must submit *Public Lands Act (PLA)* waivers as “Submissions” in OneStop. We will continue to process waivers (TFAs) sent by email, until June 15, 2022. Following that date, emailed waivers will no longer be accepted.

Three types of waivers are available for submission in OneStop as defined in *PLAR Table: A2: Waiver-Activity Timing Conditions, Waiver-Alternative Construction Technique and Waiver-Other Conditions*.

For more information, refer to [Public Lands Administration Regulation \(PLAR\) Table A2](#) on the Government of Alberta (GoA) website.

#### **Public Lands Application Process**

The Land section in OneStop will be enhanced to reflect policy changes made to the Land Use

Reservation Program (LURP) by Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP).

Changes include updates to regulatory processes:

- Considering reservations when land applications intersect a Crown Land Reservation (CLR)
- Converting existing reservations and notations to the new CLR naming convention (e.g., CLR990001)

Manual 018: *OneStop Public Lands Application* will be updated to reflect policy changes made to LURP and to provide guidance on enhancements being made to the Land section in OneStop.

### **Record of Site Condition (RoSC) Module**

Several enhancements will be made to the RoSC module in OneStop, including the removal of several assessment criteria. Fewer assessment criteria will result in more baseline low-risk activity, including the automatic acceptance of low-risk Remedial Action Plans (RAPs). Other enhancements will improve the module's functionality.

### **Well Logs**

Submitters will have the ability to add raster and Log ASCII Standard (LAS) files for well logs with an event sequence greater than nine.

### **Other Enhancements and Fixes**

Details on other OneStop enhancements and fixes will be made available at the time of release in "What's New in OneStop," found on the OneStop landing page under "Enhancements and Fixes." We will schedule a system outage to implement these latest changes. The outage notice will be posted on our Systems and Tools portal on our website, [www.aer.ca](http://www.aer.ca) and the [OneStop](#) landing page.

### **Training and Support Materials**

We will hold training sessions on PLA waivers and RoSC enhancements before and after the release. More information can be found on the AER [Announcements](#) page.

A new quick reference guide (QRG) will be posted on the OneStop Help page to support PLA waivers.

Updated QRGs will be posted on the OneStop Help page to support enhancements made to the Land section, the RoSC module, and well-log submissions (greater than nine events) in OneStop.

### **[Manual 005: Pipeline Inspections New Edition](#)**

This bulletin announces the release of a new edition of Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) *Manual 005: Pipeline Inspections*.

*Manual 005* is a reference document for AER staff conducting pipeline compliance activities. Industry may also use it as a reference for pipeline inspections and as a guide to inform their compliance management systems.

Within each section of the manual, we have identified noncompliance statements and relevant references to the [Pipeline Act](#), [Pipeline Rules](#), AER directives, and the latest Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards.

We have updated *Manual 005* as follows:

- Noncompliance statements have been added to reflect updates to [Directive 055: Storage Requirements for the Upstream Petroleum Industry](#) and [Directive 058: Oilfield Waste Management Requirements for the Upstream Petroleum Industry](#).
- The low- and high-risk ratings have been removed to align with our [Integrated Compliance Assurance Framework](#) and [Manual 013: Compliance and Enforcement Program](#).

*Manual 005* is not an exhaustive inventory of all the pipeline noncompliance statements, nor is it intended as a comprehensive restatement of the regulatory requirements. Furthermore, it is not a replacement for any rules or regulations, nor does it absolve companies of their responsibility for understanding and complying with all relevant requirements. Additionally, we evaluate industry's performance against target outcomes and priorities established through government policy. Where needed, we will refine our requirements to mitigate risk and achieve the outcomes that Albertans expect—public safety, environmental protection, resource conservation, and economic benefits. Performance information is captured under the Industry Performance Program and for pipelines in the [Pipeline Performance Report](#) available on our website.

#### [Invitation for Feedback on Revisions to Draft Directive 077](#)

We are seeking feedback on updates to *Directive 077: Pipelines – Requirements and Reference Tools*. The draft directive is available on our website at [Directives](#) listed under the Draft/Open for Comment tab.

Following are the main proposed changes to the directive:

- inclusion of comprehensive requirements for the use of temporary surface pipelines
- revision of sections on the use of gaseous and non-fresh water as test mediums for pressure testing
- deletion of redundant content or content no longer relevant
- revised references to CSA standard Z662-19: Oil and gas pipeline systems
- revised figures and interpretation of jurisdictional boundaries for piping
- new section on the commingling of oil effluent and gas production streams
- updates to figures, tables, and forms

The proposed changes provide greater clarity, improved alignment with CSA standards, greater ability to use temporary surface pipelines, and cost savings. To provide feedback, complete the [public comment form](#) on our website. Comments in other formats can be emailed to [D077Update2022@aer.ca](mailto:D077Update2022@aer.ca) or mailed to Alberta Energy Regulator, Suite 1000, 250 – 5 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 0R4. Feedback will be accepted until **September 9, 2022**. All feedback received will be reviewed and may be used in finalizing the directive. The comments provided through this consultation will form part of the public record and may be attributed to the specific individual who provided them. Personal information provided with comments will be collected, used, and disclosed

in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. We may use the personal contact information you provide for follow-up communication related to your feedback.

**Feedback DD:** Provision for Annual Compensation as the land is sterilized for future development.

**MB:** Remove 30 feet from wellhead of pipeline to edge of lease. Where lease starts, pipeline ROW begins. Reclamation certificate requires removal of pipeline from lease. Topsoil reclamation considerations, soil should be brought back to a certain nutrient value to accommodate vegetation growth. 60% compared to offsite.

### [Geothermal Resource Development Rules and Directive 089: Geothermal Resource Development](#)

On December 7, 2021, the Government of Alberta proclaimed the [Geothermal Resource Development Act](#). Under the act, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has the authority to regulate the safe, efficient, and responsible development of Alberta's geothermal resources. The [Geothermal Resource Development Rules](#) and [Directive 089: Geothermal Resource Development](#) have been issued to complete the regulatory framework for geothermal resource development. The rules and *Directive 089* are **effective August 15, 2022**, and set out the requirements that industry must follow throughout the entire life cycle of a geothermal development (from initiation through to closure) when developing geothermal resources below the [base of groundwater protection](#). The rules and *Directive 089* introduce requirements and processes unique to geothermal energy and include reference to applicable oil and gas regulatory instruments. A draft directive was released on August 4, 2021, for public review, and we accepted feedback until September 2, 2021 (see [Bulletin-2021-31](#)). We considered feedback from various stakeholders and rights holders, including Indigenous communities, industry, and environmental groups. A summary of the feedback, including our responses, is available on the directive's webpage. We have also updated [Manual 012: Energy Development Applications Procedures and Schedules](#) with guidance for geothermal applications (wells, facilities, pipelines), including how liability management will be applied to geothermal resource developments. In addition, the *Oil and Gas Conservation Rules (OGCR)* have been updated to align with the geothermal regulatory framework. The definition of oilfield waste in the *OGCR* has been updated to include waste from geothermal resource development. A new provision has been added to the *OGCR* that requires an application for amendment where a licensee intends to change a well licensed under the *Oil and Gas Conservation Act* to a geothermal well. We will make consequential amendments throughout the year to other AER directives and manuals to address geothermal development where necessary.

### [New Edition of Manual 001: Facility and Well Site Inspections](#)

The AER released a new edition of [Manual 001: Facility and Well Site Inspections](#), which replaces the 2010 edition.

*Manual 001* is a reference document for AER staff when conducting facility and well site compliance activities. Industry may also use it as a reference for facility and well site inspections and as a guide to inform their compliance management systems. The manual is divided into four sections: Gas Facility, Oil Facility, Waste Facility, and Well Site. Within each section, noncompliance statements are provided, along with the relevant regulatory references.

*Manual 001* has been updated as follows:



- Added noncompliance statements for the specified enactments (e.g., *Public Lands Act, Water Act*).
- Added or removed noncompliance statements to reflect current AER requirements and energy resource enactments (e.g., [Directive 058: Oilfield Waste Management Requirements for the Upstream Petroleum Industry, Oil and Gas Conservation Act](#)).
- Removed the low- and high-risk ratings to align with our [Integrated Compliance Assurance Framework](#) and [Manual 013: Compliance and Enforcement Program](#).
- Formatted the manual to meet our current publication standards.

*Manual 001* is not an exhaustive inventory of all facility and well site requirements. Industry is responsible for understanding and complying with all relevant requirements.

### Stay Informed:

The business of making sure that energy development happens safely can be complex. To help bring clarity to these complexities, the Alberta Energy Regulator created Resource, our website for sharing stories and videos on energy development and how its regulated in Alberta.

### [Resource](#)

For regular updates, please sign up for our [News Release Subscription](#) and [Subscribe to Updates](#)  
Or visit us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [AER YouTube](#)

### Contact Information:

Phone: 1-855-297-8311

Email: [Inquiries@aer.ca](mailto:Inquiries@aer.ca)

Emergency 24-hour Response Line 1-800-222-6514

## INDUSTRY UPDATES:

### Baytex: Shane Koss

#### Via email August 31, 2022

- Completion & facility construction at 2-27-46-2W5 was completed in August, and the site is fully operational now. Met with stakeholders throughout the process
  - Gas is being conserved at Keyera Rimbey Gas Plant.
  - Dust control was employed throughout, conscious effort to minimize truck traffic where possible
  - If necessary, we are working on further noise control beyond AER Directive 38 requirements.
- Subject to change, no further drilling activity is planned in the immediate area for 2022 or 2023.
- We are initiating a plan to start abandoning/reclaiming suspended legacy Knobhill wells in 2023; there are no details yet.

**Sifton Petroleum Inc: Wayne Pridham**

No Update

**Journey Energy: Dale Guidi**

No Update

**Farmers Advocate Office: Darcy Allen**

- Landowner inquiries on reclamation. New developments (oil & gas).
- Spring clean-up.
- Renewable Energy concerns, solar developments taking up useable lands.
- Vegetation under power lines. Rights and responsibilities, access to RoWs.
- Rental recovery program.
- Dispute resolution between interested parties.

Only one call received about a company not paying municipal tax in a year and a half.

Special lien is now allowed for unpaid municipal taxes. Only in municipalities in which taxes are due. AER does not believe that enforcement of unpaid municipal taxes is not their responsibility.

**County of Wetaskiwin: Kathy Rooyakkers**

Special lien is now allowed for unpaid municipal taxes. Only in municipalities in which taxes are due. AER does not believe that enforcement of unpaid municipal taxes is their responsibility.

License transfers may consider debts to landowners and unpaid taxes but not required to consider.

Property taxes just went up. County cut back were over a million and property taxes went up by 3.88% overall. Now paying for RCMP which does increase yearly.

Comment: Provincial government police force to save money? Reduce quality at an increased price.

A: Workforce issue worldwide. Cost, recruitment, transfer of pension issues. Court systems issues (catch and release, backed up schedule).

Comment: 30 km/hr over speed limit consequences are not comparable between the cities and on Battle Lake of 12 km/hr for boat traffic. Find Stats for tickets issued?

A: Tickets should be issued. It is possible to track tickets. County has no jurisdiction on water. Parks/Fish and Game can enforce however they do not have a radar gun. Battle Lake is under Federal legislation.

444 letters received regarding the CFO near Pigeon Lake with concerns for run off to the water.



**COMMUNITY UPDATES:****Louis Bull Tribe: Melanie Daniels**

No Update

**Battle River Watershed Alliance: Sarah Skinner**

ALMS water quality monitoring last fall. Report is out now, as well as the previous winter. Ask Kaleb at ALMs to speak to the group on findings in the November meeting.

[https://alms.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/WLK\\_2020-2021\\_Final\\_20211202.pdf](https://alms.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/WLK_2020-2021_Final_20211202.pdf)

[https://alms.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/WLK\\_201920\\_FINAL\\_20210201.pdf](https://alms.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/WLK_201920_FINAL_20210201.pdf)

[https://alms.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/WinterLakeKeepers\\_2019-Final.pdf](https://alms.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/WinterLakeKeepers_2019-Final.pdf)

Comment: Prussian carp population growing in Blindman River. Recovery work in process.

**Dave Doze:** Who was active on the lease south of highway south of 4H Center? Activity there now. NW-1-46-2-W5. Was that a Baytex Site originally?

A: Louis Bull Tribe own 10 quarters; they were cleaning up after renters caused damage.

**Michael Black:** Concerns addressed in discussion.

**Battle Lake Watershed Pilot Project Reports:**

<https://www.battleriverwatershed.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Battle-Lake-Watershed-Development-Planning-Pilot-Project-2006-Summary-Report.pdf>

**ERCB Review of the Battle Lake Watershed Development Planning Pilot Project, March 2011:**

[https://static.aer.ca/prd/documents/reports/BattleLakeReport\\_March2011.pdf](https://static.aer.ca/prd/documents/reports/BattleLakeReport_March2011.pdf)

**Meeting Dates for 2022:**

November 3, 2022

\*Options for zoom or call in will be utilized as necessary for meetings to accommodate COVID restrictions of that time.

**ATTENDANCE LIST**

<b>INDIVIDUAL</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Paul McLauchlin	Facilitator
Darcy Allen	Farmers Advocate Office
Zoriana Wood	AER
Michael Black	Resident
Dave Doze	Resident
Sarah Skinner	Battle River Watershed Alliance
Kathy Rooyakers	County of Wetaskiwin