

Alberta Energy Regulator Fact Sheet

Bill 2: Responsible Energy Development Act

This is a one-stop approach that will make it easier for Albertans and industry to navigate the system.

The single regulator will be more effective and efficient.

Through the Responsible Energy Development Act, we are laying the foundation for the next 50 years of rigorous energy regulation in the province.

Alberta will continue to set the bar for responsible resource development.

This new system will benefit not only Alberta's economy, but Canada's economy. It will help ensure we remain an attractive place to do business while also ensuring that the environment is protected and landowners are respected.

New Participation Rights for Landowners

We are making improvements to the current system that will allow landowners to be heard earlier on in the development process, before decisions are made.

The new regulator will provide notice to Albertans about project applications across the province. This is an improvement over the current system that sometimes allows the regulator to make decisions without providing notice.

The legislation allows all Albertans who

believe they are directly and adversely affected by an application the ability to provide a notice of concern to the regulator. This happens before decisions are made, which is important to note. The regulator will have the best information possible before any decisions are made and before hearings are held.

Standing will be granted to persons who are directly and adversely affected by a decision as guided by the six Energy Acts and four Environmental Acts.

The single regulator will have authority over all decision and review processes, and there are provisions for applying to the Court of Appeal.

Under this new system, the decision-making process will be streamlined. It will create a better opportunity for stakeholders to have input into the process before decisions are made, rather than having to challenge a decision after it's made.

If you were missed during the notification process and a decision has been made, if you are directly and adversely affected, you can request a regulatory appeal.

The legislation gives the single regulator the authority to require that both parties participate in an alternative dispute resolution process when appropriate to do so.

New Support for Landowners in Dealing with Energy Companies

Landowners may register private agreements with the single regulator. Simply put, landowners can ask the regulator to determine if industry is complying with the terms and conditions of the agreement. If the regulator finds that industry is not complying, it may issue an order directing industry to comply.

Strong Environmental Enforcement

The new energy regulator will have a broader suite of enforcement tools at its disposal.

In fact, the new regulator will have increased fines at its disposal for companies who are not operating in accordance with agreements.

The environmental legislation remains as stringent as it was before. The new regulator will be responsible for enforcing all legislation related to energy resources, including land and water acts.

Consultation with Aboriginal Albertans

The Government of Alberta remains committed to consult and engage with First Nations and Aboriginal people across the province.

That duty to consult rests with the Crown.

In fact, greater clarity to First Nations consultation will be a result of this new regulator.

Regulatory Enhancement Project

The Regulatory Enhancement Task Force, chaired by Minister Diana McQueen, examined how Alberta regulated its energy resources.

After extensive engagement, the Task Force made six recommendations to government:

- Establish a Policy Management Office;
- Establish a single oil, gas, oil sands and coal regulator;
- Provide a clear public engagement process;

- Establish a common risk assessment and management approach;
- Establish a performance measurement framework and public reporting mechanism;
- Develop an effective mechanism to address landowner concerns.

Together, all six recommendations will ensure Alberta has a regulatory system that benefits Alberta's and Canada's economy.

The most visible component of the recommendations is to establish the single regulator, however work is moving ahead on the other five recommendations.

The new Policy Management Office is tasked with developing a public engagement process as well as the risk assessment and management approach.

Part of Integrated Resource Management

The Alberta Energy Regulator is one component of the work the province is doing to integrate its resource management system.

How we plan for and approve development needs to be looked at, in a way that allows the province to remain competitive, but also with an eye towards the environment.

Other key elements of integrating the resource management system include a new environmental monitoring system and land-use planning.

Recently, the province released the first land use plan, the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan. This plan sets the stage for strong growth, vibrant communities and a healthy environment within the region for the next 50 years.