



AER: Invitation for Feedback on Proposed Changes to the Pipeline Rules

We are seeking feedback on [proposed changes to the Pipeline Rules](#). The rules are made by the AER under the authority of the *Pipeline Act*. The rules were last reviewed and updated in 2005.

The changes include modernizing them to align with the latest safety and integrity management standards set by the Canadian Standards Association, reducing the environmental footprint of pipelines, reducing administrative burden on pipeline operators, and aligning the rules with [pipeline safety recommendations](#) made by the Auditor General in 2015.

To provide feedback, review the below summary of proposed changes, [complete the comment form](#) on the AER website, and email it to [PipelineRuleUpdate2020@aer.ca](mailto:PipelineRuleUpdate2020@ aer.ca) or mail it to the Alberta Energy Regulator, Suite 1000, 250 – 5 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 0R4. Feedback will be accepted through Friday, January 15, 2021. All feedback received will be reviewed and may be used in finalizing changes to the rules. Changes to the rules are subject to final review and approval by the Government of Alberta. A release date for the updated rules has not been set.

Personal information provided with comments will be collected, used, and disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The AER may use your personal contact information for follow-up communication related to your feedback.

Summary of Proposed Changes

- Defined the term *mechanical damage*. All mechanical damage would have to be reported, even if that damage did not result in a reportable leak or rupture.
- Section 11.1, Design for Maintenance, Inspection and Purging: All new pipelines would have to accommodate the passage of pigs, with some exemptions.
- Section 20, Minimum Earth Cover: This section has been reorganized for clarity. Additional guidance has been added around existing pipelines that may not meet minimum cover requirements or that may need to consider adequacy of existing cover.
- Section 21, Surface Pipelines: New requirements allowing temporary surface pipelines for the transfer of alternative water will be described in *Directive 077* and potentially licensed through *Directive 056*.
- Part 3, Pressure Testing (starting at section 23): The types of tests have been newly defined for clarity. Refer to proposed definitions provided for *qualification test*, *requalification test*, and *service test*.
- Part 4, Integrity Management and Safety and Loss Management (starting section 39): In alignment with the *Canadian Standards Association Z662: 19 Oil & Gas Pipeline Systems (CSA Z662)*, companies must have a Safety and Loss Management System (SLMS) and Integrity Management Programs (IMPs) per Clause 3 and Clause 10, which is supported by additional requirements and guidance in Annex A and Annex N (non-mandatory). Annex N was previously made mandatory in *Directive 077* in 2011. Both Annex A and N are mandatory in the rules. The proposed changes incorporate principles from SLMS and IMP and are risk-based and outcome-focused.

Based on these proposed changes, many prescriptive and duplicate requirements are being removed throughout the rules in favour of criteria to be developed by the licensee through its SLMS and IMP.

- Part 5, Ground Disturbance (starting at section 52): Clarification and additional guidance for conducting hand excavations and exposing existing pipelines to be crossed with trenchless installation techniques.
- Part 10, Discontinuance, Abandonment, Removal or Resumption:
 - Inactive pipelines will have up to 24 months rather than 12 months to discontinue, abandon, or resume a pipeline (based on certain conditions).

- If a licensee intends to discontinue or abandon a pipeline system, they would be able to do so without the removal of underground tie-ins, subject to stated requirements.
- Overall exemption clause added to allow the regulator to build additional programs related to abandonment, such as the area-based closure program.
- Conducting removal activities would follow the same process as discontinuation and abandonment processes.

Professional Support Services for Environmental Consultants

DRAFTING / GIS

- Spill Investigations
- Phase 1 ESA
- Phase 2 ESA
- Remediation
- Reclamation
- Groundwater Monitoring Programs
- Soil Monitoring Programs

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Analytical Data Tabulation
- Project Management
- Senior Review

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- Borehole Log / Well Log Data Entry
- General Data Entry
- Historical Air Photo Lookup and Ordering

"...THINK Envirotechnical is our drafting specialist and we get high quality figures, for a reasonable price, with fast turnaround and great service every time. It is a perfect fit for us and they continue to be a valued part of our process."

*Paul Fuellbrandt, PAg, PMP,
Principal Environmental Scientist
Precision Liability Consulting Inc.*

THINK
ENVIROTECHNICAL SERVICES

587-747-5567

www.thinkenv.ca

Indigenous-owned solar farm opens in remote northern Alberta community

(Source: CBC News) An Indigenous-owned solar farm in remote northeast Alberta, branded the largest project of its kind in Canada, celebrated its grand opening this week, bringing increased renewable energy independence to a community long reliant on diesel fuel.

The project is owned by Three Nations Energy, a joint venture of the Mikisew Cree First Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and the Fort Chipewyan Métis Association, all located in the hamlet of Fort Chipewyan.

The 5,760 solar panels will supply the remote northeast Alberta community with around 25 per cent of its energy needs, the company says.

Before the solar farm, Fort Chipewyan's roughly 1,000 residents got their energy from the ATCO-owned diesel power station, which every year burns three million litres of fuel trucked in on ice roads or delivered by river barge.

The solar farm is expected to replace 800,000 litres of diesel a year, equivalent to about 2,376 tonnes of carbon emissions.

"We worked together and we made it happen," Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation said Tuesday at an event celebrating the completion of the project's second and final phase.

"We work with the sun, we work with the wind, we work with mother nature and we work the water for the children of the future — to give them a better life, a cleaner life."

ATCO, the Alberta-based utility company, partnered with the Indigenous owners throughout the project, including on design and engineering. The utility owns 1,500 panels built during the first phase in June 2019.

"This is a very proud moment for all of us as a community. We've worked together very hard for these past couple of years," said Blue Eyes Simpson, vice-president of the Fort Chipewyan Métis Association.

With the completion of the 2.2 MW-capacity project, about 25 fewer tanker trucks will trek across the winter ice road connecting the community with Fort McMurray, 220 kilometres to the south, the company says. In the summer, the community is only accessible by air or barge.

Local leaders say [the ice road](#) is becoming increasingly unreliable due to climate change, as research shows Canada's north is warming nearly [three times faster than the global average](#).

"This energy project brings a lot of happiness to our community because it's less fuel to transport down the road," Mikisew Cree First Nation Chief Peter Powder said Tuesday.

The renewable energy project is the largest remote, off-grid solar farm in the country, according to the federal government. Three Nations Energy says the profits will be reinvested in other green energy projects and education.

"We've always relied on fossil fuels, but we're switching over to renewable energy," said Powder. The \$7.76-million project was funded by the provincial and federal government. The federal government supplied \$4.5 million and the Alberta government added the other \$3.3 million.

Federal Natural Resources Minister Seamus O'Regan called the solar farm a model for Canada's energy future.

"We welcome your determination in building the energy capacity to reduce the community's reliance on diesel, to reduce pollution and to address a climate crisis that has taken a particularly heavy toll on your region," O'Regan said in pre-recorded remarks, aired during a virtual panel discussion Wednesday.

ATCO will buy the solar farm's energy under a long-term purchase agreement and supply it to the local power grid, which is disconnected from the provincewide grid.

"Indigenous people must have an equity stake in resource projects if there's going to be a healthy future for our vital resources industry," Rick Wilson, Alberta's minister of Indigenous relations, said in a pre-recorded video. "Projects like this will benefit generations to come."

Three Nations Energy doesn't plan to stop with the solar farm. The company is looking to add a wood fuel heating business and sustainable hydroponics food production in the community, with the help of the solar farm's project managers Greenplanet Energy Analytics.

Caribou herds close to home a pretty sight, but conservation measures still needed

(Source: CBC News) Spectacular photos and videos of large and healthy looking caribou herds have been lighting up social media in northern Quebec Cree communities of late.

The message from Cree wildlife officials to Cree hunters: enjoy the view, but continue to harvest responsibly, or not at all, to protect vulnerable populations.

"I would really encourage the communities to not assume the population is abundant because [the caribou are] more accessible," said Nadia Saganash, senior advisor of Cree-Quebec governance for the Cree Nation Government (CNG).

Saganash spent 15 years as wildlife management administrator for CNG and still sits on the coordinating committee overseeing hunting, trapping and fishing.

She says the herds seen over the past few weeks around the community of Chisasibi are from the Leaf River herd and that while responsible harvesting is allowed, she recommends not over harvesting.

Population numbers for the Leaf River herd have been stable at approximately 190,000 for the last few years, according to Saganash. But that is still far away from their numbers in 2000, when the count was more than 600,000.

The decline in the George River herd is even more drastic, down 99 per cent from its peak in the 1990s.

"The status of the George River herd ... it was sort of a red flag. People understood and took some precautions ... I think it helped a lot," said Saganash.

In 2018, the [Cree Nation Government put in place a ban](#) on the Indigenous hunt of the George River caribou herd and also passed a resolution placing voluntary limits on the harvesting of the Leaf River herd. The sport hunt on the Leaf River herd has been closed since 2018.

The CNG also passed a resolution in 2018 condemning "unauthorized" hunting by other Indigenous groups on Cree territory and ordered an end to "unauthorized guiding" of outside hunters.

Saganash said those measures are still in place and are still very much needed.

"We're going in the right direction by taking care of these populations and taking conservation measures. We need to continue to do that," she said.

Statistics released last month from Quebec's Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP), show the George River herd has rebounded from a critical low of just 5,500 in 2018 to a little more than 8,000 in 2020.

"This is the first positive inventory result for the herd since 1993," said a press release from the ministry.

The release attributed the increase to a large number of calves observed in July 2020, but said the number of adult George River caribou observed that summer was down by 27 per cent from 2016.

"The George River caribou herd's situation therefore remains fragile," said the release.

A series of population increases will be needed before any conclusions can be drawn regarding the survival of the George River herd.

For Saganash, a complete hunting ban for the George River herd will be needed for the next few years at least.

The Government of Canada invests in research on plastic pollution in our environment

November 13, 2020 – Vancouver, British Columbia Plastic pollution is everywhere. It fills our rivers, lakes, and oceans and harms the wildlife that call those places home. Canadians want their governments to take action on plastic pollution to protect the environment and grow the economy.

Today, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Peter Schiefke, announced that the Government of Canada is providing \$2,256,554 to 16 science-based research projects to learn more about the impacts of plastic pollution on our natural environment and our health. This funding is provided through the Increasing Knowledge on Plastic Pollution Initiative.

The Government of Canada recently published the final [Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution](#), which looks at the presence of plastic pollution and its effects on the environment and human health. This assessment confirms that plastic pollution is everywhere and negatively impacts our environment, but it also determined that there are gaps in our knowledge. The funding announced today seeks to fill these knowledge gaps and help us move toward a cleaner, healthier world.

The Parliamentary Secretary made the announcement during the virtual Zero Waste Conference, where he also emphasized the importance of collaboration in research to support the implementation of [Canada's Plastics Science Agenda](#).

Canada is taking action to protect the environment and reduce plastic waste and pollution across the country. Canada has a comprehensive plan to address plastic waste. The plan includes moving toward a circular economy, an approach that seeks to support change across the entire lifecycle of plastics—from design to manufacture, use, and recovery. The plan also includes a ban on certain harmful single-use plastic items that are often found in the environment, are often not recycled, and have readily available alternatives. The proposed approach will put Canada on a pathway to achieve zero plastic waste by 2030.

Quick facts

- Plastic pollution has been shown to harm animals by causing them to become entangled in ropes, nets, cable ties, plastic bags, packaging bands, and six-pack rings. Plastics can also harm animals when they ingest it, causing suffocation, damage to their organs and intestinal systems, hindered feeding, and possible starvation. Moreover, plastic pollution disrupts habitats by facilitating the transport of invasive species and diseases between areas.
- In Canada, 29,000 tonnes of plastic entered the environment as pollution in 2016 alone. Without concrete action to prevent plastic pollution, this amount could rise to 40,000 tonnes by 2030.
- Canadians throw away over 3 million tonnes of plastic waste every year—that's as heavy as 25,000 blue whales.
- Only 9 percent of Canada's plastic waste is recycled while the rest ends up in landfills, waste-to-energy facilities, or the environment.

Related products

- [Increasing Knowledge on Plastic Pollution \(backgrounder\)](#)

Proposed Federal Halocarbon Regulations 2020

Le 14 novembre 2020, Environnement et Changement climatique Canada a publié le projet de *Règlement fédéral sur les halocarbures (2020)* dans la partie I de la Gazette du Canada.

On November 14, 2020, Environment and Climate Change Canada published the proposed *Federal Halocarbon Regulations, 2020* in Part I of the *Canada Gazette*.

Le projet de *Règlement fédéral sur les halocarbures (2020)* (le Règlement) abrogerait et remplacerait le *Règlement fédéral sur les halocarbures (2003)* (RFH (2003)). Le champ d'application du règlement proposé reste le même que le RFH (2003), mais le règlement proposé simplifiera la structure, supprimera ou mettra à jour les dispositions obsolètes, réglera les problèmes d'application et de mise en œuvre, clarifiera les exigences et les définitions clés, réduira le fardeau administratif pour les réglementés et le gouvernement et améliorera l'alignement avec les autres juridictions.

The proposed *Federal Halocarbon Regulations, 2020* (the Regulations) would repeal and replace the *Federal Halocarbon Regulations, 2003* (FHR 2003). The scope of the proposed Regulations remains the same as the FHR 2003, but the proposed Regulations will streamline the framework, remove or update obsolete provisions, address enforcement and implementation issues, clarify requirements and key definitions, reduce administrative burden for both regulatees and the Government and enhance alignment with other jurisdictions.

Le présent règlement vise à protéger la couche d'ozone et le climat en diminuant et prévenant les émissions de substances appauvrissant la couche d'ozone et de leurs halocarbures de remplacement dans l'environnement par les systèmes de réfrigération, de climatisation, d'extinction d'incendie et de solvants qui :

- se trouvent sur des terres autochtones ou le territoire domanial; ou
- appartiennent à des ministères, des conseils et des organismes fédéraux, des sociétés d'État ou des entreprises fédérales.

Le projet de *Règlement fédéral sur les halocarbures (2020)* est disponible via la page web d'information sur le règlement fédéral sur les halocarbures - canada.ca/reglement-federal-halocarbures.

Les commentaires sur le projet de *Règlement fédéral sur les halocarbures (2020)* peuvent être envoyés dans les 60 jours suivant la publication dans la Partie I de la *Gazette du Canada* à :

Division de la production des produits chimiques
Environnement et Changement climatique Canada
Place Vincent-Massey, 19^e étage
351, boul. Saint-Joseph
Gatineau (Québec) K1A 0H3
Courriel : ec.gestionhalocarbures-halocarbonsmanagement.ec@canada.ca

The purpose of these Regulations is to protect the ozone layer and the climate by reducing and preventing emissions of ozone-depleting substances and of their halocarbon alternatives to the environment from air-conditioning, refrigeration, fire-extinguishing and solvent systems that are:

- located on federal or aboriginal lands; or
- owned by federal departments, boards and agencies, Crown corporations, or federal works and undertakings.

The proposed *Federal Halocarbon Regulations, 2020* are available via the Federal Halocarbon Regulations Information webpage - canada.ca/federal-halocarbon-regulations.

Comments on the proposed *Federal Halocarbon Regulations, 2020* can be sent within 60 days of the publication in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I to:

Chemical Production Division
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Place Vincent Massey, 19th Floor
351 St. Joseph Boulevard
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3
E-mail: ec.gestionhalocarbures-halocarbonsmanagement.ec@canada.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming ESAA Webinar

Reducing Cost and Risk Associated with Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment

11am - 12pm, November 25th, 2020

[Register Now](#)

The federal/provincial Site Rehabilitation Program (SRP) forms a strategic plank in the Federal/Provincial economic recovery platform that puts western Canadian service companies back to work. Alberta Energy via the Industry Advisor Committee has several stakeholders, including ESAA, advising how the SRP can achieve economic and environmental objectives while putting service companies back to work.

Maximizing the value to taxpayers, customers, ESAA members, service providers and shareholders requires a strategy that addresses the entire life cycle of well closure and abandonment. West Earth Sciences will share their hands-on experience with hundreds of Phase 1 ESA's, abandonments, cleanups and closures beginning with income trusts of the 1990's and culminating in the SRP requirements today.

West Earth Sciences will summarize Phase 1 ESA regulatory requirements, how the Phase I's establish the foundation for subsequent stages (including Phase 2 detailed site investigations) and lessons-learned from how the right Phase 1 ESA minimizes surprises, reduces risk and ultimately reduces the cost associated with successful site closure.

Presenters:

- Mr. Bill Berzins, M.A.Sc. P.Eng.: Mr. Berzins has managed site assessment, remediation and reclamation activities hundred of sites over an 40-year career.
- Mr. Sam Ogali, **MSc, PAg (AB, BC, SK)**: Mr. Ogali has more than 17 years experience in site cleanup and closure across BC and Alberta across several hundred sites. .

Registration is free!

[Register Now](#)

McLennan Ross Webinar

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION LAW

The law governing the Crown's duty to consult with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada is complex and constantly evolving. For those working in this dynamic area, it is essential to remain current and sensitive to recent developments, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Join [JoAnn P. Jamieson](#) for an update on recent developments including:

- *Fort McKay First Nation v Prosper Petroleum Ltd.* and the Honour of the Crown
- Update on the implementation of the *United Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*
- Indigenous Participation and the Alberta Indigenous Opportunity Corporation
- Best Practices During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Who Should Attend: This webinar is designed for landmen, regulatory managers, Indigenous-relations specialists and in-house counsel.

Date: Thursday, November 26, 2020

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Cost: Complimentary

Surfactant Enhanced Extraction (SEE) at LNAPL and DNAPL Impacted Sites Pilot to Full Scale Application

Please note the event date has changed to December 3, 2020

December 3, 2020

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm MST

Speaker: George (Bud) Ivey - President & Senior Remediation Specialist, Ivey International Inc.

Registration Deadline:

December 2, 2020

Fees:

CLRA Members: Free

Non-Members: \$20

*All registration fees will be donated to Western Sky Land Trust.



The current amount raised through past webinar registrations is \$440.00.

[REGISTER](#)

Background/Objectives:

This applied presentation will explain hydro-geo-chemical fundamentals of hydrophobic organic chemical (HOC) behavior, including petroleum hydrocarbons, chlorinated solvents, PFAS, and Pesticides, in saturated and unsaturated regimes, from their general physical chemistry characteristics to detailed phase partitioning and sorption (i.e. absorb and adsorb), and how this behavior kinetically limits their 'Availability' for remediation, and their root causes of contaminant rebound (a.k.a. back-diffusion). Contaminant sorption and reduced availability can be significantly reduced with integration of surfactant enhanced extraction (SEE), to enhance contaminant phase-desorption (i.e. of vapour, liquids, and solids) and significantly increase their 'Availability' for improved in-situ and ex-situ Physical, Biological and Chemical remediation methodologies.

Approach/Activities:

Three (3) international SEE brownfield remediation site case studies, are presented that each evolved from pilot scale to full scale applications, will be used to provide integration details and the client's evidence based findings and the statistically measurable benefits realized at each site, using SEE as part of site specific physical (MPE), biological (MNA) and/or chemical (ISCO/ISCR) treatment train strategies that expedited vapour, soil and groundwater remediation to achieve the applicable regulatory and/or risk assessment based clean-up objectives for the sites.

The presentation will be technically underpinned by established scientific principles, well supported by client data and visually driven using figures, charts and three dimensional computer animation models, using adult learning principles, for improved audience interaction.

Results/Lessons Learned:

The three full-scale SEE remedial efforts resulted in the recovery of approximately greater than 99% of the NAPL at each site, prior to on-set of second physical, biological or chemical remediation, with soil groundwater contaminant concentrations in the source areas having been reduced by >90 to 95%. Based on these results, SEE as a combined 2-step remediation strategy was easy to implement, and can resulting in significant project life-cycle cost savings to achieve regulatory or risk based site clean-up objectives.

PTAC | CRIN Vision for the Future of Wellsite Asset Retirement: Decommissioning through Closure

December 9 | 8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. MST | Virtual

Petroleum Technology Alliance Canada (PTAC) and the Clean Resource Innovation Network (CRIN) invite you to attend this virtual event with the goal of sharing successes, learnings and a collective vision for advancing efficient and sustainable practices to most effectively address the full scope of wellsite asset retirement. Presenters and a panel discussion will provide a regulatory perspective or case studies for asset retirement, and innovation to transform our landscape and diversify Alberta's economy. [Register today.](#)

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 2 - 3, 2020

Working Together

Don't miss this 2-day conference made possible through a virtual collaboration between Alberta's Chemists, Biologists and Forest Management professionals





ACPA  **Association of Alberta Forest Management Professionals**  **ASPFB**
ALBERTA SOCIETY OF FOREST BIOMANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS

RESEARCH & TRENDS
Industry trends and new technologies

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Team development, diversity and inclusion

PRACTICE SPECIFIC & REGULATION
What all practitioners need to know - today!

CALLING IN THE EXPERTS
Professional collaboration solves practical problems



[CLICK HERE FOR FULL INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION](#)

Industry Positions Openings



As a benefit of ESAA Membership, ESAA Members can now post position openings on our website at no charge. Position opening ads also will appear in the newsletter at no charge. For full details visit: <https://www.esaa.org/news/job-board/>

Note: You must still complete the advertising form. After completing the order form, you will receive an email with a link to post your position.

Non-Members are welcome to advertise as well for a nominal charge. Visit [advertising form](#) to place your order.

Job Title	Organization	Deadline	Term	Details
Intermediate Environmental Scientist - Field	360 Energy Liability Management	2020-11-30	Full-Time	more
VP Environmental, Alberta	H3M Environmental Ltd.	2020-11-30	Full-Time	more
Project Manager	H3M Environmental Ltd.	2020-11-30	Full-Time	more