

Regulatory Bulletin for the Oil & Gas Industry September 2020



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FEDERAL

Jasper Caribou Herds

Parks Canada has drafted a preliminary proposal to [rebuild caribou herds](#) in Jasper National Park through a conservation breeding and herd augmentation program. The proposal is in response many of these herds reducing in size over the last several decades. Jasper National Park is home to three herds of Southern Mountain caribou: the Tonquin, Brazeau and À La Pêche herds. A fourth herd, the Maligne, was last observed in 2018 and is now considered extirpated (locally extinct). The Tonquin and Brazeau herds do not have enough females to be able to grow the herds. The À La Pêche herd is partially migratory, has about 150 members, and is primarily managed by the Province of Alberta. Parks Canada has identified the following activities as past, present and future threats to Caribou in Jasper National Park:

- Altered predator-prey dynamics
- Predator access
- Human disturbance
- Habitat loss
- Small population effects

ALBERTA


Alberta Energy Regulator Updates Remediation Regulation

The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has released [updates](#) on how it will administer the [Remediation Regulation](#) which came into force on January 1, 2019 under the [Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act \(EPEA\)](#). These updates include the application of the regulation, expectations of remedial measures, release reporting, and expectations for the remedial action plan. The update from the AER clarifies that where a substance, as defined by [EPEA](#), did not trigger release reporting requirements prior to the *Remediation Regulation* coming to force, but that has subsequently been determined to cause adverse effects, will require a remedial action plan.

2020/2021 Orphan Fund Levy

A \$65 million dollar orphan fund levy has been [approved](#) for the Orphan Well Association (OWA) budget for fiscal year 2020/2021. This levy is paid for by licensees and approval holders under the *Oil and Gas Conservation Act*, excluding those under the Large Facilities Liability Management Program. Orphan fund levy invoices will be emailed by September 22, 2020 to licensees or approval holders and payments must be made by October 15, 2020.





Alberta Alaska Rail Line Project

On September 25, 2020 President Trump stated in a tweet that he will be issuing a Presidential Permit for the [A2A Cross-Border Rail Line](#) between Alaska and Alberta. The proposed rail line is a 2,570-kilometer (km) track from Anchorage Alaska to Fort McMurray Alberta and will cost about \$22 billion. The proposed railway could [move oil, grain, ore, container goods and potentially passengers](#). The project still needs to go through the regulatory permitting process in both Canada and the United States, however approval from President Trump is the first step for the United States.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Dam Emergency Plan and Emergency Response Plan

Dam owners, who are also permit holders under the *Oil and Gas Activities Act* (OGAA), are now [expected](#) to combine their Dam Emergency Plan (DEP) and their Emergency Response Plan (ERP). A DEP is required to be developed and submitted to the British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission (BCOGC) if the dam has a consequence rating classification of significant, high, very high or extreme. The purpose of combining the DEP and ERP is to maintain structure and organization of emergency response processes and plans already in place under the OGAA. Requirements for DEP composition are in the [Emergency Management Manual](#). Dam owners who are not OGAA permit holders are required to develop, maintain, and submit a DEP addressing requirements in the [Dam Safety Regulation](#).

Updating Requirements of Hydraulic Fracture Data Submission

Effective October 1, 2020 the BCOGC is updating the [requirements](#) for FRAC.csv submission. The following data will be mandatory:

- Fracture start time
- Maximum treating pressure
- Instantaneous shut in pressure (ISIP)

Permit holders are to review the new requirements and template and notify service companies that prepare submissions on their behalf.

Did You Know?

Can you believe it is already the beginning of October? October is often the last month we can complete some of our field programs. This includes aquatic/hydrology assessment to progress a term licence application, pre-disturbance assessment, environmental site assessment, or wetlands assessments.

Contact Stephanie Demers at 403-998-3687 or Stephanie.Demers@IntegratedSustainability.ca if you would like to fit in a field program, or learn more about the requirements, before the snow flies!



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