

Frequently Asked Questions

Peace River Performance Dashboard

January 2016

Q1. What is the Peace River performance dashboard?

A1. The Peace River performance dashboard is a reporting tool that provides information on progress in reducing flaring, venting, and incinerating and increasing gas conservation in the Peace River area.

Q2. What outcomes is the AER working toward?

A2. Six outcomes have been established by the AER for the Peace River area based on the recommendations identified in the Peace River proceeding report.

1. Reduce and prevent gas venting from all sources associated with heavy oil and bitumen operations in the Peace River area.
2. Reduce flaring and incineration of gas associated with heavy oil and bitumen operations in the Peace River area.
3. Increase conservation of gas in the Peace River area from heavy oil and bitumen operations.
4. Reduce odour events to the residents of the Peace River area.
5. Increase public confidence in the AER regulatory system in the Peace River area.
6. Meet regional targets in the Peace River area.

For more information on how the outcomes, performance measures, and Peace River proceeding recommendations align, please refer to the information document posted on the main page of the Peace River performance dashboard.

Q3. How is the AER measuring progress on these outcomes?

A3. The AER has identified performance measures for each of the outcomes. These performance measures are identified on the dashboard and can be qualitative or quantitative.

Q4. What are the targets and timelines associated with each performance measure?

A4. The targets and timelines can be found on the dashboard. Targets and timelines for reducing venting may vary depending on the specific area and operator in Peace River. Gas conservation timelines depend on AER-approved gas conservation plans for each operator.

The Peace River Area Monitoring Program (PRAMP) is working on establishing regional targets for the Peace River area. These targets will be added to the Peace River performance dashboard when available.

Q5. When will reporting begin on the proposed performance measures?

A5. The draft directive *Requirements for Hydrocarbon Emission Controls and Gas Conservation in the Peace River Area* may introduce additional reporting requirements that could necessitate the adoption of additional performance measures in the future. This reporting would begin after any new requirements become effective. Placeholders in the Peace River dashboard have been identified in some instances for potential future performance measures, but these are not guaranteed.

Q6. What will happen if the targets are not met?

A6. The AER will continue to monitor progress through the performance dashboard, periodic performance reviews, and inspections and will work with operators to ensure compliance with AER requirements. Operators found in noncompliance could face enforcement action.

The performance dashboard is an additional tool for the AER and stakeholders to gauge how things are progressing and identify any potential issues in meeting requirements. The performance dashboard is intended to help the AER be more transparent about the regulatory interventions it develops.

Q7. One of the outcomes is the reduction of flaring. Did the AER consider the occasional need for flaring when you created this outcome?

A7. Yes, the AER recognizes that flaring may be required during emergencies and upsets. Regulatory requirements have been proposed to limit nonroutine flaring in the Peace River area to a maximum of three per cent of an operator's total annual gas production.

Q8. Where are you drawing your data from?

A8. Data are obtained from Petrinex, PRAMP, AER inspection results, and industry reporting. Complaints reported to the AER are tracked for each area. Odour events are tracked through the odour complaints that the AER receives and through AER inspections.

Q9. Does the dashboard identify the locations of public complaints?

A9. No, specific locations are not reported. The dashboard shows the number of odour complaints reported in each area (Three Creeks, Reno, Seal Lake, and Walrus).

Q10. How often is the performance dashboard updated?

A10. The performance dashboard will be updated quarterly to reflect the latest data. Depending on the source of data, reporting timelines may vary.

Q11. Will this dashboard be used to measure other areas of the province?

A11. No. At this time, the Peace River performance dashboard is specific to the Peace River area and stems from the findings of the independent AER panel of hearing commissioners that conducted the proceeding to examine odours and emissions from heavy oil operations in the Peace River area.

Q12. Who can I contact about information that is on the dashboard?

A12. Questions can be directed to the AER Customer Contact Centre:

Phone: 403-297-8311

Toll-free: 1-855-297-8311

E-mail: Inquiries@ aer.ca