

AER Bulletin 2014-25

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Timelines for Processing *Public Lands Act* Applications

This bulletin announces improved and consistent processing times for *Public Lands Act* (PLA) applications submitted to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER). The timelines are presented in the table below.

Application type	Processing timeline (business days)
Regular authorizations	
Enhanced Approval Process (EAP) standard	30
EAP nonstandard	45
Oil and gas environmental field report (EFR)	60 ^a
Major projects EFR	90 ^a
Oil sands exploration (OSE) program and coal exploration program (CEP)	60 ^a
Temporary field authorization	5
Maintenance^b	
Renewal	TBD ^c
Cancellations	TBD
- No entry	
- Reclamation certification	
Assignments	TBD

^a Includes the 30-day period to submit a statement of concern.

^b Changes to the systems that handle PLA applications need to be made before processing timelines can be established for maintenance activities.

^c TBD = to be determined.

Criteria for Timelines

These timelines are based on the submission of a complete and accurate application. A complete application includes

- all required consents and
- for EAP standard and nonstandard applications and temporary field authorizations, a First Nations consultation adequacy decision.

Incomplete applications will be rejected and applicants will need to reapply.

The processing timelines do not include delays or time spent on such activities as

- waiting for information from the applicant (e.g., the First Nations consultation adequacy decision, if required, or clarification about the application);

- resolving concerns raised in statements of concerns;
- dealing with referrals to government agencies (municipal, provincial, or federal); or
- waiting for associated dispositions or approvals (e.g., approvals under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* or *Oil Sands Conservation Act*).

inquiries 1-855-297-8311
24-hour
emergency 1-800-222-6514

Contact Information

General inquiries about this bulletin

inquiries@aer.ca or 1-855-297-8311.

Technical questions about application requirements

AERMajorProjects@aer.ca

Technical questions about an approved OSE program or CEP

Land-use officer in the region where the program is located. (See the AER's website, www.aer.ca, for a map of the land-use field centres.)

The AER will be hosting one or more industry information sessions on the winter drilling season that will include an overview of the *PLA* timelines. Details will be provided in the next few weeks.

<original signed by>

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