

Bulletin 2023-06

March 2, 2023

Brine-Hosted Mineral Resource Development Rules and Directive 090

On March 1, 2023, the Government of Alberta proclaimed parts of the [Mineral Resource Development Act](#). The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has the authority to regulate the safe, efficient, and responsible development of Alberta's brine-hosted mineral resources under the act.

Today we released [Directive 090: Brine-Hosted Mineral Resource Development](#) to complete the regulatory framework for brine-hosted mineral resource development. *Directive 090* will come into effect once the *Brine-Hosted Mineral Resource Development Rules (BMR)* are in effect. The *BMR* will be available at the [Alberta King's Printer](#). The *BMR* and *Directive 090* set out the requirements that industry must follow throughout the life cycle of a brine-hosted mineral resource development; they introduce processes and requirements unique to developing brine-hosted mineral resources while incorporating applicable oil and gas regulatory instruments.

Other changes to the regulatory framework for brine-hosted mineral resource development that will come into effect with the *BMR* include the following:

- [Directive 056: Energy Development Applications and Schedules](#) has been updated to include well, facility, and pipeline licensing requirements for brine-hosted mineral resource development.
- In the [Oil and Gas Conservation Rules \(OGCR\)](#), the definition of oilfield waste has been updated to include waste from mineral resource development. Also, new provisions have been added to the *OGCR* and the [Geothermal Resource Development Rules](#) that require an application for amendment when a licensee intends to convert a well licensed under the *Oil and Gas Conservation Act* or *Geothermal Resource Development Act* to a mineral resource well.

In addition to these revisions, another version of *Directive 056* will be released on March 16 for OneStop application submission requirements for geothermal and brine-hosted mineral resources. Also, on March 16, a revised edition of [Manual 012: Energy Development Applications](#) will be released.

On September 20, 2022, we released a draft of the brine-hosted mineral resource directive for public review and comment until October 31, 2022 (see [Bulletin 2022-28](#)). A summary of the feedback, including our responses, is available on the directive's webpage.

Directive 090 and the revised edition of *Directive 056* are available on our website at www.aer.ca > Regulating Development > Rules and Directives > [Directives](#). If you have questions, contact our Customer Contact Centre by phone at 1-855-297-8311 or by email at inquiries@ aer.ca.