

Bulletin 2024-01

February 8, 2024

New Edition of *Directive 023*

Today we released a new edition of *Directive 023: Oil Sands Project Applications*. It is effective immediately and replaces the May 2013 draft edition.

We also rescinded *Directive 086: Reservoir Containment Application Requirements for Steam-Assisted Gravity Drainage Projects in the Shallow Athabasca Oil Sands Area*, whose requirements have been moved into section 6 of *Directive 023*. References to *Directive 023* in *Directive 008: Surface Casing Depth Requirements*, *Directive 056: Energy Development Applications and Schedules*, and *Manual 020: Coal Development* have been updated.

Other primary changes that we made to *Directive 023* are as follows:

- removed requirements that exist in other directives or provincial legislation, including removing environmental requirements that were also found in the specified enactments
- aligned the socioeconomic requirements with the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*
- restructured the environmental and socioeconomic requirements based on the scale of the projects they apply to (e.g., small-scale in situ projects)
- added a section on in situ life-cycle applications

A draft of the directive was released on June 27, 2022, and public feedback was accepted through August 26, 2022 (see [Bulletin 2022-22](#)). A summary of the feedback, including our responses, is available on the directive's webpage under the heading "Supplemental Information." Also under that heading, you can find flowcharts on the process for *Directive 023* applications and for environmental requirements, as well as links to webpages summarizing the in situ and mining application processes.

The revised edition of *Directive 023* is available on our website at www.aer.ca > Regulating Development > Rules and Directives > [Directives](#). If you have any questions, contact our Customer Contact Centre by phone at 1-855-297-8311 or by email at inquiries@aer.ca.