



February 25, 2025

To: 2025 AER Oil & Gas Administration Fees Recipients

Re: Industry Support for the Alberta Upstream Petroleum Research Fund

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, the Explorers and Producers Association of Canada, Alberta Energy and Minerals, and Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, we encourage your company's contribution to support the Alberta Upstream Petroleum Research Fund (AUPRF), administered by Petroleum Technology Alliance Canada (PTAC).

We recognize the significant value the AUPRF applied research program provides to the oil and gas industry through collaborative research and innovation. The 2025 budget necessary to implement this research program is \$6,074,000. Your contribution is voluntary. However, we urge you to consider the benefits of this program carefully. Collectively, AUPRF funds research and technology development that addresses pressing environmental issues such as emissions reduction, well closure and land remediation. Your contribution will support the development of new clean technologies and business processes resulting in improved efficiency, cost savings and the development of smart regulations.

AUPRF Performance Highlights

Some key highlights of the program to date, which we are proud to share with you, include:

- Over 544 projects have been launched to date.
- Over \$38MM in funding from the oil and gas sector through AUPRF, leveraging total research spending of over \$190MM.
- \$125MM in estimated annual savings realized through adopting technologies and best management practices to reduce methane emissions, reduce soil and vegetation remediation costs, and manage species at risk.
- Enhanced governance through the industry-led AUPRF oversight committee.
- 2023/2024 AUPRF Annual Report - <https://ptac.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/AUPRF-Annual-Report-2023-2024.pdf>

Recent notable projects that benefited from AUPRF funding include:

- The Oxiperator for Methane Slip from Lean Burn Gas Engines
- Controlled Methane Injection Pilot Demonstration of a Biocover Concept for Mitigating Leaking Oil and Gas Wells
- Equipment-Level Emission Rate Profiles to Inform Economical and Effective Inspection Frequencies
- Use of Pileated Woodpecker Nest Cavities and Artificial Nests by Migratory Birds
- Novel Molecular Test to Detect Canadian Toad Environmental DNA
- Assessing Weeds on Reclaimed Sites for Streamlining Certifications
- Technical Evaluation of New and Emerging Leak Detection Technologies for Monitoring Water Surface Pipelines

What's in store for 2025

The program will continue to focus on industry priorities, including important projects such as:

- **Methane slip (unburned methane in stationary engines):** AUPRF recently completed a project on methane slip that included developing best practices to optimize engine performance and reduce emissions. This is now progressing to a project to develop new technologies to further reduce emissions.
- **Well-integrity research focused on closure requirements:** AUPRF is funding technology developers seeking improvements in alternatives to cement for closing wells and the procedures needed to place those products in the correct areas to seal off methane emissions.
- **Evidence-based thresholds for soil remediation:** Industry and government continue to explore whether the current thresholds for soil contaminants are risk-based and informed by field research to determine the impacts on plants and animals.
- **Request for Proposals:** RFPs have been identified to address targeted knowledge gaps related to species at risk, emissions reductions, gap analysis for salts and chloride, biodegradation analysis for more accurate isotope assessments, and new technologies to improve produced water recycling in H₂S environments.

For more information on the AUPRF program, please visit: <https://ptac.org/alberta-upstream-petroleum-research-fund-auprf/>

As a funder, your organization is entitled to access detailed information from AUPRF projects, including background information and details not available to other stakeholders through the AUPRF Technical Library. The library also contains a vast catalogue of best management practices developed to improve operational efficiencies and cost-effectiveness.

Your staff can get involved in the decision-making process to set priorities for the research. The pragmatic perspective of oil and gas producers drives the AUPRF program. Your organization will also be recognized publicly as a financial contributor to this program. Presentations and potential training activities may also be arranged, as requested.

We deeply appreciate your valued contributions and hope you will continue to play a crucial role in supporting the Alberta Upstream Petroleum Research Fund. For additional information:

- Regarding AUPRF projects, please contact Tannis Such, Director, Environmental Research, PTAC, at 403-218-7703 or tsuch@ptac.org
- Regarding how your portion of the AUPRF funding was calculated, please contact adminfeecoordinator@aer.ca

Sincerely,



Larry Kaumeyer
Deputy Minister
Alberta Energy and Minerals



Lisa Baiton
President and CEO
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers



Sherri Wilson
Deputy Minister
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas



Tristan Goodman
President
Explorers and Producers Association of Canada