

Bulletin 2026-12

March 27, 2026

New Edition of *Directive 060*

Today, per Ministerial Order 10/2026 (included at the end of this bulletin), we released a new edition of [Directive 060: Upstream Petroleum Industry Flaring, Incinerating, and Venting](#). This directive sets out requirements for flaring, incinerating, and venting in Alberta at all upstream petroleum industry wells and facilities.

We have revised the directive as follows:

- Section 7.3 (Ignition): Added requirements for all permanent and temporary flares installed, replaced, or relocated on or after January 1, 2030, to have a system or engineered controls to ensure automatic or continuous ignition. Additionally, requirements were added specifying the need for a preventive maintenance program to inspect and maintain flare stacks and repair any malfunctioning systems.
- Section 8.6.3 (Vent Gas Limits for Glycol Dehydrators): Added the requirement to conserve or control methane emissions from glycol dehydrators that are installed, replaced, or relocated on or after January 1, 2030.
- Section 8.10.3 (Fugitive Emissions Screening): Added the requirement, effective January 1, 2030, for fugitive emissions screenings every two weeks on all active flares. Flares with a system or engineered controls that ensure automatic or continuous ignition are exempt.
- Section 8.10.5 (Reporting): Added the requirement that starting January 1, 2030, the duty holder must report the volume of unlit flare gas monthly.
- Section 8.11 (Methane Emissions Record Keeping): Added the requirement for the duty holder to retain records of biweekly flare stack screenings and maintenance activities.

The revised edition of the directive is available on the [Directive 060](#) landing page. If you have any questions, contact our Customer Contact Centre by phone at 1-855-297-8311 or by email at inquiries@aer.ca.



Office of the Minister

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

RESPONSIBLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ACT

S.A. 2012, c. R 17.3

MINISTERIAL ORDER

10/2026

**STRENGTHENING METHANE EMISSION REDUCTIONS REQUIREMENTS IN
DIRECTIVE 060**

I, Grant Hunter, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, pursuant to section 67 of the *Responsible Energy Development Act*, make the Direction in the attached Appendix, being the Strengthening Methane Emission Reductions Requirements in Directive 060.

DATED at Edmonton, in the Province of Alberta, this 26 day of March, 2026.


Honourable Grant Hunter
Minister

APPENDIX

STRENGTHENING METHANE EMISSION REDUCTIONS REQUIREMENTS IN DIRECTIVE 060

WHEREAS the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas and the Minister of Energy and Minerals are authorized by section 67 of the *Responsible Energy Development Act (REDA)* to give directions to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) for the purposes of

- a. providing priorities and guidelines for the AER to follow in carrying out its power, duties, and functions; and
- b. ensuring the work of the AER is consistent with the programs, policies, and work of the Government in respect of energy resource and mineral resource development, public land management, environmental management, and water management.

WHEREAS Directive 060: Upstream Petroleum Industry Flaring, Incinerating, and Venting (Directive 60) sets out requirements for flaring, incinerating, and venting in Alberta at all upstream petroleum industry wells and facilities.

WHEREAS adding methane emissions reduction requirements with respect to glycol dehydrators and flaring, while maintaining all other regulatory tools in Directive 060, will ensure the work of the AER is consistent with the emission policies of the Government of Alberta, and will continue to result in emission reductions in Alberta while maintaining equivalency with the federal Regulations Respecting Reduction in the Release of Methane and Certain Volatile Organic Compounds (Upstream Oil and Gas Sector) through a cost effective, Alberta tailored, flexible approach.

THEREFORE, pursuant to section 67 of REDA, the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas hereby directs the AER as follows:

DIRECTION TO THE AER

1. The AER shall amend Directive 060 to incorporate the requirements of this Ministerial Order by March 31, 2026, without initiating additional public engagement, as extensive engagement was conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas rendering further engagement unnecessary.
2. The amendments to Directive 060 shall, at a minimum, enable the AER to establish enforceable requirements, effective January 1, 2030, that require duty holders to:
 - equip any new glycol dehydrators with controls to limit or eliminate methane emissions from venting;
 - equip any new flares with systems that ensure continuous ignition; and
 - subject existing flares to routine inspections at least once every two weeks to verify proper ignition and operation.
3. The amendments shall provide the AER with authority to:
 - require duty holders to submit reports related to flare operation, unlit flares, methane emissions, and associated activities;
 - require the creation, retention, and production of records necessary to demonstrate compliance with Directive 060, including inspection, screening, maintenance, and repair records;

- specify the form, frequency, and manner of reporting and record keeping for duty holders; and
- make any consequential, administrative, or supporting amendments necessary to implement this Order, including amendments to AER systems, manuals, guidance documents, and reporting tools.

4. This Ministerial Order comes into force on the date it is signed.