

**March 10, 2026**

To: 2026 AER Oil & Gas Administration Fees Recipients

**Re: Industry Support for the Alberta Upstream Petroleum Research Fund (AUPRF)**

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

AUPRF is Alberta's industry-led applied research engine for upstream oil and gas. It exists to help producers collectively solve competitiveness, environmental, and regulatory challenges that no single company can efficiently tackle alone. While contributions are voluntary, the results are clear: AUPRF delivers measurable value through innovation, cost savings, risk reduction, and practical, evidence-based regulatory improvements.

**AUPRF Impact**

In 2024–25, AUPRF funded **thirty-eight applied research projects** across air, ecology, remediation, water, and well decommissioning, focused on field-ready solutions for Canadian producers. Key outcomes include:

- **21 projects launched** with direct input from CAPP and EPAC members and 16 projects included field trials
- **\$3.2 million invested**, leveraging an additional **\$7.2 million** (4:1 leverage ratio)
- **300+ producers contributed voluntarily** through the annual levy
- **59 industry volunteers** and 30 government/regulatory members serving on technical committees

Since inception, AUPRF has launched over 544 projects and invested more than \$38 million in industry funding, leveraging upwards of \$190 million total for research. This has led to annual industry savings through methane reduction, remediation, and species-at-risk management. The program has supported updates to 14 regulations and guidelines, demonstrating the effectiveness of coordinated, producer-driven research for environmental and economic benefits.

**2025 Performance Highlights**

Recent funded initiatives delivered tangible progress in priority areas:

**Methane Emissions & Air Quality**

- Progress in methane slip mitigation for lean-burn engines through field validation and optimization.

**Well Integrity & Closure**

- Assessment of non-cement alternatives for improved wellbore sealing and lower methane migration risks.
- Field and lab pilots developed more durable, cost-effective abandonment methods.

**Reclamation & Remediation**

- Field research helped set risk-based soil contaminant thresholds and simplify site closure.
- Certification approaches were refined for boreal mineral soil pads.
- Improved understanding of salinity and chloride to streamline closure processes.

**Water Innovation**

- Evaluated new leak detection technologies for surface pipelines.
- Studied produced water recycling in high H<sub>2</sub>S environments.

**Biodiversity & Species at Risk**

- Developed molecular tests for Canadian toad environmental DNA monitoring.
- Conducted applied habitat restoration research to reduce compliance risks and enhance stewardship.

These actions demonstrate AUPRF's focus on practical, collaborative research that reduces liabilities and supports effective regulation.

### 2026 Program & Budget

AUPRF requests \$5.6 million for a producer-focused portfolio in 2026:

- Continuing methane research, improving NOx emissions compliance and testing efficiency under MSAPR to lower costs
- Upgrading ecological monitoring with remote sensing for faster, cost-effective disturbance assessment
- Refining salinity and chloride benchmarks and enhancing soil remediation technologies
- Developing water management tools for drought resilience and produced water storage
- Advancing risk-based asset retirement and new certification methods for remediation and well decommissioning

### Why Your Contribution Matters

AUPRF provides producers with:

- A coordinated, industry-led mechanism to de-risk emerging technologies
- Evidence to support cost-effective regulatory evolution
- Tools and best practices that drive operational efficiencies and measurable savings
- Access to detailed technical reports and data through the AUPRF Technical Library
- A seat at the table to help shape future research priorities through technical committees

Contributors are publicly recognized for their leadership and may request project briefings or tailored technical presentations for their teams.

For more information about the AUPRF program, please visit the **2024-25 AUPRF Annual Report** here:

[AUPRF-2024-25-Annual-Report.pdf](#)

Regarding AUPRF projects or to request a custom briefing, please contact Marianna Trujillo, Program Manager – AUPRF, at [mtrujillo@ptac.org](mailto:mtrujillo@ptac.org)

Regarding how your portion of the AUPRF funding was calculated, please contact [adminfeecoordinator@aer.ca](mailto:adminfeecoordinator@aer.ca)

We sincerely appreciate your continued leadership and support of this important, industry-driven research initiative. Together, we ensure Alberta's upstream sector remains competitive, responsible, and innovative.

Sincerely,



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**Larry Kaumeyer**

Deputy Minister, Alberta Energy and Minerals



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**Stephanie Clarke**

Deputy Minister, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas



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**Lisa Baiton**

President and CEO, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)



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**Tristan Goodman**

President and CEO, Explorers and Producers Association of Canada (EPAC)