



Public Lands Act Fact sheet

This fact sheet gives an overview of the AER's responsibilities for the *Public Lands Act*.

What is the Public Lands Act?

The Public Lands Act governs most of the approximately 60 per cent of Alberta that is public land. It does not include land that is privately owned, land that is held by the federal government as a national park or First Nations reserve, or provincial parks.

Most of the province's economic activity—oil and gas development and forestry—is on public land.

The Responsible Energy Development Act and related regulations contains provisions that enable the Alberta Energy Regulator to apply the Public Lands Act on oil, gas, oil sands, and coal activity in the province. Such provisions include requirements to protect air, land, water, and biodiversity during all phases of industry's land use, from mineral exploration to site development and reclamation.

What part of the *Public Lands Act* will the Alberta Energy Regulator be responsible for?

As of November 30, 2013, the Alberta Energy Regulator has taken on responsibility for issuing, amending, maintaining, and inspecting all public land use authorizations and dispositions for energy industry activities, including gas, oil, coal, and oil sands. These industrial uses of public lands are administered using several disposition types, including the following:

- Mineral surface leases
- Licences of occupation
- Pipeline agreements
- Pipeline installation leases
- Vegetation control easements
- Temporary field authorizations
- Miscellaneous leases

The Alberta Energy Regulator ensures the safe, efficient, orderly, and environmentally responsible development of hydrocarbon resources over their entire life cycle. This includes allocating and conserving water resources, managing public lands, and protecting the environment while providing economic benefits for all Albertans.



What part of the *Public Lands Act* remains with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development?

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development retains responsibility for activities governed by the *Public Lands Act* that are not energy related. This includes grazing and rangeland management, sand and gravel operations, and other nonenergy land uses.

Are there any changes to the *Public Lands Act* now that parts have moved to the Alberta Energy Regulator?

The *Public Lands Act* remains intact as *Public Lands Act* responsibilities move to the Alberta Energy Regulator. The application of the *Public Lands Act* is adjusted under the Responsible Energy Development act and its related regulations to give the Alberta Energy Regulator the powers it needs to regulate oil, gas, oil sands, and coal activities on public lands. Applicants will now apply to the Alberta Energy Regulator for authorizations and dispositions.

Who may I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions, please contact the Customer Contact Centre at 403-297-8311, toll-free at 1-855-297-8311, or by e-mail at inquiries@aer.ca.
