

Frequently Asked Questions

Subsurface Order 4

September 2021

Q1. What coal zones does Subsurface Order No. 4 (SO4) apply to?

A1. SO4 applies to all coal zones contained within the top of the Edmonton Group to the base of the Belly River Group, as defined in the *Alberta Table of Formations* (2015). A more detailed stratigraphic chart is shown below.

Groups	Formations	Coal zones	Combinations / alternatives		
EDMONTON	PASKAPOO				
	SCOLLARD / COALSPUR	UPPER ARDLEY (UARD)			
		LOWER ARDLEY (LARD)			
	BATTLE & WHITEMUD				
	HORSESHOE CANYON	CARBON-THOMPSON (CARB)			
		UPPER HORSESHOE CANYON (UHSC)	(CENTRAL ALBERTA)		
		WAYNE (WAYN)	WNRS	WAYN	WRSB
		ROCKYFORD (RS)		RBSL	
		BASAL DRUMHELLER (DBSL)	DBSL		
BEARPAW					
BELLY RIVER	DINOSAUR PARK	LETHBRIDGE (LETH)			
	OLDMAN	TABER (TABR)			
	FOREMOST	MACKAY (MCKY)			

Q2. Do I still need to apply for commingling if I am outside of the area designated as Development Entity No. 1 (DE), but within the area outlined in SO4?

A2. Yes, you must submit a commingling application if you are outside of the DE, do not qualify for self-declared (SD) commingling, and would like to commingle production from coalbed methane (CBM) and other strata.

See Unit 3 of *Directive 065: Resources Applications for Oil and Gas Reservoirs* for additional information on commingling processes and the application requirements.

Q3. Does SO4 apply to in situ coal gasification?

A3. No, SO4 only applies to coalbed methane production.

Q4. Does SO4 affect water well testing?

A4. No, SO4 does not change current baseline water well testing.

Q5. Do CBM wells need a control well?

A5. No. See [Bulletin 2021-29: Control Well Requirements](#) for more information.