

AER's Closure Nomination Program



Starting in April 2023, those who qualify can nominate eligible inactive or abandoned oil and gas wells and facilities for closure through the Alberta Energy Regulator's (AER) [Closure Nomination Program](#).

What is closure?

Closure is the process of permanently ending energy resource development at a site once oil or gas production has ended; the company must return the land to a state functionally equivalent to what it was before the development took place.

Who can participate in the program?

Eligible requesters are defined in section 3.016 of the [Oil and Gas Conservation Rules](#). An eligible requester may only nominate abandoned wells or facilities that are on lands for which they have authority.

Participation is open to

- private landowners
- First Nation band councils (for sites on reserve)
- the council or chairperson of a Métis settlement (for sites on Métis settlement lands)
- a municipal councillor or chief elected official (e.g., mayor or reeve)
- disposition holders
- government ministers

For example, a municipal councillor or chief elected official may nominate eligible wells or facilities situated on land owned by a municipality. Government ministers may nominate eligible wells or facilities situated on public lands.

What is an eligible site?

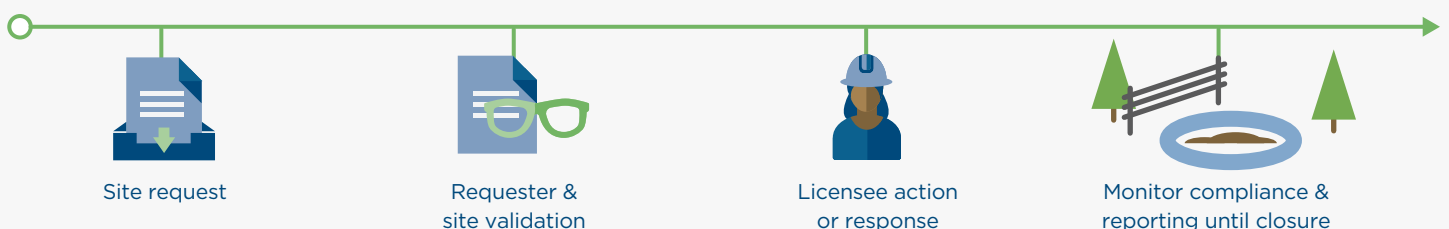
As defined in the [Oil and Gas Conservation Rules](#), a well or facility, located in Alberta and regulated by the AER, must be abandoned or inactive for at least five years to be eligible for the program. Full eligibility criteria are outlined in section 3.016 of the [Oil and Gas Conservation Rules](#).

How will the program work?

We will review each request, verify all information, and then notify the parties involved about eligibility and the next steps. Once a site is accepted into the program, the licensee in the care and control of the site is required to develop a closure plan.

HOW THE PROGRAM WILL WORK

Inventory Reduction: Request Sites for Closure





How can I nominate a site?

Starting in April 2023, complete the submission form for the [Closure Nomination Program](#) available at [aer.ca](#) or if you require assistance, email inventoryreduction@aer.ca. For more information about the submission process for a closure request, see our [Liability Management Programs and Processes](#) on [aer.ca](#).

When will the nominated site be closed?

Closure takes time – possibly up to 15 years, depending on the complexity of the site – and involves predefined milestones that the licensee must meet.

The public can view up-to-date information about each site that has been accepted into the program on [aer.ca](#). Updates on the public dashboard will be according to the site's closure plan.

QUESTIONS?



Contact us at

InventoryReduction@aer.ca