

Directive 057

January 31, 2008

Fencing and Site Access Requirements for Oil and Gas Facilities

The Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB/Board) has approved this directive on January 31, 2008.

<original signed by>

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Chairman

This directive introduces new requirements for fencing and security that are applicable to Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) regulated oil and gas facilities. These new requirements are in addition to existing ERCB fencing and security requirements; together they will ensure an increased level of protection for Albertans. The intent of the directive is to reduce the possibility of incidents of vandalism or accidents involving the public at facilities by preventing unauthorized access at those facilities.

Industry is reminded that they must adhere to existing ERCB requirements related to fencing. This includes locking gates when a facility is left unattended if that facility is currently required to have a fence with a locked gate, in accordance with the *Oil and Gas Conservation Regulations*, Section 8.170.

Facilities that this directive applies to are identified by the volumetric production/throughput as set out by the licensed design rate where available. If a licensed design rate is not available, the previous year's production/throughput applies. The volumetric production/throughput thresholds for the purpose of this directive are as follows:

- gas batteries and compressor stations—facilities over 100 000 thousand cubic metres (10^3 m^3) of gas per year
- oil facilities—facilities over 60 000 m^3 of oil per year
- gas plants—facilities over 100 000 10^3 m^3 of gas per year

Unless otherwise directed by the ERCB, licensees of facilities that meet the above criteria must comply with at least one of the following requirements:

- 1) install an adequate fence, in accordance with the *OGCR*, Section 8.170; or
- 2) ensure that the entire geographic area where the facility is located is a controlled access area (i.e., fenced, gated and locked; or manned 24 hours per day); or
- 3) ensure that the facility is attended 24 hours per day; or
- 4) close and lock doors on all process buildings while the facility is not attended.

The ERCB also requires that licensees display signs limiting access to authorized personnel at all the facilities defined above.

The following facilities are exempt from this directive:

- facilities that presently have access control measures consistent with the intent of this directive,
- facilities at which the hydrogen sulphide concentration is less than 10 moles per kilomole, and
- facilities where circumstance exist such that compliance with the directive could result in a greater risk to the operator or the public (e.g., a facility located immediately adjacent to a road or highway, thus requiring an operator to park on the road or highway to access the site).

Notwithstanding the above, the ERCB recommends that licensees of exempt sites implement one of the fencing or site access options listed above where the level of risk warrants.

All requirements of this directive must be implemented within one year from the date of this directive. Failure to comply with this directive will result in enforcement action in accordance with *Directive 019: ERCB Compliance Assurance—Enforcement*. The ERCB's enforcement process is specified in *Directive 019*. A list of risk-assessed noncompliances is available on the ERCB Web site at [ERCB Home : Industry Zone : Compliance and Enforcement : Risk Assessed Noncompliance](#).

The ERCB will review the requirements and need for this directive by February 1, 2010, to ensure these requirements continue to serve the public interest.