

EUB Backgrounder: Timeline of Bitumen Conservation Events

- The EUB held an inquiry into the matter of gas production from oil sands strata ([EUB Inquiry, Gas/Bitumen Production in Oil Sands Areas](#), completed March 25, 1998).
- The EUB received and considered recommendations from the gas/bitumen committee on related issues ([Recommendations on Gas/Bitumen Issues, July 10, 1998](#)).
- The EUB received and considered recommendations from the industry/EUB committee on gas production application areas ([Report of the Industry/EUB Committee, Gas Production Applications in Oil Sands Areas, November 24, 1998](#)).
- The EUB issued an interim directive respecting gas/bitumen production in oil sands areas ([Interim Directive \(ID\) 99-1: Gas/Bitumen Production in Oil Sands Areas: Application, Notification and Drilling Requirements, February 1999](#)).
- The EUB initiated a [Government-Industry Advisory Group on Gas and Bitumen Conservation in Oil Sands Areas](#), which prepared draft recommendations on the subject (published on the EUB Web site, July 2001).
- The EUB issued EUB [General Bulletin GB 2003-12: Gas Production in Oil Sands Areas](#) (April 3, 2003).
- The EUB issued EUB [General Bulletin GB 2003-16: Gas Production in Oil Sands Areas](#) (June 3, 2003).
- The EUB held a consultation meeting with interested parties regarding the proposed Gas Production in Oil Sands Areas conservation policy (July 3-5, 2003).
- The EUB issued comprehensive Bitumen Conservation Requirements and EUB [General Bulletin GB 2003-28](#) to address the risk of natural gas production on bitumen recovery in the Athabasca Oil Sands Area (July 22, 2003).
- The EUB released a [Regional Geological Study](#), which identifies where natural gas in contact with bitumen in the Wabiskaw McMurray (January 2, 2004).
- EUB Staff Submission Group released [Recommendations for Production Status of Gas Wells Athabasca Wabiskaw-McMurray](#) (January 26, 2004).

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The EUB has also conducted public hearings during which it received and considered extensive evidence related to the production of gas from oil sands strata.

- EUB conducted a public hearing regarding an application by Gulf Canada Resources Limited for the shut-in of gas production from the Wabiskaw-McMurray Formation in the Surmont Area ([EUB Decision 2000-22](#), March 30, 2000).
- EUB conducted a public hearing regarding a number of applications related to the production and shut-in of gas from the Wabiskaw-McMurray Formation in the Chard/Leismer Area ([EUB Decision 2003-023](#), March 18, 2003).
- EUB conducted an interim public hearing regarding parties who challenged some recommendations of an EUB Staff Submission Group relating to the shut-in or continued production of wells in the Wabiskaw-McMurray ([EUB Decision 2004-045](#), EUB Order 04-01, June 8, 2004).
- EUB conducted an interim public hearing for gas wells that were previously ruled on in the Chard/Leismer decision ([EUB Decision 2004-062](#), July 27, 2004).
- EUB conducted a pre-hearing which established the scope of the EUB's Phase 3 final hearing on Bitumen Conservation in the Athabasca Oil Sands Area, and set a date for the initial filing of evidence in the hearing ([EUB Decision 2004-088](#), October 14, 2004).
- EUB conducted a hearing on the bitumen conservation matter and allowed full consideration of all issues. The EUB did not impose restrictions on the evidence parties presented at this final hearing ([EUB Decision 2005-122](#), November 10, 2005).