

## UPCOMING EVENT

**Alberta's Environment Conference**  
 April 21-23, 2008  
 Edmonton  
 Shaw Conference Centre

The Government of Alberta and the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association are hosting Alberta's Environment Conference. The information shared at the conference will prepare Albertans to become active stewards of the environment. Topics include air and climate change, land and biodiversity, water, collaborative initiatives, and natural resource management.

Phone: 780-463-9569  
 E-mail: [conferenceregistration@kizmet.ca](mailto:conferenceregistration@kizmet.ca)

## ABOUT THE ERCB

The Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) is an independent, quasi-judicial agency of the Government of Alberta. We regulate the safe, responsible, and efficient development of Alberta's energy resources: oil, natural gas, oil sands, coal, and pipelines.

April 2008

## Government names new ERCB Board members

*Chairman says appointments bring "tremendous assistance"*

**T**he ERCB has welcomed three new members to its Board.

This month the Government of Alberta selected Jack Ebbels, George Eynon, and Michael J. Bruni, Q. C., to become full-time Board members.

"I am very pleased with these appointments," said ERCB Chairman Dan McFadyen. "The backgrounds and professional and leadership skills these three individuals will bring to the Board of the ERCB will be of tremendous assistance as we continue our mandate to determine the public interest and serve the people of Alberta."

Bruni joined the ERCB in the 1970s and was appointed General Counsel early on in his tenure. Bruni also served as the Executive Manager of the Law Branch until January 2004, when he was appointed Executive Manager of the Energy Team, where he was predominantly responsible for the ERCB's energy operations. He received the Queen's Counsel honour in 2000.

Ebbels spent numerous years working for the Government of British Columbia. He joined the British Columbia Ministry of Attorney General in 1981 and in 1990 became Chief Counsel for the Province on the Nisga'a First Nation land claim

negotiations. He also served as Deputy Minister Responsible for the British Columbia Offshore Oil and Gas Team, Deputy Minister of Energy and Mines, and Special Advisor to the Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for Seniors.

Eynon has more than 25 years of technical and management experience in the upstream, exploration, and production oil and gas sectors worldwide with a number of companies. He also has 15 years of energy and management research and consulting experience with several organizations, including the Canadian Energy Research Institute for the past several years as Vice President, Business Development and External Relations.

"The addition of these respected Board members will help the ERCB respond in a timely fashion to the growing number and complexity of applications," said Alberta Energy Minister Mel Knight.

ERCB Board members are selected by the Government of Alberta. The three appointments bring to seven the total number of full-time Board members, which also includes the chairman. Two more Board positions can still be filled.

## RECENT ERCB PUBLICATIONS

### DECISIONS

**April 15:** Decision 2008-028: Apache Canada Ltd., Section 39 Review Request of Pipeline Licence No. 28402, Line 64, Willesden Green Field

**April 15:** Decision 2008-027: Apache Canada Ltd., Application for Well and Pipeline Licences and Section 39 Review Request of Pipeline Licence No. 19797, Line 896, Bashaw Field

**April 15:** Decision 2008-026: Enermark Inc., Application for a Pipeline Licence, Medicine Hat Field

**March 27:** Decision 2008-024: Petro-Canada Oil Sands Inc., Application to Construct and Operate the Sturgeon Upgrader, Sturgeon County

### BULLETINS

**April 10:** Bulletin 2008-16: Draft Directive on Requirements for Inspection and Compliance of Oil Sands Mining and Processing Plant Operations

**April 8:** Bulletin 2008-15: New Edition of Directive 071: Emergency Preparedness and Response Requirements for the Petroleum Industry Issued

**March 31:** Bulletin 2008-14: Enhanced Mutual Aid for Oil and Gas Incident Response in the Pembina Area

**March 27:** Bulletin 2008-13: Revisions to Coding and Naming Conventions for Formations and Pools in Alberta

**March 26:** Bulletin 2008-12: Enhancements to ST13A: Alberta Gas Plant/Gas Gathering System Activities—Annual Statistics

**March 18:** Bulletin 2008-11: Enhancements to ST59: Alberta Drilling Activity Monthly Statistics

### DIRECTIVES

**April 10:** Draft Directive: Requirements for Inspection and Compliance of Oil Sands Mining and Processing Plant Operations

**April 8:** Directive 071: Emergency Preparedness and Response Requirements for the Petroleum Industry

### NEWS RELEASES

**April 11:** News Release (NR 2008-07): ERCB Issues Mineable Oil Sands Inspection Directive - Board expects to double mineable oil sands inspections

**April 9:** News Release (NR 2008-06): Three New Board Members Appointed to the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board

**April 9:** News Release (NR 2008-05): Public Safety Enhanced with Release of Directive 071

**March 31:** News Release (NR 2008-04): EUB Chairman William Tilleman Announces Resignation

## ERCB issues draft directive on oil sands mining

### *Inspections of mineable oil sands operations to double*

The ERCB has issued a draft of its major update to mineable oil sands inspection and enforcement regulations and is seeking feedback on *Draft Directive: Requirements for Inspection and Compliance of Oil Sands Mining and Processing Plant Operations*.

The ERCB is asking for input on the draft directive from the public, industry, and other stakeholders by June 30, 2008. Following the consultation, the ERCB will finalize the regulatory requirements and procedures in the new directive.

The draft directive details ERCB requirements that operators of oil sands mining and processing plant operations must follow, as well as the expectations of the ERCB.

The ERCB expects to double the number of inspections at mineable oil sands facilities over the next year. In 2007, the ERCB conducted 18 inspections of mineable oil sands facilities. Each inspection can take up to one week to complete.

The ERCB believes that the energy industry is responsible for meeting or exceeding regulations and standards and expects companies to understand the requirements and have the infrastructure in place to ensure compliance.

As with all other ERCB inspections, enforcement action will occur if a company is found to be in noncompliance with regulations.

# Directive 071 gets an overhaul

## ERCB beefs up emergency preparedness and response requirements

The ERCB this month issued a new edition of *Directive 071: Emergency Preparedness and Response Requirements for the Petroleum Industry*, which tightens an already stringent regulatory framework for dealing with oilfield emergency events.

The revised directive includes significant changes to emergency response and preparedness requirements, many of which result from extensive stakeholder feedback. It replaces the 2005 edition of *Directive 071*.

Some of the key changes include:

- introduction of a state-of-the-art atmospheric dispersion mode software, called ERCBH2S, used to calculate emergency planning zones (EPZs) for sour wells and pipelines that will more appropriately define the area for emergency response planning than the previous method;
- identification of requirements that will result in enforcement actions for noncompliance, in accordance with ERCB *Directive 019: ERCB Compliance Assurance—Enforcement*;
- implementation of new processes for submission of emergency response plans (ERPs) for review and approval, including a post-approval audit process and an assessment protocol to ensure that industry is capable of implementing ERPs; and
- inclusion of a decision tree that spells out when to use shelter or evacuate in the event of an emergency.

Effective April 8, 2008, licensees must comply with the new edition of *Directive 071* unless they are eligible for temporary exemption, as outlined in *Bulletin 2008-15*.

The ERCB has set a three-month phase-in period from April 8 to July 2, 2008, for compliance with new requirements. For new well, pipeline, and facility ERPs, licensees must immediately follow the latest version of *Directive 071*, which includes the mandatory use of ERCBH2S. During this period, licensees will be warned in cases of noncompliance with new requirements and required to correct deficiencies. From July 2 on, all noncompliance matters will be subject to full enforcement action.

Licensees must also recalculate all well and pipeline EPZs within existing facility ERPs using ERCBH2S and submit the results to the ERCB's Emergency Planning and Assessment Section by the end of 2008. By July 2009 or earlier, the ERCB will be completing the transition, issuing an implementation plan for requiring full compliance with the new directive by existing production facilities that received the temporary exemption.

For applications currently in the hearing process, the Board will use its discretion and consider on a case-by-case basis as to whether applicants must recalculate EPZs using ERCBH2S and rewrite their plans in accordance with the new requirements.

*Directive 071* further improves Alberta's already stringent emergency preparedness requirements for oil and gas facilities and enhances the province's high standards that ensure the protection of the public. The ERCB says it will continue to enhance emergency preparedness and response requirements as necessary.

The revised directive is the result of years of multistakeholder engagement involving the public, nongovernment organizations, first responders, other government departments, and the petroleum industry.

*Directive 071* fulfills three key principles: to determine what could go wrong, who could be impacted, and who needs to be involved, such as industry or local authorities; to determine what resources and training are needed; and to ensure that the capability exists to respond during a real incident.

The ERCB will hold a series of general information sessions on *Directive 071* during the last week of May in Calgary, Red Deer, Edmonton, and Grande Prairie. These sessions are intended for anyone who has an interest in emergency response planning for oil and gas operations under ERCB jurisdiction. Those interested in attending the sessions can consult the schedule in *Bulletin 2008-15* on the ERCB Web site at [www.ercb.ca](http://www.ercb.ca).

## UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Application No.	Applicant	Hearing Purpose
1517825	Standard Energy Inc.	Application for well licences for a multiwell pad – Grande Prairie Field
Start Date:	April 29 - 30, Quality Hotel & Conference Centre, 11201-100 Ave, Grande Prairie, AB	
1526667	Anderson Energy Ltd.	Application for compulsory pooling – Minnehik – Buck Lake Field
Start Date:	May 1 - 2, ERCB Office Calgary, Govier Hall	
1527313	Rocky River Petroleum Ltd	Application for a common carrier order – Flat Field
Start Date:	May 2 - 3, ERCB Office Calgary, Govier Hall	
1519973	OMERS Energy Inc.	Application for a pipeline to transport natural gas – Royal Field
Start Date:	May 8 - 9, Vegreville Garden Inn, 6041-50 Ave, Vegreville, AB	
1546012 1565074	Response Energy Corporation Paramount Resources Ltd	Application for compulsory pooling – Kakwa Field
Start Date	May 21 - 22, ERCB Office Calgary, Govier Hall	
1520368 1526382	Apache Canada	Applications for a CBM and natural gas well and a natural gas pipeline – Bashaw Field
Start Date:	May 26 - 29, HSBC Building, 1200, 10055-106 St, Edmonton, AB	
1518483 1525506 1525527 1525629	CNRL	Applications for a crude bitumen well, four pipelines, and a multiwell oil battery – Bentley Field
Start Date:	May 27 - 28, St. Paul Recreation Centre, 4802-53 St, St. Paul, AB	
1513726	EUB initiated	Inquiry into the issues related to natural gas liquids extraction
Start Date:	May 27 - 30, ERCB Office Calgary, Govier Hall	
1516336	Burlington Resources Canada	Application for a natural gas pipeline – Bonanza area
Start Date:	June 3 - 5, Beaverlodge Community Centre, 1014-4 Ave, Beaverlodge, AB	

## PENDING DECISIONS

Application No.	Applicant	Hearing Purpose
1545126	West Energy Ltd.	Review of Decision 2007-061

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### Alberta Geological Survey (AGS) documents on geological research

Information Sales  
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Fax: (780) 422-1918  
E-mail: <AGS-Info@ercb.ca>  
Web: <www.ags.gov.ab.ca>

### Questions, complaints, problems?

For information or complaints about new or existing oil and gas developments and facilities, we recommend contacting the operating company first. If the company does not respond appropriately, you may contact the nearest ERCB Field Centre.

### ERCB Field Centres (24-hour service)

Bonnyville (780) 826-5352\*  
Drayton Valley (780) 542-5182\*  
Grande Prairie (780) 538-5138\*  
Fort McMurray (780) 743-7214\*  
High Level (780) 926-5399\*  
Medicine Hat 403-527-3385\*  
Midnapore 403-297-8303\*  
Red Deer 403-340-5454\*  
St. Albert (780) 460-3800\*  
Wainwright (780) 842-7570\*

\*To call toll free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000 and enter the phone number, including area code, or press zero for a RITE operator.

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