



Ground Disturbance Requirements

Field Surveillance and Operations Branch

April 2014

Disclaimer

- 》 The following information is provided for guidance and summary purposes only and is not an exhaustive description of AER requirements relating to a given topic or subject area.
- 》 Operators and licensees must at all times comply with and should consult all applicable AER requirements before undertaking any activity.

Purpose

- 》 Educate industry on AER ground disturbance requirements, and
- 》 promote safe excavation regarding underground facilities.

Definitions

》 Ground Disturbance

》 any activity disturbing the ground, including:

- 》 excavating
- 》 leveling
- 》 digging
- 》 removing peat
- 》 trenching
- 》 clearing
- 》 plowing
- 》 pounding posts
- 》 Drilling
- 》 augering
- 》 tunneling
- 》 backfilling
- 》 quarrying
- 》 blasting
- 》 grading
- 》 stripping topsoil

Definitions

Continued

- › either exceeding 30 centimeters in depth or permanently reducing the amount of pipeline cover.
- › deep tillage cultivation practices exceeding 45 centimeters depth are considered ground disturbances.

Definitions

Continued

» Pipeline

- » A pipe used to convey a substance or combination of substances, including installations associated with the pipe.

Definitions

Continued

》 Surface Construction Activity

- 》 Activity concentrated at the surface of the ground or at a depth of less than 30 centimeters and does not result in a reduction of the earth cover over a pipeline to a depth that is less than the cover provided when the pipeline was installed.

Controlled Area and ROW



Controlled Area

- 》 The land parallel to a pipeline for 30 meters along each side, without limitation, from the centerline of the pipeline.
- 》 An AER prescribed distance within the *Pipeline Regulation*.



Right-of-Way (ROW)

- › Private agreement between the landowner and licensee at the time of construction which grants use to the licensee as per ROW Agreement.
- › A caveat is registered on the land title to show interest but does not mean ownership.



Licensee Approval is Required

- 》 Anyone conducting ground disturbance within a pipeline ROW or, within 5 meters of the centerline of a pipeline requires **written approval** from the pipeline owner, or

Licensee Approval is Required

Continued

- 》 a vehicle crossing a pipeline not within a upgraded and travelled portion of a highway or public road **requires approval from the licensee**, unless the vehicle or equipment is used for farming operations or is defined as an off-highway or private vehicle by the *Traffic Safety Act*.

Licensee Requirements

- › Accurately locate and mark pipeline within 2 days of request excluding weekends and holidays.
- › May delegate its responsibility of marking and locating to the excavator if mutually agreed upon.
 - › Note: specific exemptions for locating and marking can be found in *Pipeline Regulation Part 5, 60(8)*.

Licensee Requirements

Continued

- 》 When approval for a ground disturbance activity is requested, the licensee must respond in writing within 21 days of the request.
- 》 Provide documentation of the markings to the person undertaking the ground disturbance.
- 》 Have current certification for supervising a ground disturbance.

Licensee Requirements

Continued

- 》 Carry out any inspections of the ground disturbance necessary to ensure the continued.
- 》 Be present at the time the pipeline is being exposed, unless the licensee and the person undertaking the ground disturbance agree otherwise.

Licensee Requirements

Continued

- › Supervise any mechanical excavation within 60 centimeters of the pipeline or any distance beneath it.
- › Inspect **without delay** the exposed part of the pipeline before backfilling and carry out any inspections of the ground disturbance necessary to ensure the continued safety of the pipeline.

No Fees for Ground Disturbance Activities

- 》 Retain the inspection documentation for 2 years.
- 》 All marking, locating, supervision and inspection required within the ground disturbance portion of the *Pipeline Regulation* is to be done **without charging any fee** to the party undertaking the ground disturbance.

Guidelines for Safe Construction

- › call Alberta One-Call 1-800-242-3447
- › check AER records
- › check with local utility services
- › check land title for easements
- › look for warning signs where pipelines cross roads, railways, or water bodies
- › look for wells, tanks or valves

Guidelines for Safe Construction

Continued

- › look for ground settling from previous work
- › communicate with nearby/ adjacent landowners

Excavator Requirements

- 》 Keep all pipeline warning signs or markers visible and legible for the duration of the ground disturbance.
- 》 Install temporary fencing, if necessary, to control excavation equipment travelling over the pipeline.
- 》 Obtain permission to cross pipeline with vehicles, if required.

Excavator Requirements

Continued

- 》 Call the pipeline owner **at least** 24 hrs. before backfilling any exposed pipeline.
- 》 Outside of the ROW and greater than 5 meters from the centerline of the pipeline:
 - 》 obtain permission to cross pipeline with excavating equipment, if required.

Excavator Requirements

Continued

- 》 Note: Approval **is not** required from the licensee unless there are vehicles crossing the pipeline.

- 》 Within 5 meters of the centerline of the pipeline:
 - 》 obtain approval from the licensee.
 - 》 locate and expose pipeline by hand excavation.

Excavator Requirements

Continued

- 》 ensure no mechanical excavating equipment is
 - 》 within 60 centimeters of the pipeline or any distance.
 - 》 beneath without direct supervision.

Pipeline Hit

- › Stop work and notify the licensee immediately.
- › The licensee must report the hit to the AER immediately.

Powers and Duties of the AER

- 》 Can grant approval for ground disturbance activity:
 - 》 within a ROW
 - 》 within 5 meters of the centerline of the pipeline, and
 - 》 for vehicles crossing a pipeline

Additional Resources

- 》 To report Oil and Gas Operational Concerns or Emergencies call:
 - 》 1-800-222-6514

- 》 For Questions related to AER Regulations, Requirements, or Processes call:
 - 》 1-855-297-8311

- 》 AER website www.aer.ca.

Additional Resources

Continued

» Field Centres

» Bonnyville

780-826-5352

» Drayton Valley

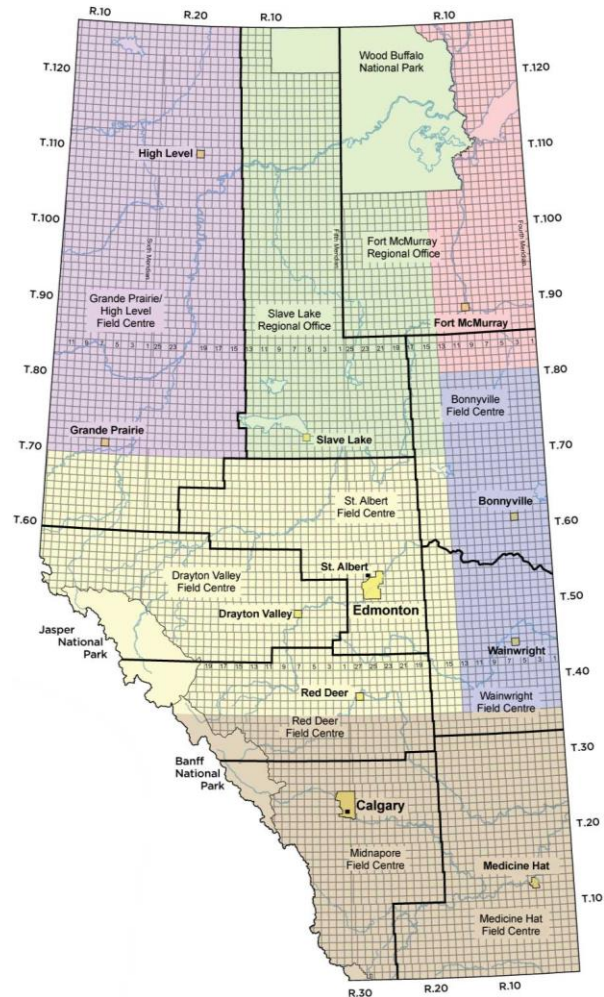
780-542-5182

» Grande Prairie

780-538-5138

» High Level

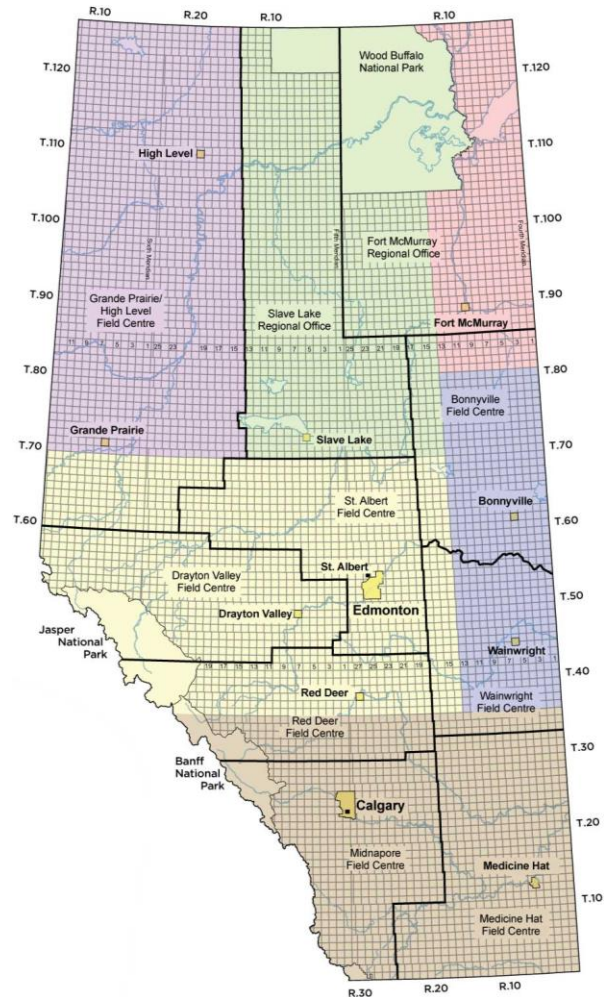
780-926-5399



Additional Resources

Continued

- › Medicine Hat
403-527-3385
- › Midnapore
403-297-8303
- › Red Deer
403-340-5454
- › St. Albert
780-460-3800
- › Wainwright
780-842-7570



Additional Resources

Continued

» Regional Offices

» Slave Lake

780-843-2050

» Fort McMurray

780-743-7141

