

PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT INITIATIVE

Shaping Future Conversations



Who We Are

ONE PROVINCE, ONE ENERGY REGULATOR

The **Alberta Energy Regulator** (AER) ensures the safe, efficient, orderly, and environmentally responsible development of hydrocarbon resources over their entire life cycle. This includes allocating and conserving water resources, managing public lands, and protecting the environment while providing economic benefits for all Albertans.

Energy regulation in Alberta spans more than 75 years and has evolved over time. This evolution continued in 2013

when the AER became a new organization and began taking on regulatory functions related to energy development that were previously held by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD). This transition is complete, and the AER is now the single regulator of energy development in Alberta—from exploration and application to construction and operation, abandonment, remediation, and reclamation.

What We Do

The AER is a full life-cycle regulator for Alberta that offers strong oversight of energy development. The AER is authorized to make decisions on applications for energy development, monitoring for compliance

assurance, decommissioning of developments, and all other aspects of energy resource activities under legislation that governs energy development in Alberta.

Participant Involvement is Changing

Energy development in Alberta has become more complex over the decades. Development is no longer wells dotting the countryside. It now includes multi-well pads where several wells are placed within a compact space, and pipelines lined up in corridors all in a scale that is much larger than in the past. Development today is of a larger size, scale and complexity. At the same time, Albertans' expectations have changed: they want more information about the projects that may affect them. So, the

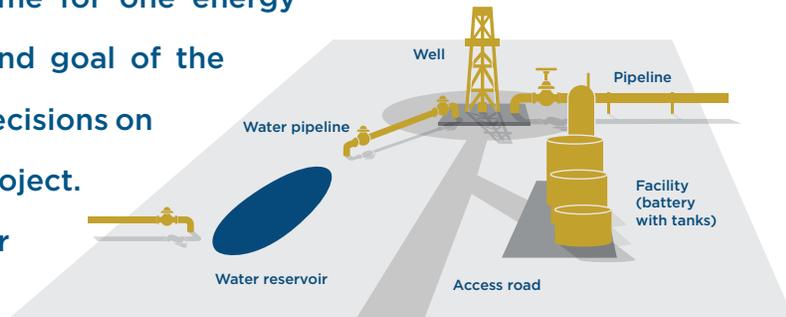
AER is meeting with Albertans and indigenous communities across the province to gather input and recommendations on potential new participant involvement requirements and processes for our new Integrated Decision Approach. This will help us ensure that the AER achieves its mandate outcomes through shaping conversations that operators, their stakeholders, and indigenous communities have about proposed energy development.

The Integrated Decision Approach

Today, the AER reviews several applications for individual parts of an energy development. For example, a company may submit separate applications to drill a well, use storage tanks, and build an access road. With the existing approach, local residents, municipalities, and indigenous communities may receive numerous notices of applications over time for one energy project without knowing the end goal of the

development. The AER makes decisions on each individual aspect of the project.

This makes looking at the bigger picture more difficult.



An example of what a single application may include

Current State Applications

- 1 PER Access road
- 2 PER Well
PER Compressor
- 3 PER Water reservoir
PER Pipeline
PER Facility (battery with tanks)
- 4 PER Water pipeline

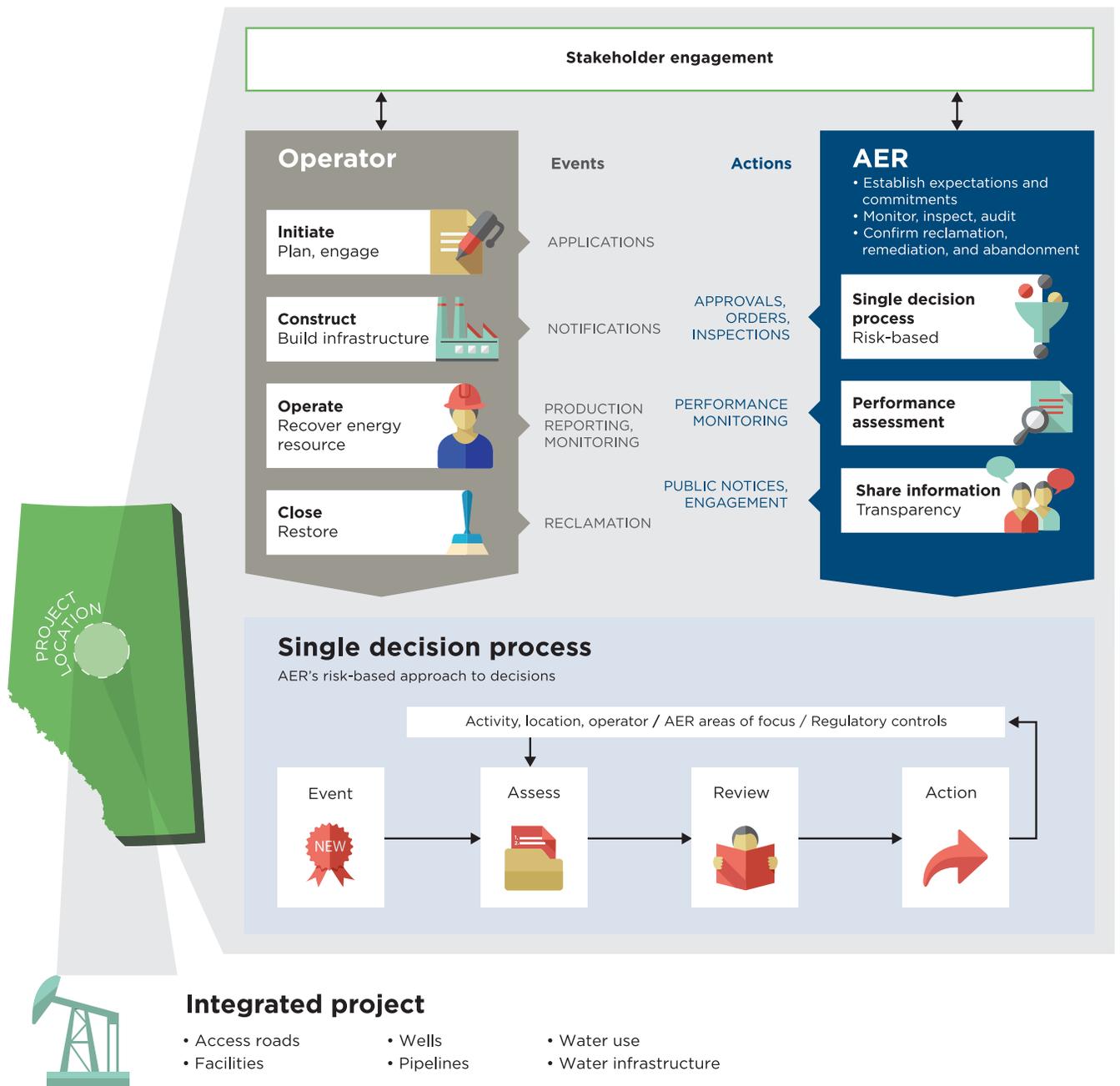
To improve this process, the AER is changing the way we make decisions. Requirements for proposed projects are being integrated into a single application, including construction details, how the projects will operate, and how and when project operations will eventually end, with the land reclaimed. The AER will review all aspects of a proposed development at the same time and make one decision.

When the Integrated Decision Approach is implemented across the AER—which will take several years—it will be easier to find project information and understand how the project might affect the environment and people who live, work, and play near the proposed site.

Future state: single integrated application

- 1 Application
Public notice
Decision for all activities,
all statutes

The Integrated Decision Approach Blueprint



- Albertans will be able to see the whole picture of a proposed energy development at the beginning of the project's life cycle.
- The AER will better manage the impacts on the landscape, taking into account what is already there.

- The AER will focus its regulatory oversight on the higher-risk elements of the project, across its life cycle.
- There will be greater transparency and information sharing.
- The process will be more efficient.

What is Different

CURRENT STATE	FUTURE STATE: INTEGRATED DECISION APPROACH
Several decision processes	One decision process
Activity by activity	Development-based, with an integrated and risk-informed review of multiple activities associated with a development
Sequential review of multiple activities over the life cycle of a development	When making decisions it is better to take into consideration the full life cycle of energy development
Several applications and regulatory decisions for one development	One application, one review, one decision

What is Not Changing

Although many processes and approaches are changing with the Integrated Decision Approach, these key elements are staying the same:

- Technical requirements
- The statement-of-concern process and requirements
- Aboriginal Consultation Office process and requirements

Pilot Applications

Over the past few years, the AER has tested the new Integrated Decision Approach, and the technology built to support it, through a number of pilots.

The results have helped us to refine and improve the approach for broader implementation. We are implementing the Integrated Decision Approach incrementally through a number of projects to be delivered by 2019.

Current State of Participant Involvement

“Participant involvement” is an umbrella term encompassing all aspects of regular interactions and communications with stakeholders, indigenous communities and industry.

The AER requires that operators develop and implement an effective participant involvement program that includes parties whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by the

nature and extent of a proposed application. This program must include notification and active engagement with stakeholders and indigenous communities within an established radius. In addition to distributing information packages to identified stakeholders and indigenous communities, operators must respond to questions and concerns, discuss options,

alternatives, and mitigating measures, and seek stakeholder support through cooperative efforts with stakeholders and indigenous communities. While some parties may be identified by the applicant as directly and adversely affected by a proposed application, anyone who believes that they may be directly and adversely affected by an application can

submit a written statement of concern (SOC) to the AER that outlines specific concerns about a proponent's activities or development. Operators are expected to be sensitive to timing constraints that might affect stakeholders, indigenous communities and the public such as planting, harvesting, and statutory holidays.

Evolving Engagement Requirements

The Integrated Decision Approach creates the opportunity to enhance the AER's requirements for how operators engage stakeholders and indigenous communities as part of an integrated application. Existing engagement requirements have worked for integrated applications for smaller projects, such as a single well pad. When projects applied for are larger and more complex, some enhancements to existing engagement requirements may be needed.

The AER is meeting with Albertans and indigenous communities across the province to gather input and recommendations on potential

new participant involvement requirements and processes. Your feedback will help us shape conversations that operators, stakeholders, and indigenous communities have about proposed energy development. We can investigate what isn't working well with the current requirements and together develop new ones that better meet the needs of the public, indigenous communities, industry, and the regulator.

We are changing the way we make decisions:

- **Better transparency and information sharing**
- **More integration**
- **A more risk-informed approach across the project life cycle**
- **More efficiency**

Built on the concept of: one application, one review, one decision.

How You Can Be Involved

The AER is engaging with Albertans and indigenous communities in four phases:



Pre-Engagement

JANUARY 2017

Since January 2017, we have been meeting with stakeholders and indigenous communities, providing general information to build awareness about IDA, and to provide context and interest in participating in the AER-hosted inform-and-involve sessions.



Inform & Involve

OCTOBER 2017

Starting in October 2017, we will host sessions across the province to gather input and recommendations on potential new participant involvement requirements.



Collaborate

JANUARY 2018

Starting in January 2018, an advisory panel will build on the input gathered from the inform and involve sessions and collaborate with the AER to enhance requirements.



Finalize Draft

WINTER 2018

Requirements will be drafted and made available for public comment.

After the public comment period on the finalized draft ends, the AER will assess all feedback it receives and explain what changes will—and will not—be made and why. The updated requirements will then be submitted to the Government of Alberta for review before they are issued.

Your input can be provided at any time through our online engagement website **TalkAER.ca** or by emailing **stakeholder.engagement@aer.ca**

The feedback we receive will help us shape the future conversation about proposed energy development between operators, their stakeholders, and indigenous communities.

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