

Top Five Most Common Noncompliances in Eight Inspection Categories



This quarterly summary has been developed in response to industry’s request for timely and relevant information on compliance. It can be used by industry members to gain a better understanding of Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) requirements.

This summary focuses specifically on operational issues related to drilling, well servicing, oil and gas operations, pipelines, well sites, drilling waste, and oilfield waste management facilities. Additional compliance information can be found in the *AER Compliance Dashboard* available on the AER website, www.aer.ca.

Changes have been made to this summary to reflect the Environment and Operational Performance (EOP) Branch changes to its inspection program. These changes were made to enable the EOP Branch to create a single inspection program that applies to both the energy resource enactments and the specified enactments. All EOP-related noncompliant events will now result in a notice of noncompliance being issued.

JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER, 2014

DRILLING INSPECTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 11.1.4.2 – Stick diagram does not contain all the required information. 2) 19.7.2 – Fluids not properly contained (spilled on-lease). 3) 11.3.1 – Flow checks not recorded in the drilling logbook. 4) 6.1.1 – Accumulator pressure dropped below 8400 kPa after function test. 5) 17.1.1 – Licensee did not notify the appropriate field center within 12 hours of the commencement of the drilling of a well.
GAS INSPECTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 3.2.5.5 – Facility not maintained in a clean condition. 2) 1.1.5.30 – Meter not calibrated/proved since installation, following repairs or calibration/proving expired. 3) 1.6.5.5 – Conspicuous identification sign not posted at the primary entrance to the well or facility. 4) 1.8.5.25 – Secondary containment not designed, constructed, sized, and maintained as required. 5) 1.6.5.15 – No or improper warning symbol posted adjacent to all entrances to the developed area of wells and facilities.
PIPELINE INSPECTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 5.1.20.1 – Unable to demonstrate that procedures in the manuals have been implemented or is not operating and maintaining pipeline systems as documented in procedures. 2) 8.1.15.1 – Pipeline is not abandoned or discontinued properly under <i>Directive 056</i> requirements. 3) 5.1.15.1 – Licensee has not updated the manuals as necessary (specified in Section 7[1] of the <i>Pipeline Rules</i>) to ensure correct content. 4) 8.1.10.1 – Pipeline is not discontinued, abandoned, or returned to service after 12 months of no active flowing service. 5) 5.5.25.1 – Company does not monitor the effectiveness of its internal corrosion control programs.

WELL SITE INSPECTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 3.2.5.5 – Well not maintained in a clean condition. 2) 1.6.5.5 – Conspicuous identification sign not posted at primary entrance to the well or facility. 3) 1.7.5.68 – No or inadequate surface casing vent. 4) 4.1.5.8 – All wellhead valves are not chained and locked or valve handles not removed. 5) 1.6.5.10 – Improper identification sign.
DRILLING WASTE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 2.2.3.1– Drilling waste storage system is not secured to prevent public or wildlife from entering it. 2) 1.1.1.1 – Required notification information not submitted through the AER digital data submission system. 3) 5.4.8.1 – LWD results in clumping or pooling of waste on the land, causes migration off the disposal area, or causes land erosion. 4) 2.2.1.1 – Remote storage site does not have signage identifying location, licensee, linked well licence, and 24-hour emergency phone number. 5) 2.1.6.1 – Facility not maintained in a clean condition.
OIL INSPECTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 3.2.5.5 – Facility not maintained in a clean condition. 2) 1.6.5.5 – Conspicuous identification sign not posted at the entrance to the well or facility. 3) 1.8.5.25 – Secondary containment not designed, constructed, sized, and maintained as required. 4) 1.1.5.30 – Meter not calibrated/proved since installation or being repaired or calibration/proving expired. 5) 1.6.5.15 – No or improper warning symbol posted adjacent to all entrances to the developed area of wells and facilities.
SERVICING INSPECTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 3.83.G1 – Warning sign not posted. 2) 2.71.S2 – Crew drills not being performed. 3) 2.71.G1 – Crew BOP drills not recorded in tour reports (prior to commencement of operations or after BOPs installed). 4) 4.90.G1 – Diesel engine shut-off did not operate. 5) 1.52.G1 – Three-year shop servicing not conducted.
OILFIELD WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) WM approval operational requirements not met. 2) Flared/vented gas not reported to PETRINEX. 3) Activity without approval. 4) Oilfield wastes are mixed/diluted to avoid regulatory requirements. 5) H₂S odours off-lease