



The AER has received an increasing number of noise complaints related to drilling, servicing, and well testing operations. Keeping the lines of communication open with the public can help reduce concerns. We would like to remind operators that if they feel their operations could potentially affect nearby residents, they must notify them as per *Directive 038: Noise Control* in order to receive the Class B adjustment (section 2.1.2.3, partially quoted below).

These values are intended to permit adjustments to the basic sound level (BSLs) based upon people's responses to temporary noise generating activities. If it is known that an activity will only be of a temporary duration, there may be some additional tolerance of it. ... In order to use this adjustment, the licensee must fully inform the potentially impacted residents of the duration and character of the noise. (p. 10)

The AER strongly encourages operators to take proactive steps to lessen the potential impacts of noise. There are simple, cost effective ways to reduce noise and alleviate public concerns. We recommend contacting an acoustical consultant or noise control provider for advice and to share noise reduction techniques in your synergy and mutual aid groups.

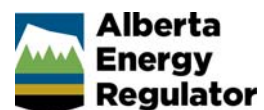
Please note that the AER intends to eliminate the deferred status for pre-1988 facilities (see section 2.2 of *Directive 038*) as of October 17, 2018. After this date, all deferred facilities under AER jurisdiction will be required to meet the appropriate permissible sound level (PSL).

Common noise control techniques to consider:

Drilling

- Use engine exhaust silencers on all engines (these are available from a rental supplier)
- Use ventilation silencers on enclosure openings with pumps and engines
- Use acoustical enclosures for gensets
- Minimize the number of gensets operating during the nighttime period
- Keep doors closed to the enclosures for gensets

The Alberta Energy Regulator 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.



- Be mindful of noise generated from horns and back-up beepers, especially around the nighttime period from 10:00 pm to 7:00 am. There are different types of back-up beepers available which can minimize noise, but ensure that any technology incorporated does not jeopardize work place safety
- Place gensets as far away from residence as practical
- Use tanks and berms between residence and drilling rig
- Conduct certain types of operations during the daytime period
- Use diesel electric rigs and a pipe handling system

Fracturing and Flowback

- Conduct fracturing operations during the daytime period when PSL is higher
- Size the flare or incinerator properly to avoid jet noise (supersonic velocity)
- Conduct trucking operations during the daytime
- Plan on-site traffic flow to reduce the need for equipment to reverse, so back-up beepers are minimized

General Tips

- Contact acoustical consultants prior to beginning operations to ensure availability should a comprehensive survey be required to verify compliance
- Make sure information is shared from licensee to the on-site staff
- Ask truckers to limit the use of retarder brakes, especially near residents
- Provide contact at rig or service operations who can respond to the concerns of residents

Licensees are encouraged to engage with potentially affected stakeholders to come to a collaborative solution that works for both parties.
