

Industry Relief Measures

Temporary Changes to Reporting and Monitoring Requirements

May 20, 2020

What requirements have *not* changed

All wildlife deterrents and mitigations remain in place, including on-site wildlife reporting, timing restriction for sensitive wildlife periods, and the [BearSmart program](#).

Requirements related to bird deterrents near tailings ponds at oil sands mining sites remain in place, including programs to protect both migratory and non-migratory birds.

Requirements for incident reporting remain in place, including the reporting of incidents to the AER, the AER ensuring immediate clean up of any spill, complete analysis and repair, and mitigations to prevent further issues.

Requirements for water quality monitoring at all industrial runoff points remain in place.

Requirements for remediation of existing groundwater contamination remain in place.

All groundwater monitoring necessary to protect human health and ecological receptors remains in place.

What requirements have changed

Monitoring requirements that are difficult for workers to perform safely while complying with the current [public health orders](#) have been suspended.

All groundwater sampling under *Water Act* licences and approvals is temporarily suspended. At least one monitoring event must take place in 2020. Due to the established baseline conditions, missing one sampling event is considered low risk.

Groundwater sampling and well installation under [a directive for thermal in situ projects](#) is temporarily suspended. Installation of heat source wells and baseline sampling have occurred under the directive and quarterly sampling has started. Missing the 2020 sampling events and well installations is considered low risk, provided that it resumes in 2021.

What requirements have *not* changed

Requirements for methane monitoring remain in place.

All emissions controls and continuous ambient air monitoring remain in place.

The reporting requirements related to dams with consequence classification of high or greater remain in place and we continue to work with operators to ensure that monitoring continues.

No changes have been made to requirements around weed control. The [Weed Control Act](#) remains in place to protect the health and safety of Albertans, the environment, and crop productivity.

AER field centres and emergency management team remain operational and ready to respond to any incidents or emergencies that may occur.

What requirements have changed

All soil monitoring and groundwater under *EPEA* approvals is temporarily suspended, with the exception of any monitoring necessary to protect human health. This monitoring must resume no later than September 30, 2020, with at least one monitoring event taking place in 2020. Due to the slow spread of contamination and established baseline conditions, reducing monitoring to one event per year is considered low risk.

Fugitive emissions leak detection and repair (LDAR) programs carried out by third-party contractors is temporarily suspended. Methane monitoring requirements must still be met. Depending on the equipment being surveyed, the approval holder may need to conduct the detection work on an annual, semi-annual, or even quarterly basis. Suspending this program for a short-time period is considered low risk.

Wildlife monitoring programs using cameras and acoustic recording devices or other techniques to remotely capture animal presence are temporarily suspended. These monitoring programs are long-term and the loss of one season of data is considered low risk to the program. All wildlife deterrents and mitigations remain in place.

What requirements have *not* changed**What requirements have changed**

Operators that conduct twice-annual surveys to determine the volumes of fluid tailings and treated fluid tailings in their storage facilities are now required to perform only one of those surveys in 2020. All other operators that normally conduct one survey a year, and are now unable to, must submit proposed variances to their measurement plans for the 2020 annual surveys. Survey findings must be reported as outlined in [*Directive 085 Fluid Tailings Management for Oil Sands Mining Projects*](#).

Requirements for licensees to conduct any liquids-to-gas ratio testing or oil and gas sampling where third-party contractors must be on site to complete the testing is temporarily suspended. Any samples that can be collected and sent to lab without the assistance of third-party contractors must continue.

Requirements for the five-year integrity testing of aboveground storage tanks is temporarily suspended. Monthly visual inspections of tanks and the surface of the diked area for evidence of problems must continue.