



**Alberta
Energy
Regulator**

IOGCC International Committee

Regulating During a Natural Disaster—The Fort McMurray Fire

David Hardie, Senior Advisor, Closure and Liability

October 3, 2016

**Presentation
Overview**

Facts About the Fire

Before the Fire

During the Fire

After the Fire

Regulatory Challenges

About the Fire

- › Started on May 1, 2016
- › 590,000 hectares burned (approximately size of Delaware)
- › 88,000 people evacuated
- › 2,400 homes/buildings destroyed
- › About 40 million barrels of product deferred
- › Under control on July 4, 2016

Before the Fire

- » Companies prioritize sites
 - Likelihood of fire reaching site
 - Importance of site to operations
 - What sites can be accessed safely
 - Assessment of amount of work to prepare site
 - Common infrastructure first (powerlines, pipelines, etc.)

Before the Fire

- » Companies prioritize activities
 - Regulatory approval
 - What priority activities to conduct that might reduce additional damage?
 - Construct walls and berms
 - Pump down tanks

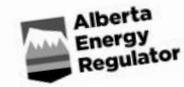
AER's role

- » Information collection, risk assessment, and dissemination
- » Coordination of activities as appropriate

Before the Fire



AER staff photo



www.aer.ca

Bulletin 2016-12

May 4, 2016

Fort McMurray Wildfire – Emergency Protocol for Oil Sands Operators

The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) is requesting that operators contact the AER if they require information from the provincial operations centre (POC) in response to the uncontrolled wildfires near Fort McMurray. Following this emergency protocol will ensure that operators can be linked into the POC without disrupting the Government of Alberta's emergency response efforts.

Operators should contact the AER's customer contact centre (CCC) for non-emergencies at 1-855-297-8311 (toll-free) or at [inquiries@aer.ca](mailto:inquiries@ aer.ca). For emergencies, operators are asked to contact the AER's 24 hour Energy and Environmental Emergency Line at 1-800-222-6514 or at BCMTeam@aer.ca.

Operators with infrastructure in the possible fire path have AER approval to build berms and walls to protect their facilities. The AER is granting this approval with the condition that any work conducted must not create adverse public or environmental impacts. Operators are expected to conduct all work in a safe manner. Inspections of these sites will be conducted once the emergency response to the wildfires has ended. Operators are asked to contact the AER through 24 hour Energy and Environmental Emergency Line at 1-800-222-6514 or at BCMTeam@aer.ca.

AER staff are working with the Government of Alberta and other local and provincial authorities to monitor and respond to the wildfires. The AER's Fort McMurray Regional Office has been evacuated until further notice, and all calls and e-mails to that office are being automatically rerouted to the Bonnyville Field Centre.

The AER is also requesting that operators provide any resources or support to respond to the wildfire, including fuel, firefighters, shelter, and air support. To provide information on available resources or support, operators are asked to contact the AER's Emergency Command Centre at BCMTeam@aer.ca.

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Martin Foy
Vice President
Environment & Operational Performance

inquiries 1-855-297-8311

24-hour emergency 1-800-222-6514

inquiries@aer.ca

AER

Tuesday May 3, 2016, 12:00 p.m.



AER

Tuesday, May 3, 2016, 1 p.m.





AER staff photos

AER



AER staff photos

AER



AER staff photos



AER staff photos

After the Fire

- » Companies prioritize sites
 - Assess damage on a priority basis
 - Access
 - Importance of site to operations
 - Risk to the environment
 - Risk to people
 - Assess which sites need to startup first and the amount of work to get it operational

After the Fire

- » Companies prioritize activities
 - What resources and equipment is in the area that can be utilized?
 - What has to be done now, what can be left for later?

After the Fire



www.aer.ca

Bulletin 2016-13

May 11, 2016

Fort McMurray Wildfires – Resuming Operations

The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has issued a public notice to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo after the provincial state of emergency was lifted. Operators are expected to conduct operations as required by legislation on a later date.

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Daily communications with affected operators will resume.

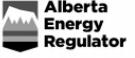
Operators should contact the AER at 1-855-297-8311 (toll-free) or at [inquiries@aer.ca](mailto:inquiries@ aer.ca) for more information. The AER's Energy and Environmental Emergency Response Centre (EEERC) is also available at 1-855-297-8311.

AER staff are working with the Government of Alberta to monitor and respond to the wildfire until further notice, and all calls are being directed to the Bonnyville Field Centre.

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Brenda Cherry
Vice President
Authorizations Branch

inquiries 1-855-297-8311 24-hour emergency 1-800-222-6514



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Bulletin 2016-20

July 7, 2016

Fort McMurray Wildfire – AER Recovery Phase Complete

The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has been actively monitoring operations in the Fort McMurray area to ensure that the resumption of oil sands mining and in situ operations after the unplanned shutdowns from the wildfires is being conducted in accordance with public safety and environmental protection requirements.

The AER's recovery efforts in the Fort McMurray area have now been transitioned back to normal regulatory operating practices. The AER will continue to work with all operators on ongoing regulatory and operational matters resulting from the wildfire.

The AER's Fort McMurray Regional Office has resumed operations, including incident and emergency response for oil sands mining operations. For mining and in situ emergencies, operators are required to contact the Coordination of Information Centre (CIC) at 1-800-222-6514. All other incidents, notifications, and contraventions must be reported by the operator through the CIC.

As previously communicated, operators are reminded that documentation related to the construction of berms and walls that was undertaken to protect facilities must be retained because it may be requested by the AER.

The public notice of application (PNOA) expiration-date extension was granted for applications in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo during the provincial state of emergency. With the provincial state of emergency lifted, the PNOAs for these applications are being posted to AER.ca with a new 30-day deadline for statement of concern submissions.

Effectively immediately, AER *Bulletin 2016-12* and *Bulletin 2016-13* are hereby rescinded.

For more information, please call the AER Customer Contact Centre at 1-855-297-8311.

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Kirk Bailey
Executive Vice President
Operations Division

inquiries 1-855-297-8311 24-hour emergency 1-800-222-6514 inquiries@aer.ca

AER's role

- Prioritize sites for start-up
- Successful and safe restart of major oil sands mining operations
- Inspect all insitu and mining operations where fire may have impacted operations.

Regulatory Challenges

- 》 Inactive companies
- 》 Well suspension deadline extension request
 - Declared to be affected by fires
- 》 Reclamation certification
 - Application is in, now that the site has burnt out, is it still appropriate to issue it?
- 》 When to transition from recovery to operations

**Lessons
Learned**

- 》 Plan for a scenario beyond what is plausible
- 》 Need to be in step with event
- 》 Plan for early recovery
- 》 Good working relationship in advance of event

AER

Protecting what matters

www.aer.ca



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ABEnergyRegulator**



resource.aer.ca



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