



Resource Development and Extraction

Resource companies have the right to develop and extract resources located under private property and to install pipelines or other infrastructure on or under private property. This is because most land in Alberta has two titles. The owner of the surface title has control of the land's surface and the right to work it. The owner of the mineral title has the right to explore for and produce oil, gas and other minerals from under that land surface.

Typically, it is not feasible for direct resource development and extraction activities (e.g. oil and gas exploration and development, and gravel extraction are the two most common resource development activities in Alberta) to take place on small acreages. A typical well-site will be three or more acres (1.2+ hectares) in size and some pipelines, depending on the product produced, may require greater setbacks from residences so it is not feasible to place industry infrastructure on most acreages. Gravel pit dimensions and setback requirements also require a larger land-base than the typical acreage provides.

While resource development and extraction may not be occurring directly on your acreage, it is important to be aware that there is potential for these types of activities to indirectly impact your property and that of nearby acreage owners. It is important to understand the nature of the activities and the potential ramifications to you as an adjacent resident. With that understanding, you are much better positioned to discuss and negotiate to lessen any potential impacts.

Resource development and extraction is regulated by a variety of authorities and agencies, depending on the particular type of activity or phase of development. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), various government departments and local municipalities all have certain responsibilities and jurisdictions in regulating the various activities associated with resource development and extraction. The resource development company, the AER, your local municipality or your local synergy group can help you determine which regulator you may need to connect with regarding your specific question or concern.

What You Need to Know

✓ Formal notifications

When new resource development activities are planned for an area, notification is generally provided by the company to surrounding residents and landowners regardless of property size. The notification radius (distance from the planned activity in which notifications are provided) can vary, depending on the type of activity and the requirements of the regulating body involved. Additionally, you may receive notifications from companies performing maintenance or expanding activities on existing infrastructure or facilities. While many of these notifications are required by the regulator,

some companies provide courtesy notifications beyond the requirements as a way of helping ensure neighbours are informed.

Depending on the type of activity, these notifications may include anything from basic information on the type of planned activity, to detailed descriptions of the activity and associated maps. They will include a company contact for further information and typically include contact information for the regulating body as well. These contacts can provide you with information to help you understand