

# Pace and Scale of Oil & Gas Development

## Managing a minimal footprint

Discussions about rapid increases in the pace and scale of oil and gas activities in Yukon are not supported by past history, current conditions or future projections.

For many reasons, the future development of oil and gas resources will be limited and gradual.

Many variables will influence the pace and scale of oil and gas development, including:

- Geological resource potential;
- Land availability within the oil and gas basins;
- Regional land use planning processes;
- Government policies and regulatory timelines;
- Technical innovations in energy production;
- North American and global supply and demand trends;
- Logistical fundamentals (available road network; winter access only in many areas, etc.);
- Remoteness from service sector and access to skilled labour;
- Limited access to markets;
- Industry exploration results and funding; and
- Commodity prices;

Industry will make decisions on whether to proceed by factoring in these and other considerations.

While market conditions may ebb and flow, Yukon's key influences on the pace and scale of industry activity are a combination of limited availability of land within accessible oil and gas basins and remoteness from services and market.

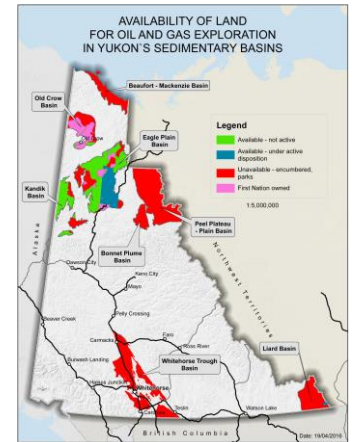
## Availability of lands for oil & gas development

Oil and gas cannot happen just anywhere. Only those areas of Yukon underlain by sedimentary basins *and* with geological conditions allowing oil or gas to exist are worthwhile for exploration.

In 2015, the Yukon government conducted an assessment to determine how much land is really available for oil and gas rights dispositions. In Yukon, 15.4 per cent of the territory's land area has sedimentary basins with potential oil and gas.

The availability of land for oil and gas exploration, within Yukon's eight sedimentary basins, falls into one of four categories:

1. Available (non-active);
2. Available (under active disposition);
3. Unavailable (i.e. under the administration of the Crown but not currently available for disposition, or within national parks); and
4. First Nation owned (where the oil and gas interests are owned by a Yukon First Nation pursuant to a treaty negotiated under the Umbrella Final Agreement).



[click to enlarge](#)

In 2015, 30 per cent of all the land within the sedimentary basins was available. This amounts to only about 4.3 per cent of Yukon's total land area being prospective and available.

### Past and Present

Drilling in Yukon peaked in the 1960s and early 1970s with 32 and 29 wells drilled, respectively. Since 2005, only six wells have been drilled.

#### Well Drilling History

1958	1
1960s	32
1970-74	29
1977-1998	8
2005-present	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76</b>

#### Basin Activity

Eagle Plains	38
Peel Plateau	19
Liard	12
Other	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76</b>

## Regional Land Use Planning

Oil and gas activities must be consistent with Yukon's regional land use plans. These plans, developed by Yukon government, First Nations, stakeholders and residents, guide the future use and development of land.

Regional land use planning facilitates land uses that promote orderly development while considering the values of the land, and providing for economic, social and environmental well-being of residents of the region.

A final regional land use plan provides a broad-level vision and goals for the allocation, management and use of land and resources, including renewable, non-renewable and water-based resources within a region.

## Pace and scale in other jurisdictions

British Columbia has an established oil and gas sector that has taken more than 60 years of commercial activity to get to their current scale of activity. Sixty years of development has resulted in only a [2 per cent footprint](#) in the northeast corner of B.C.

## How to contact the Oil and Gas Resources branch

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