

Responsible Oil and Gas Development in Yukon

What does Responsible Oil and Gas Development Look Like?

Responsible development requires that the health and safety of employees and the public come first and demands strong environmental performance. 'Responsible' relates to the continuous review and improvement of health and safety, environmental, social and economic performance practices and policies as well as engagement with communities in which industry works.

Regulators, governments and industry all play key roles in realizing the objective of responsible development. The industry must win public confidence by demonstrating model performance and governments must ensure that modern and appropriate policies and regulatory regimes are in place. Government must also have fiscal policies and efficient regulatory regimes to be competitive with other jurisdictions.

Scientists, technologists and researchers ----- within academia, industry, governments and non-for-profit organizations continue to collaborate to develop new methods, technologies and products which serve to reduce environmental impacts, increase performance, better monitor systems, help to report results, increase knowledge and generally to provide better outcomes for everyone. Professional and standards associations also play a role to ensure safe and responsible operations.

Responsibility for Governments and Regulators

Governments, regulators and other appropriate authorities in the Yukon:

- High-level policy decision-making and direction (e.g. [The Energy Strategy for the Yukon](#))
- Continual review and improvement of regulations, practices, policies and other resource management systems within the Yukon in order to build on and modernize its existing regulatory frameworks for oil and gas development activities. For example, the Yukon Government has recently made amendments to the Oil and Gas Act that allow the regulator to: impose post-abandonment obligations on a licensee after the licence has been cancelled, allow the Chief Operations Officer (COO) to order a well be re-abandoned in the interest of public and environmental safety, and to allow for well abandonment cost recovery to apply to all possible wells.

- Adopt a risk-based approach for regulating and managing development. All stages from exploration to production to well abandonment are considered. An overall principle is that regulatory responses are proportional to the level of the risk posed by development.
- Continually strengthen knowledge on environmental impacts such as seeking a better understanding of both surface and groundwater resources, in support of decision-making for water use, disposal, and protection.
- Recognize the importance of public reporting and information disclosure.

Responsibility for Companies and its Service Sector

The industry sector has developed several programs for its companies and service sector that recognize the importance of operating in a responsible manner, over and above the government regulations put in place for operations.

- The Responsible Canadian Energy Program (RCE) represents a collective commitment by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers' (CAPP's) members to continuously improve the health and safety, environment and social performance of the industry, and to continue to develop and sharing guidelines and best practices.
- Best practices, which put the principles in action, represent a transparent and responsible approach to water management, protection of water resources during sourcing, use and handling and continuous improvement in operations. There is also a focus on technology and innovation to reduce the intensity of impacts on the environment and to improve social performance
- The Petroleum Alliance of Canada (PSAC) has developed the Community Partners program to ensure that oil and gas workers understand what responsible conduct is in and around communities relating to gates, garbage, noise, light, dust, communication and driving behaviour.

How to contact the Oil & Gas Resources Branch

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