ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT and PARKS

BECOMING A MODERN REGULATOR

We have heard repeatedly from industry and citizens that Alberta's environmental regulatory system is complex and difficult to navigate.

Alberta's social, environmental and economic context has changed, the regulatory system has not evolved significantly in response.

Modernizing our regulatory system requires major changes to how we regulate to address cumulative effects and shared use of Alberta's land base.

Environment and Parks Regulatory Transformation Program will be one of the most significant transformations AEP has ever undertaken.

2020   *2023*

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT: BACKLOG REDUCTION

In Summer 2020, AEP committed to reduce its backlog of applications awaiting decision. In achieving this goal, the Department accomplished more than clearing files. In fact, this initiative was a **pilot to develop and test operating practices, policy, and process that reflect the modernized future state**.

The Backlog Reduction Initiative accomplished three key outcomes that will expedite progress on Regulatory Assurance Framework and Digital Regulatory Assurance Framework initiatives. Reduction of backlog has:

1. **Enabled economic stimulus**: The burden of backlog has been reduced, speeding up review of critical applications to support economic stimulus while maintaining environmental standards.
2. **Developed best practices for system transformation:** Key learnings and efficiencies that enable agile change practices.
3. **Implemented long-term, sustainable process improvements:** These wins are tried and true; they are an example of the consistent, fair, and transparent future.
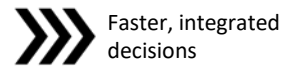
WHAT IS REGULATORY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK (RAF)?

AEP's foundational approach to enabling economic development activity while ensuring environmental standards outlined in policies, plans, and legislation are maintained.

This major project will modernize the system to bring the application process into the 21st century, address application backlogs, and increase efficiency and transparency in support of economic development.

The RAF fundamentally shifts how AEP approaches environmental authorizations, focusing on standardized and straightforward proponent expectations.

FOR PROPONENTS, THIS MEANS:

Faster, integrated decisions

Clear accountability and expectations

Expedited economic development and increased competitiveness

DIGITAL REGULATORY ASSURANCE SYSTEM (DRAS)

The Digital Assurance Regulatory System, or DRAS, will be the "one-window" technological backbone of the transformed regulatory system, enabling clear, expedient decision making and straightforward environmental monitoring.

Right now AEP uses several dated information systems to process, track, and monitor approvals across the province. They don't talk to each other.

DRAS will replace the multiple independent systems with one single, consolidated system for proponent applications, approvals, and long-term monitoring.

In combination with the RAF, DRAS will streamline the proponent experience from application through to file management and closure.

It is a multi-million dollar investment in automating Alberta's regulatory system by 2023.

OUTCOMES BASED

RISK MANAGED

COMMON SENSE

TRANSPARENT

CONSISTENT

Alberta Environment and Parks

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DELIVERING ON RED TAPE REDUCTION

RTR WINS **+** ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE **=** WINS FOR ALBERTANS

RED TAPE REDUCTION (RTR) PLATFORM COMMITMENTS

🎯 **Reduce regulatory and administrative burdens and improve service experience**

🎯 **Reduce regulatory requirements by 33% by 2023**

AEP is taking practical steps to *improve regulatory clarity and consistency* and apply a more appropriate level of oversight for low-risk activities, while still maintaining environmental outcomes.

Red tape reduction has brought consistency to reclamation requirements for similar industrial activities, improved clarity regarding what is and isn't permitted when conducting specific work, reduced unnecessary delays through streamlined processes, and allowed Albertans a little more freedom when enjoying our great outdoors. These changes reduce red tape and simplify oversight processes while still protecting Alberta's environment and ecosystems.

AEP has already made great progress in implementing common sense changes to remove red tape in an effort to address over **700 submissions** by stakeholders and members of the public.

✓ As of November 2020, **8.2% reduction** in redundant, outdated and unnecessary requirements, and

✓ **61 RTR initiatives** have been completed across multiple environmental media and industries

RTR FORWARD LOOKING
- ✓ **On track to meet 12% reduction target by March 2021**
- ✓ **On track to complete ~40 initiatives before 2022 and an additional ~40 before 2023**

Category	RTR WINS	ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE	WINS FOR ALBERTANS
REGULATORY TRANSFORMATION	**9 Total RTR Initiatives** 3 Complete 3 Target Completion 2020/21 1 Target Completion 2021/22 2 Target Completion 2021/23	✓ Significant backlog reduction ✓ Digital Regulatory Assurance System vendor brought on board	✓ Backlog reduced by 76% for sand and gravel applications, *Water Act* approvals and licences, and environmental approvals for municipal and industrial activities
AIR & CLIMATE CHANGE	**9 Total RTR Initiatives** 7 Complete 2 Target Completion 2021/22	✓ Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction ✓ Alberta Emissions Air Inventory Reporting	✓ Achieve emissions reductions, and save industry millions ✓ Time and cost savings expected with air reporting inventory
WATER & WETLANDS	**19 Total RTR Initiatives** 3 Complete 7 Target Completion 2020/21 9 Target Completion 2021/22	✓ Code of Practice for Powerline Works Impacting Wetlands ✓ Streamline Regulatory Process for Road Maintenance Activities	✓ Clear standards for developers that keep our communities and our economy safe
FISH & WILDLIFE	**20 Total RTR Initiatives** 14 Complete 3 Target Completion 2020/21 3 Target Completion 2021/22	✓ AlbertaRelm APP - Virtual Wallet ✓ 365 License Contactless Autorenewal ✓ Pilot Paperless WiN Application	✓ Fast, easy access and renewal for hunters, and fishers ✓ Increased system participation and reinvestment
LAND MGMT.	**39 Total RTR Initiatives** 10 Complete 20 Target Completion 2020/21 7 Target Completion 2021/22 2 Target Completion 2022/23	✓ Powerline Reclamation Guidelines ✓ Amend Surface Rights Act	✓ Clear, simple process for permit application ✓ Simplified application for Surface Rights Act developers
SURFACE MATERIALS	**3 Total RTR Initiatives** 2 Target Completion 2020/21 1 Target Completion 2021/22	✓ Sand and gravel business design process	✓ Process improvements, increased efficiency, and reduced application review timelines
OIL & GAS	**23 Total RTR Initiatives** 8 Complete 7 Target Completion 2020/21 6 Target Completion 2021/22 2 Target Completion 2022/23	✓ Transferred jurisdiction for Borrow Pits to the AER ✓ Directive 81: Water Disposal Limits and Reporting Requirements for Thermal In Situ Oil Sands Scheme	✓ Increased efficiency, consistency and certainty in the reuse of treated wastewater for hydraulic fracturing purposes.
TOURISM	**14 Total RTR Initiatives** 13 Complete 1 Target Completion 2020/21	✓ Campsite Card Payment ✓ Online Special Event Application	✓ Quick, convenient online booking ✓ Grants access for a larger demographic of recreators
AGRICULTURE	**6 Total RTR Initiatives** 3 Complete 2 Target Completion 2021/22 1 Target Completion 2022/23	✓ Extended Tenure for Exemplary Stewardship	✓ Give Albertans fair value for the use of the province's resources

Alberta Environment and Parks