

Conservation and Reclamation INFORMATION LETTER

Reclamation Certificate Application Fees for Wellsites and Associated Facilities and Access Roads – 2001 Update

UPDATE

This Information Letter updates and replaces C&R/IL/96-4. Please discard the previous Information Letter.

BACKGROUND

Under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* an operator must conserve and reclaim specified land and obtain a reclamation certificate. The *Conservation and Reclamation Regulation* defines "specified land" to include **land that is being or has been used or held for or in connection with** the construction, operation or reclamation of a well, oil production site or battery. We use the term "associated facilities" when describing land that "has been held for or in connection with" an activity. Under this definition, access roads and any other associated facilities (e.g., remote sump, borrow pit, campsite) require a certificate.

The issuance of a reclamation certificate allows a surface lease on private or public land to be terminated. On public land, three types of dispositions may be issued for surface access under the *Public Lands Act*:

- a Mineral Surface Lease (MSL) or Right of Entry Order (ROE) for the wellsite; and,
- a Licence of Occupation (LOC) for the access road.

This Information Letter clarifies how the fees will be applied to reclamation certificate applications for wellsites, oil production sites or batteries and their associated facilities.

FEEES

An application fee of \$300 is required for a reclamation certificate for each wellsite and its associated facilities. No fee is required for an oil production site application if the operator has an approval for the activity under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

To avoid delay in processing your application, please submit the fee, in the appropriate amount, with your application to the appropriate address listed below. If an application is not accepted because it is incomplete, or if a site has not met the reclamation criteria, a new application and another fee will be required.

If you are uncertain which jurisdiction the wellsite, oil production site or battery or their associated facilities falls under you can request a land standing and/or public standing report from the Alberta Energy Information Centre at (403) 297-6324. There is a fee for this service.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Payment options include a cheque for \$300.00 payable to the **Minister of Finance** (please note the change from the Provincial Treasurer) or credit card authorization. Visa and MasterCard are accepted as payment. For information to set up credit card authorization or general payment information please call the Regulatory Approvals Centre toll-free at 310-0000 then dial 427-6311.

Applications for several sites with one payment for the full amount are acceptable.

CERTIFICATION

On private land a single certificate is issued for the wellsite and access road. On public land separate certificates may be issued because of the two different leases involved, but only one \$300 fee is collected.

Generally, a reclamation certificate will not be issued for the wellsite unless the access road has been reclaimed and is being applied for. If the road is being used to get to another well or facility, the wellsite may be certified on its own. The operator retains certification liability for the road if they are using it. The operator may transfer certification liability to a new operator through an overlapping exemption application (see C&R/IL/97-6) or assignment of the LOC on public land to the operator using the road.

On public land, where all associated facilities are tracked in the dispositions, a reclamation certificate **for the well** will not be issued until all facilities on public land associated with the MSL or ROE have been applied for. On private land the lease arrangements are not tracked so a certificate will be issued. If a landowner identifies associated facilities, the wellsite will be certified and the operator will be required to reclaim the associated facilities and obtain a certificate. The operator retains liability for the associated facilities until a certificate is issued.

If an operator on private land applies for a reclamation certificate for a wellsite and access road, and at a later date applies for the reclamation certificate for an associated facility, another application fee of \$300 will be required for the second application.

Reclamation certificates may be issued for associated facilities **before the well is abandoned** on both private and public land. An application and application fee must be submitted.

SITES IN MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS

Three agencies issue reclamation certificates in the province, each with an area of jurisdiction as shown below. Where the land in the application is in more than one jurisdiction, the application and fee should be submitted to the agency responsible for the wellsite. Every effort will be made to coordinate the inquiries in a single site visit. Separate certificates will be issued by each agency. The certificate for the access road will not be issued until the well is certified to ensure access is available if the well requires more work.

CONTACTS

Reclamation Certificates on White Area Public Lands:

Alberta Sustainable Resource
Development
Public Lands Division
200, 7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6

Phone: (780) 427-6597

Fax: (780) 422-4244

Website: www.gov.ab.ca/navigation/sustain/publiclands/index.html

Reclamation Certificates on Green Area Public Lands:

Alberta Sustainable Resource
Development,
Public Lands Division,
3rd Floor, 9915 - 108 Street,
EDMONTON, Alberta T5K 2G8.

Phone: (780) 427-3570

Fax: (780) 422-4251

e-mail reclaim@env.gov.ab.ca

Reclamation Certificates on all other land:

Alberta Environment
Science and Standards Division
4th Floor, 9820 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6

Phone: (780) 427-5883

Fax: (780) 422-4192

e-mail: land.management@gov.ab.ca