

Alberta Geothermal Resource Development Act



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- Alberta No. 1 Geothermal Project, M.D. of Greenview
- *Geothermal Resource Development Act*, SA 2020, G. 5.5
- Definitions – s. 1(g) – Regulator is the AER
- Purposes of the Act - s. 3
- Well licence requirement – s. 7

- *Oil & Gas Conservation Act*
- Need a well licence to rework existing oil and gas wells – s. 8
- Granting well licences, suspension & cancelling licences, inspections, investigations, avoiding damage to wells – ss. 9 – 13
- Well abandonments, continuing liability & costs – ss. 14 – 25
- Successor Liability

- Offences – fines \$50,000 – \$500,000 – s. 28
- Several existing Acts have been amended to address geothermal energy development
- *Environmental Protection Enhancement Act* – site reclamation
- *Mines & Minerals Act* - legal rights disputes - Rights to steam?, water rights?, oil and gas rights, other mineral rights (brines and hard rock minerals)?

- *Oil and Gas Conservation Act - amended*
- *Pipeline Act – amended*
- *Responsible Energy Development Act - amended*

- First and most comprehensive provincial geothermal legislation - 1983 B.C. *Geothermal Resources Act*
- *Geothermal Resources Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996 c. 171

- Geothermal Geophysical Exploration Regulation, B.C. Reg. 358/98
- Geothermal Operations Regulation, B.C. Reg. 79/2017
- Geothermal Resources General Regulation, B.C. Reg. 39/2017

- s. 1 - Definitions - “geothermal resource”
- s. 2 – B.C. Government owns all geothermal resources
- s. 5 Minister – absolute discretion over granting of permit and can impose conditions

- s. 6 - Permit size – maximum “block” as defined in the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act*

- Surface rights dealt with as in the B.C. oil and gas industry

- Oil and Gas Commission under the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act*
- The Geophysical Exploration Reg. under the *Oil and Gas Activities Act* applies to geothermal

- Test hole requirements
- Restrictions on drilling near permanent buildings
- Restrictions on drilling near subsurface mines and underground storage facilities
- Well spacing

- Well casing requirements
- Proper disposal of drilling fluids
- Blowout prevention (BOP) requirements
- BOP equipment testing and maintenance

- Daily drilling reports
- Release of information
- Well plugging, abandonment and reclamation requirements
- Monthly production reports

- Well reports & data
- Exploration & permitting fees
- Permit renewals
- Lease fees
- Core samples
- Release of information
- Environmental Protection & Management

- Sections 26-27 of the Act provide that the AER may make rules and regulations - STAY TUNED
- Decades of BC geothermal regulatory experience should provide some guidance for Alberta – the B.C. regulations provide a useful reference point

- Dr. Roman Shor can provide more details
- Canadian Institute of Resources Law, Faculty of Law
- Thank you
- Questions?