



Alberta Environment and Parks

November 2018

Summary

- 18 Total Recommendations
- 1 New Recommendation
- 17 Outstanding Recommendations
- 13 Outstanding Recommendations Older than 3 Years
- 1 **READY** for Follow-up Audit
- 17 **NOT READY** for Follow-up Audit

We issued unqualified independent auditor’s reports on the 2017–2018 financial statements for the Ministry of Environment and Parks, the Department of Environment and Parks and all related entities, including the Natural Resources Conservation Board, and Energy Efficiency Alberta, Climate Change and Emissions Management Fund, and the Land Stewardship Fund

In our *Systems to Manage and Report on the Oil Sands Monitoring Program Follow-up* audit (see “Performance Audit Reports”), we report that one recommendation has been implemented, and we issued one new recommendation.

The department has 17 outstanding recommendations, 13 of which have been outstanding for more than three years.

There are no new or outstanding recommendations to the Natural Resources Conservation Board or Energy Efficiency Alberta.

Recommendations

WHAT	WHEN	STATUS
<p>DEPARTMENT SYSTEMS TO MANAGE AND REPORT ON THE OIL SANDS MONITORING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Improve annual reporting process</p> <p>We recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks, working with Environment and Climate Change Canada, improve processes to ensure the annual report on the oil sands monitoring program is complete, accurate, clear, and timely.</p>	November 2018, Performance Auditing, p. 7	NEW
<p>DEPARTMENT DESIGN OF SYSTEMS TO MANAGE THE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP PLAN AND ADAPTATION:</p> <p>Develop and use an implementation plan, improve quality of the monitoring data and report on the total cost</p> <p>We recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop and use comprehensive implementation plans for the Climate Leadership Plan and for each of its programs • implement efficient processes to sufficiently reduce the risk that the data used to monitor and report on progress is not accurate or complete • provide clear and complete reporting on the expected and actual costs of programs and the Climate Leadership Plan overall 	February 2018, p. 102	NOT READY

WHAT	WHEN	STATUS
<p>DEPARTMENT CLIMATE CHANGE: Outsourced service providers</p> <p>We again recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks obtain assurance that data hosted or processed by its provider of registry services is accurate, complete and secure.</p>	<p>Repeated May 2017, no. 5, p. 62</p> <p>Originally reported October 2009, p. 49</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL OF ALBERTA—OCTOBER 2016: Improve capital asset monitoring and recording processes</p> <p>We recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks improve its processes for monitoring and recording dam and water management structure assets by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reconciling the Environment Infrastructure Management System with the asset management accounting system so that the assets listed in one reasonably correspond to those in the other completing a comprehensive analysis of assets to verify existence, completeness and valuation in order to maintain reliable accounting records applying criteria to decide when to write down an asset, and documenting the assessment of such decisions 	<p>October 2016, no. 17, p. 104</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT MANAGING ALBERTA'S WATER ACT PARTNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY ACTIVITIES: Monitor wetland restoration</p> <p>We again recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks formalize its wetland restoration relationships and control procedures.</p>	<p>Repeated October 2015, no. 6, p. 45</p> <p>Originally reported April 2010, no. 6, p. 71</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT SYSTEMS TO MANAGE GRAZING LEASES: Clarify objectives, benefits and relevant performance measures</p> <p>We recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks define and communicate the environmental, social and economic objectives it expects grazing leases should provide all Albertans as well as relevant performance measures to monitor and ensure those objectives are met.</p>	<p>July 2015, no. 1, p. 20</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT SYSTEMS TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR LAND DISTURBANCES FROM MINING: Improve program design</p> <p>We recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks, as part of its regular review of the Mine Financial Security Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyze and conclude on whether changes to the asset calculation are necessary due to overestimation of asset values in the methodology demonstrate that it has appropriately analyzed and concluded on the potential impacts of inappropriately extended mine life in the calculation 	<p>July 2015, no. 2, p. 29</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>

WHAT	WHEN	STATUS
<p>DEPARTMENT SYSTEMS TO MANAGE THE SPECIFIED GAS EMITTERS REGULATION: Clarify SGE Regulation guidance documents</p> <p>We recommend for a third time that the Department of Environment and Parks clarify the guidance it provides to facilities, verifiers, offset project developers and offset protocol developers, to ensure they consistently follow its requirements to achieve the Alberta government's emission reduction targets.</p>	<p>Repeated July 2015, no. 4, p. 43, and</p> <p>Repeated November 2011, no. 1, p. 17</p> <p>Originally reported October 2009, no. 4, p. 46</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT SYSTEMS TO MANAGE THE SPECIFIED GAS EMITTERS REGULATION: Ensure offset protocols meet new standard and improve transparency</p> <p>We again recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks implement processes to ensure that all approved protocols adhere to its protocol development standard.</p>	<p>Repeated July 2015, no. 5, p. 46</p> <p>Originally reported November 2011, no. 2, p. 23</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT FLOOD MITIGATION SYSTEMS: Update flood hazard maps and mapping guidelines</p> <p>We recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks improve its processes to identify flood hazards by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mapping flood areas that are not currently mapped but are at risk of flooding communities updating and maintaining its flood hazard maps updating its flood hazard mapping guidelines 	<p>March 2015, no. 10, p. 76</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT FLOOD MITIGATION SYSTEMS: Assess risk to support mitigation policies and spending</p> <p>We recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks conduct risk assessments to support flood mitigation decisions.</p>	<p>March 2015, no. 11, p. 78</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT FLOOD MITIGATION SYSTEMS: Designate flood hazard areas and complete floodway development regulation</p> <p>To minimize public safety risk and to avoid unnecessary expenditure of public money, we recommend that the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Environment and Parks identify flood hazard areas for designation by the minister Department of Municipal Affairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish processes for controlling, regulating or prohibiting future land use or development to control risk in designated flood hazard areas put in place processes to enforce the regulatory requirements 	<p>March 2015, no. 12, p. 80</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT FLOOD MITIGATION SYSTEMS: Assess effects of flood mitigation actions</p> <p>We recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks establish processes to assess what will be the cumulative effect of flood mitigation actions in communities when approving new projects and initiatives.</p>	<p>March 2015, no. 13, p. 82</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>

WHAT	WHEN	STATUS
<p>DEPARTMENT SYSTEMS TO REGULATE DAM SAFETY: Develop plan to regulate dams</p> <p>We recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks develop a plan to regulate dams and report on the results of its regulatory activities.</p>	<p>March 2015, no. 14, p. 90</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT SYSTEMS TO REGULATE DAM SAFETY: Improve dam regulatory activities</p> <p>We recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks improve its dam regulatory activities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintaining a reliable registry of dams obtaining sufficient information to assess the risk and consequences of dam failure retaining evidence of regulatory activities performed following up to ensure that owners correct deficiencies or manage them until they are corrected 	<p>March 2015, no. 15, p. 92</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT SAND AND GRAVEL: Enforcement of reclamation obligations</p> <p>We again recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks improve processes for inspecting aggregate holdings on public land and enforcing land reclamation requirements.</p>	<p>Repeated July 2014, no. 4, p. 51</p> <p>Originally reported October 2008, no. 40, p. 360</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT SAND AND GRAVEL: Quantity of aggregate removed</p> <p>We again recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks develop systems to verify quantities of aggregate reported as removed by industry from public lands so that all revenue due to the Crown can be assessed and recorded in the financial statements.</p>	<p>Repeated July 2014, no. 5, p. 52</p> <p>Originally reported October 2008, p. 364</p>	<p>READY</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT SAND AND GRAVEL: Flat fee security deposit</p> <p>We recommend that the Department of Environment and Parks assess the sufficiency of security deposits collected under agreements to complete reclamation requirements.</p>	<p>October 2008, no. 41, p. 362</p>	<p>NOT READY</p>