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# **Alberta Environment and Water Annual Update**

## **ASGA Annual General Meeting**

**Lesley Foy**  
**Reclamation Approvals Coordinator**

**January 17, 2011**

**Government  
of Alberta** 

# Outline

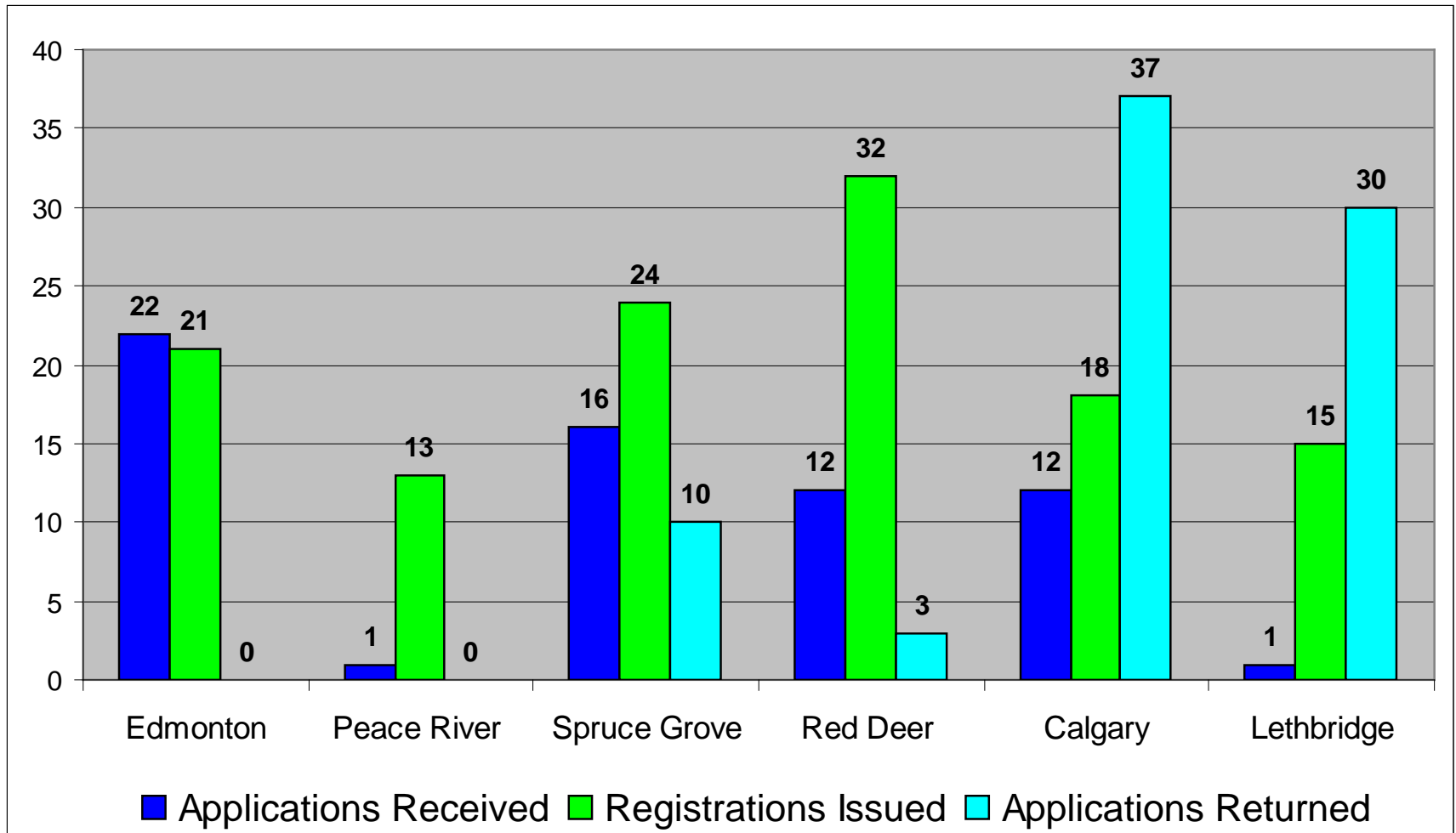
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- Code of Practice for Pits
- Water Act
- Compliance
- Other Initiatives
- Electronic Record Keeping System

# Code of Practice for Pits

- Registration Application Statistics
- Registration Application Review Timelines
- 5 Year Reporting
- Reclamation Statistics

# 2011 Registration Application Statistics



# Application Review Timelines

- In 2011, ASGA raised concerns to the department regarding application review timelines.
- A review of the application review process for the Code of Practice for Pits was undertaken by operations and policy staff.
- The Application Review Timelines Accepted Practice was developed as a result of the review.
- The Accepted Practice was endorsed by executive on November 30, 2011.

# Application Review Timelines

## Accepted Practice - Goals

- The goals of the accepted practice consisted of:
  - set application review target timelines
  - establish mechanisms to move files to decision in a more timely fashion
  - develop an application tracking mechanism
  - document application prioritization approach
  - improve communication with the applicants

# Application Review Timelines

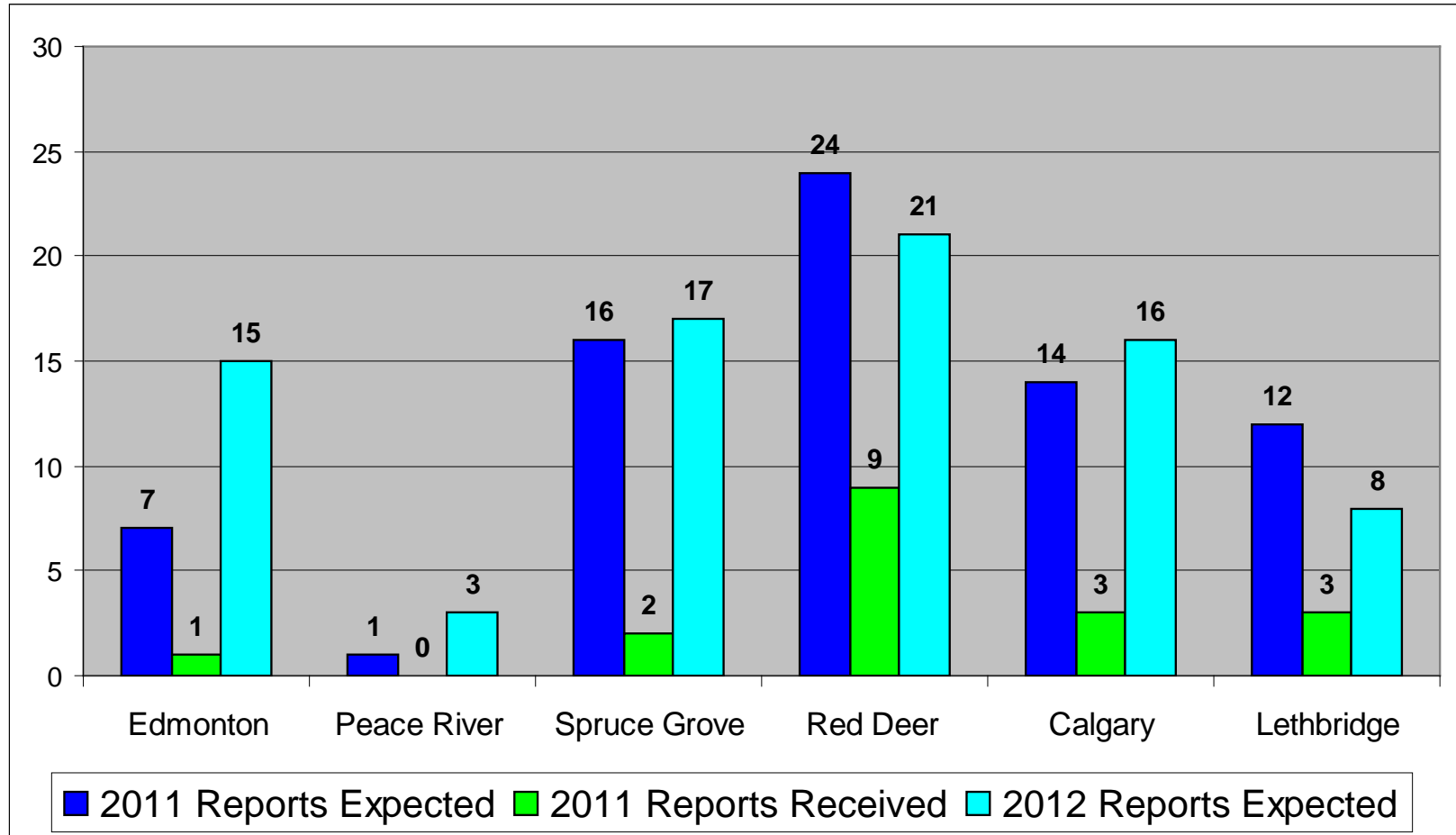
## Accepted Practice – Target Timelines

Activity	<i>Applications w/o SIRs (weeks)</i>	<i>Applications w/ SIRs (weeks)</i>
Application Received/ Forwarded to Districts	1.5	1.5
Admin Review by S&G Coordinator Completed	1.5	1.5
Technical Review of Application	4.0	4.0
Supplemental Information Request(s) SIR to Applicant	n/a	8.0
Response(s) Reviewed by S&G Coordinator	n/a	8.0
Final Security Requested	4.0	4.0
Decision	1.0	1.0
<b>Total Time (weeks):</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>28.0</b>

# 5 Year Reporting Requirements

- Registration holders must submit a 5 year report starting 5 years after registration and every five years after until a Final Reclamation Report is submitted.
- An updated security estimate must be provided with the 5 year report.
- Information provided must be collected within 60 days of submission.
- No activity may occur at the pit after the date the report is due unless the report has been submitted.

# 5 Year Reporting Statistics



# Reclamation Certificates

	Reclamation Certificate Applications Received in 2011	Reclamation Certificates Issued in 2011
Northern Region	5	3
Central Region	1	3
Southern Region	5	4

# Water Act

## Water Use Reporting Amendments

- Alberta Environment and Water's project to amend existing licences to the Water Use Reporting System is now complete.
- Over 4,500 *Water Act* Licences across Alberta were amended to include electronic *Water Use Reporting* conditions.
- The goal of the project was to have 80% of the allocated water reported using the *Water Use Reporting* system.

# Compliance

- Numerous inspections occurred this year across the province.
- Pit inspections occurred on both Private and Public lands.
- Pits located on public lands were inspected jointly with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.
  
- The goal of the pit inspections are to assess and educate operators in the management of their activities to:
  - minimize impact,
  - remediate identified issues, and
  - achieve compliance with regulatory requirements.

# Compliance

- Non-compliance issues identified through inspections included:
  - Operating a pit without appropriate authorization,
  - Absent or insufficient secondary containment for oil and fuel storage,
  - Leaking or damaged drums/pails,
  - Fuel storage near water bodies,
  - Erosion and sedimentation issues relating to dewatering procedures,
  - Insufficient monitoring during dewatering,
  - Contravention to the Registration Holder's Activities Plan,
  - Wastes stored onsite,
  - Weed control, and
  - Encroachment on Buffers.

# Other Initiatives

- Pit Environmental Assessment and Reclamation Security Review Committee (PEARS)
  - Formed as a result of the concerns regarding duplication in security requirements and environmental assessments.
  - Recommendations submitted to the Minister of Environment and Water in December 2011.
- Surface Water Body Aggregate Policy
  - Committee formed to re-evaluate pit operations in surface water bodies and develop a consistent provincial policy.
  - Policy was accepted by executive and is considered official as of January 2011.
  - Alberta Environment and Water currently developing a guidance document for the Policy.

# Electronic Records Keeping System

- Alberta Environment and Water is making strides to be able to accept electronic only submissions.
- February 1, 2012 paper applications will no longer be accepted.
- This applies only to:
  - Applications made under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*
  - Regulatory submissions associated with *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* approval conditions.

# Electronic Records Keeping System

## Submission Requirements

- Transmission Media:
  - E-mail
  - CD-ROM
  - DVD- ROM
  - USB Memory Stick
- Labeling of Media
  - The applicant's name
  - The facility name
  - The full approval number (if applicable)
  - A summary of the content (i.e. Registration Application)
- File Format
  - Portable Document Format (PDF)

# Questions

## Pit Approval Coordinator Contact Information

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**For additional details to the Electronic Records Keeping System**

<http://environment.alberta.ca/01531.html>