

Environmental Assessment Program

2014 Year-End Statistics

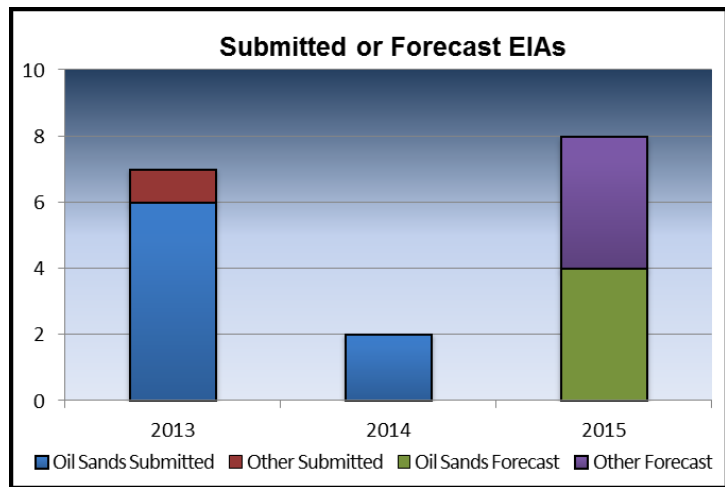
Updated December 31, 2014

Change to Regulatory Responsibility

As of October 1, 2014, the Alberta Energy Regulator is responsible for environmental assessments related to energy resources activity, including upstream oil, oil sands, natural gas, and coal development in the province. Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development continues to be responsible for all other environmental assessments.

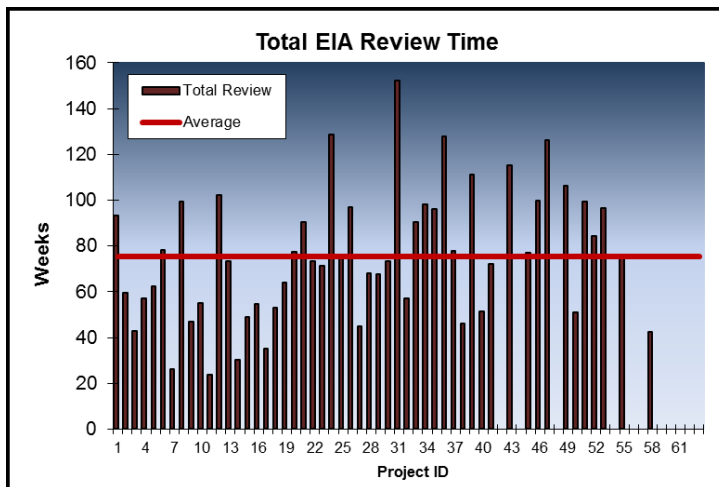
Upcoming Environmental Impact Assessment Reports

The chart to the right shows the number of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports submitted or forecast to be submitted as of December 31, 2014. The chart separates out oil sands projects (mines, upgraders and *in-situ*/SAGD projects) which have formed the majority of the EIA workload in recent years, and other projects.



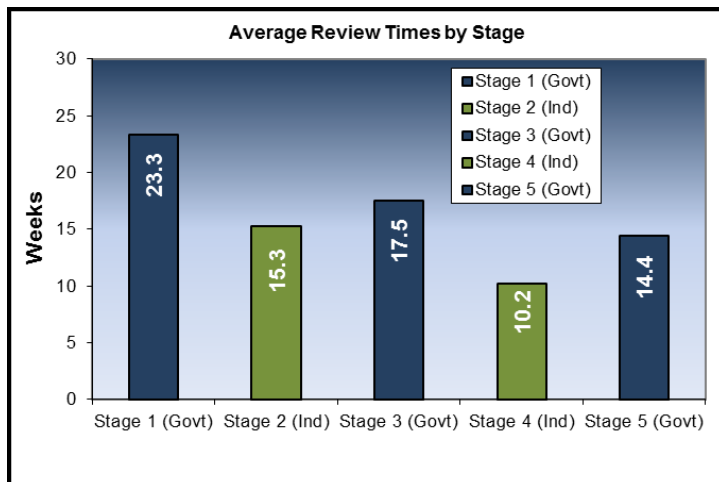
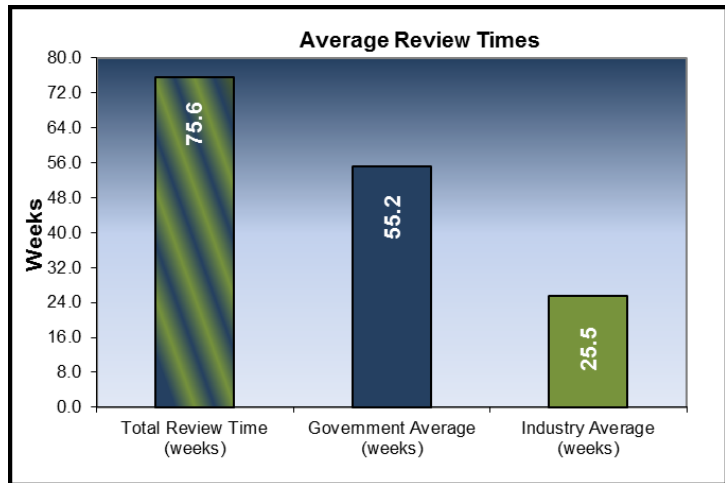
Review Time Averages

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development uses a standard review schedule for EIA projects. The time period starts when the review begins and ends when the Director makes the decision that the EIA report is complete. In 2014 projects 43, 46, 47, 49, 51, 52, 53, 55, and 58 reached the EIA completeness stage.



The chart shows the variability in review times for recent projects. Empty columns indicate projects that are still under review as of this update. The variability in performance is a reflection of the time taken by the government review teams and the time taken by the proponent in responding to the Supplemental Information Requests, as well as the complexity of the project and whether any significant project updates were submitted during the review.

The chart to the right shows the average review times of the government review teams and response times of the proponents.



The chart to the left breaks down the average review times by stage.

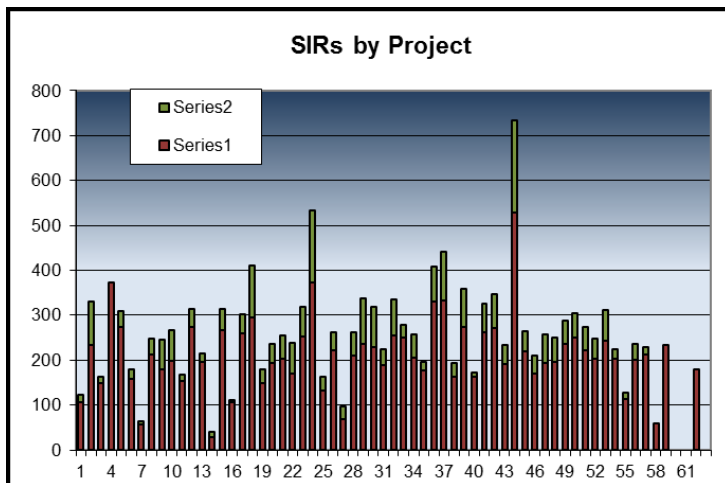
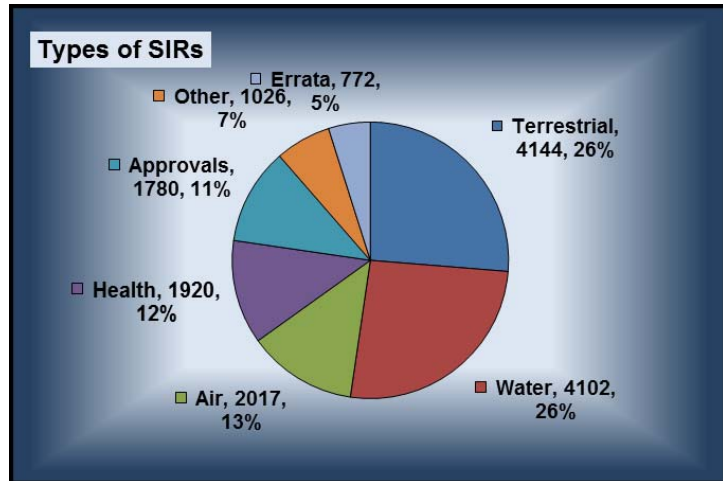
- Stage 1 (Government)**
Review EIA and send SIRs to Proponent
- Stage 2 (Industry)**
Respond to SIRs
- Stage 3 (Government)**
Review response and send any additional SIRs to Proponent
- Stage 4 (Industry)**
Respond to SIRs
- Stage 5 (Government)**
Review response, ask additional SIRs

The two charts above track the cumulative average review times for all of the projects in the Total EIA Review Time chart. The sum of the individual times does not equal the total review time in each chart since projects are at various stages of the review (i.e., only 52 projects may have been completed while 60 have reached Stage 1).

Supplemental Information Requests

During the review of an EIA report and associated applications the review teams may require additional information. This additional information is solicited from the proponent through the Supplemental Information Request (SIR) process. Often more than one round of Supplemental Information Requests is required.

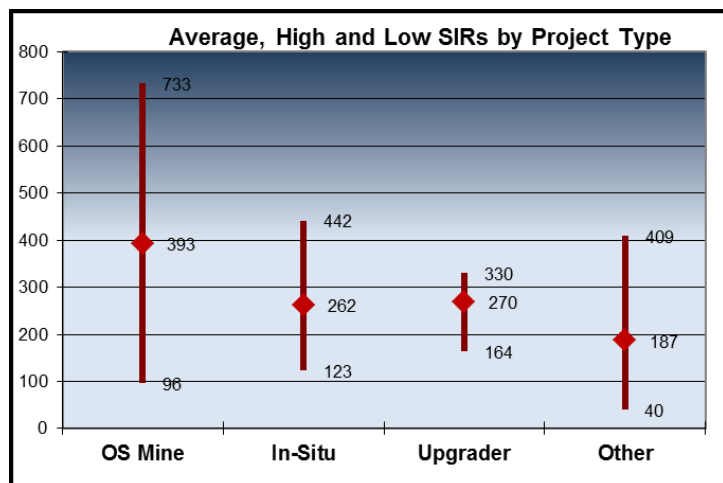
The chart to the right shows the types of questions asked by the review teams. The terrestrial and water teams have the largest number of questions because of the wide diversity of issues they cover.



The chart to the left shows the variability in the number of questions asked. The Project IDs are the same as those in the Total EIA Review Time chart.

The average number of supplemental questions asked is 248.

The chart to the right shows the average number of SIRs by project type, as well as the high and low numbers. Generally, oil sands projects are more complex and generate more questions.



Fast Stats

	Dec 2013	Dec 2014
Number of EIAs currently under review	15	11
Number of EIA reviews completed this year ¹	5	9
Number of Final Terms of Reference published ²	7	1
Average weeks from Final Terms of Reference to submission of EIA (last three years)	13.2	16.5
Average weeks from submission of EIA to start of review (last two years)	12.8	13.3
Number of e-mail notification system subscribers ³	747	769
Number of e-mail system postings	18	15

Third Party Contracting (3PC)

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) started contracting out the review of the EIA and related applications to consulting firms in 2007. The Proponent pays for the reviews but ESRD selects the consulting firm and provides the direction for the work. See the Alberta [Environmental Assessment](#) website under the Third-Party Contracting (3PC) heading for more information.

	Dec 2013	Dec 2014
Number of 3PC Contracts (Active/Completed)	45 (13/32)	48 (10/38)
Number of Different 3PC Contractors	14	14
Average 3PC Team Size	11	11
Total Amount Spent by Proponents to Date on 3PC Projects	\$8.524M	\$9.535M
Total 3PC Hours Billed to Date	49,930	59,557

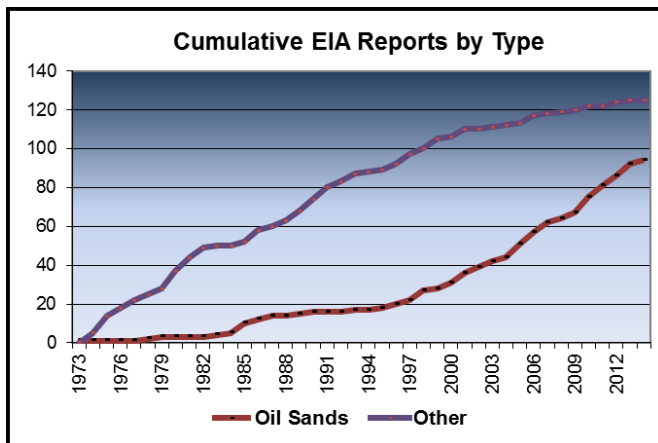
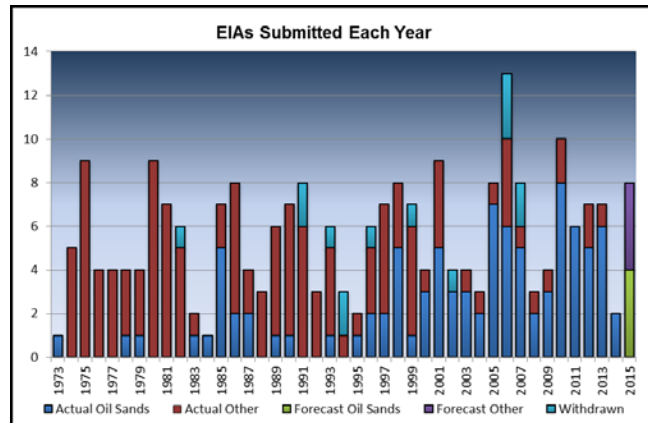
1 The following project reviews were completed in 2014: Cenovus Energy Inc. Pelican Lake Grand Rapids, Laricina Energy Ltd. Germain Project Expansion, Sasol Canada Holdings Limited Canada GTL, Devon NEC Corporation Pike 1 Project, Coal Valley Resources Inc. Robb Trend Mine Project, BlackPearl Resources Inc. Blackrod Commercial SAGD Project, Cenovus TL ULC Telephone Lake In-Situ Project, Cenovus FCCL Ltd. Foster Creek Thermal Project—Phase J Expansion, MEG Energy Corp. Surmont Project

2 A leading indicator of future EIA report review workload.

3 If you are interested in receiving EIA status updates input your e-mail address at [Environmental Assessment Mailing List](#).

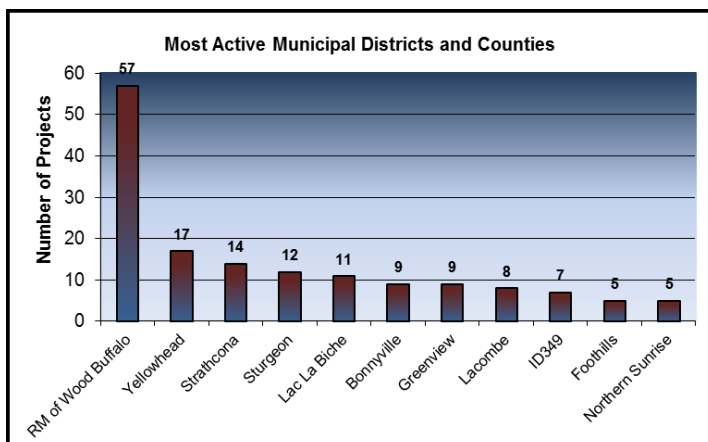
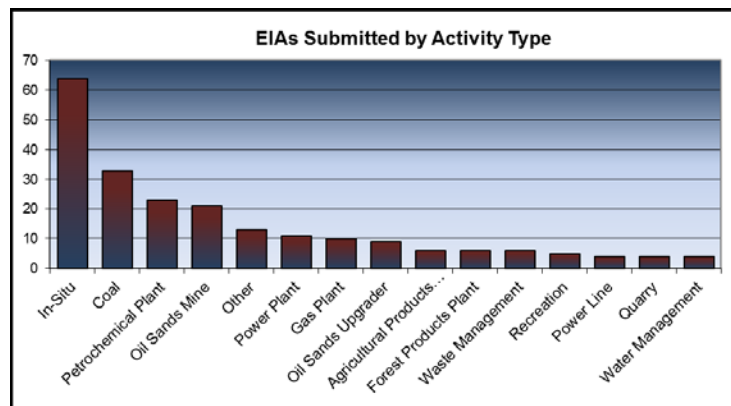
Long Term Trends

The chart to the right shows the number of EIA reports submitted each year. Projects in the chart shown as Withdrawn were submitted and then withdrawn or cancelled by the proponent at some time prior to the EIA completeness decision. All other charts in this report exclude withdrawn projects.



The chart to the left shows the running submission totals, split into oil sands and non-oil sands projects.

The chart to the right shows the number of EIA reports by project type (in-situ and coal projects dominate). Many of the other categories (e.g., gas plant, agricultural products plant, forest products plant, recreation) have not had submissions in several years.



The chart on the left shows the most active municipalities in which EIA projects are located.