

CER Regulatory Perspective

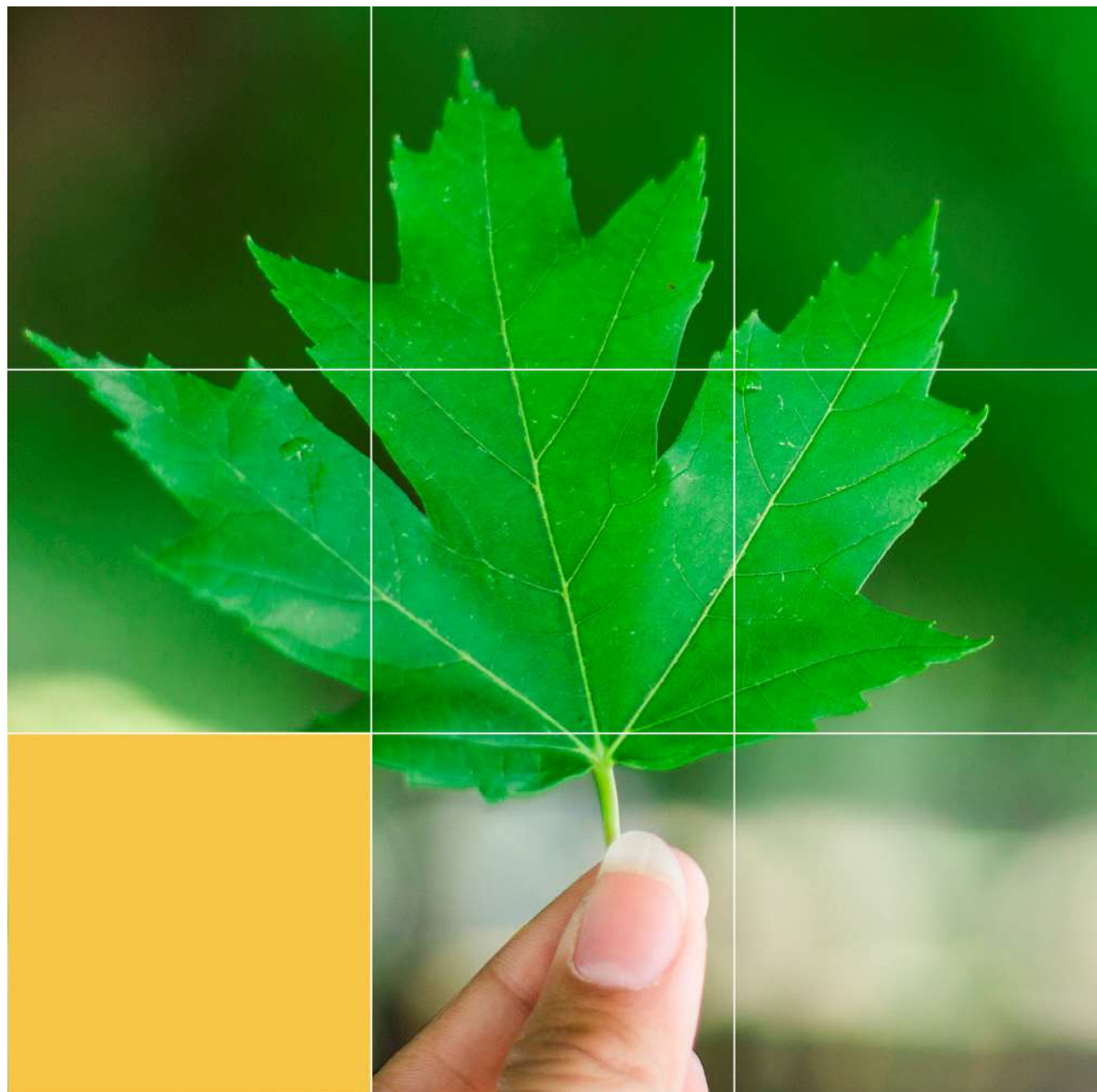
Contaminated sites across
Canada

Adele Houston
Hilary Barber

Environmental Protection
Canada Energy Regulator (CER)

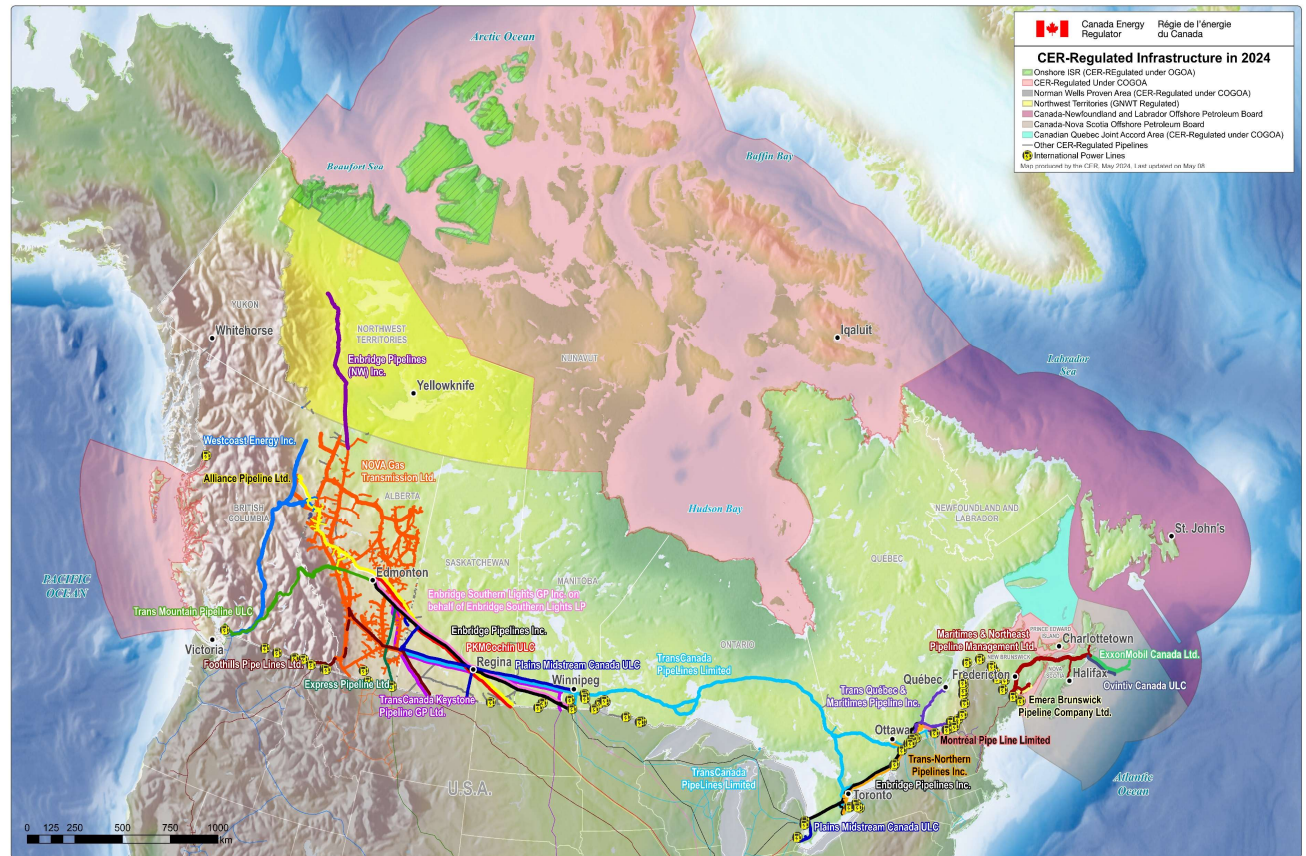
SustainTech 2025
19 March 2025

Canada^{🇨🇦}



CER Mission

To regulate energy infrastructure in a way that prevents harm and ensures the safe, reliable, competitive and environmentally sustainable delivery of energy to Canada and the world



What the CER regulates

Over 71,000 km pipelines

- 71% gas
- 29% oil
- <1% commodity

Over 1,500 km power lines

Linear infrastructure crossing provincial, international boundaries

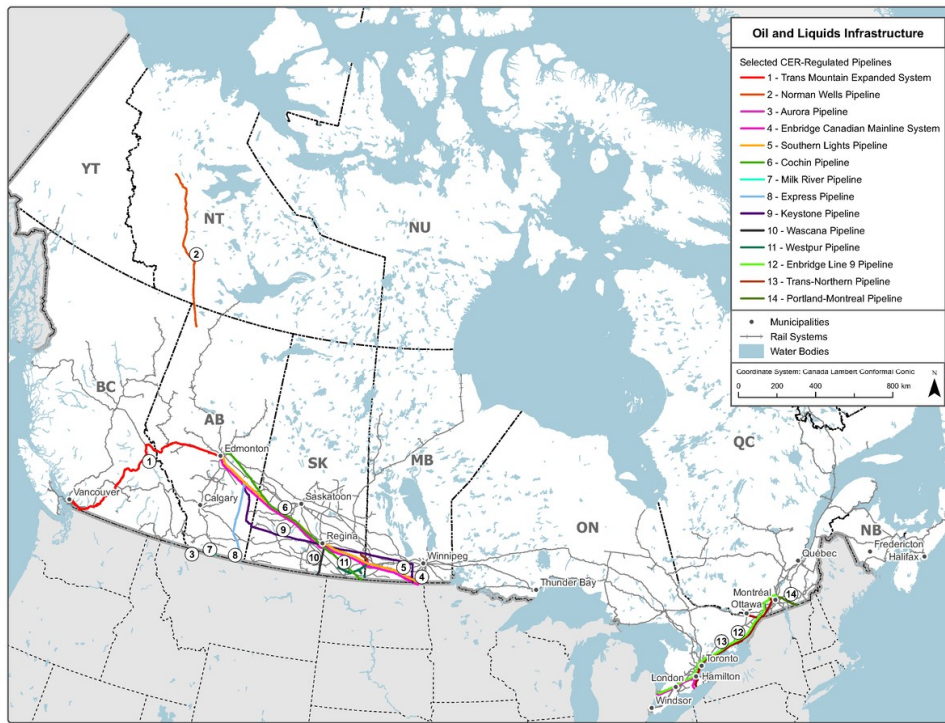
Canada 



The map is a graphical representation intended for general informational purposes only.

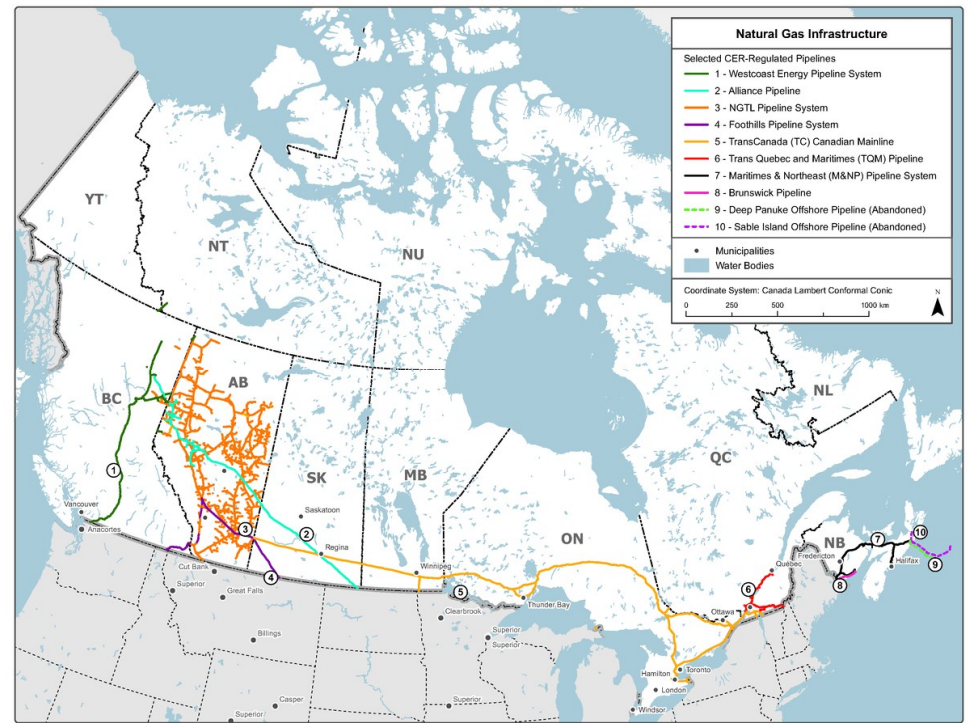
Major CER-regulated oil and natural gas pipelines

Oil and liquids infrastructure



The map is a graphical representation intended for general informational purposes only. Map produced by the CER, August 2024. Last updated on Aug 09

Natural gas infrastructure



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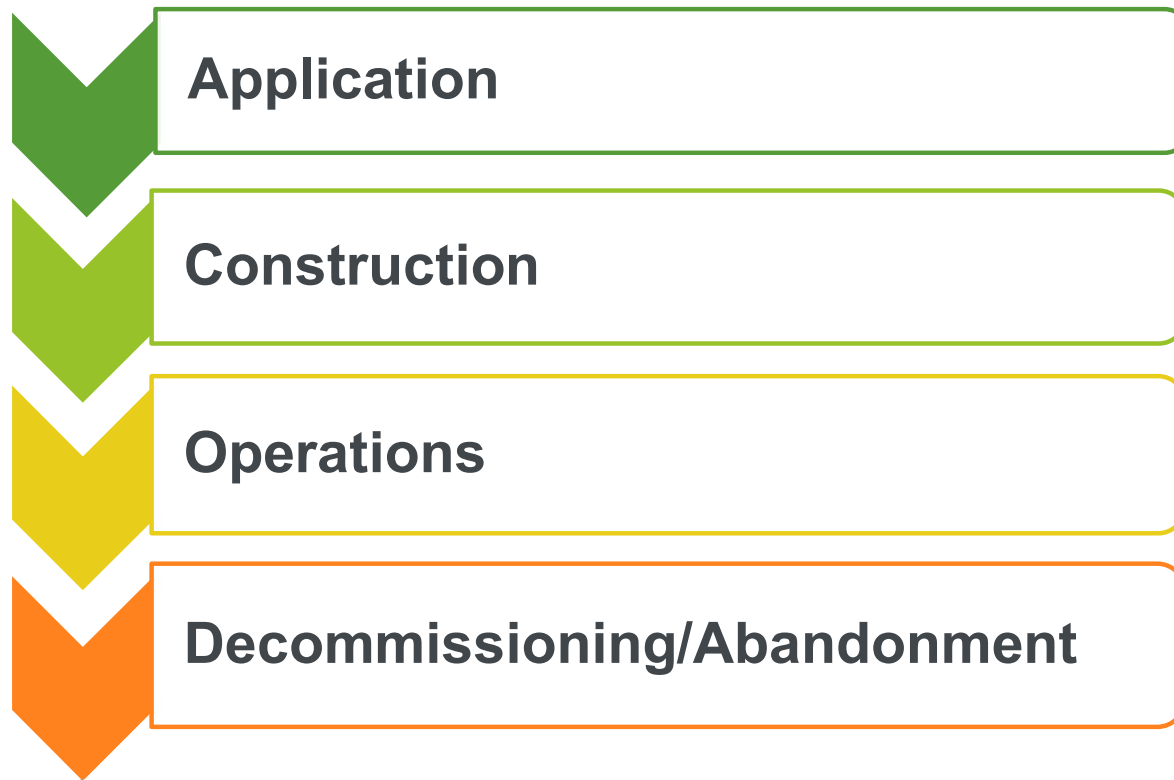
Regulatory context

CER verifies compliance to make sure companies meet requirements and pipelines are constructed, operated, and abandoned in a safe and secure manner that protects people, property and the environment

- Canadian Energy Regulator Act (**CER Act**)
- Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act (**COGOA**)
- Oil and Gas Operations Act (**OGOA**)
- Onshore Pipeline Regulation (**OPR**) is performance-based



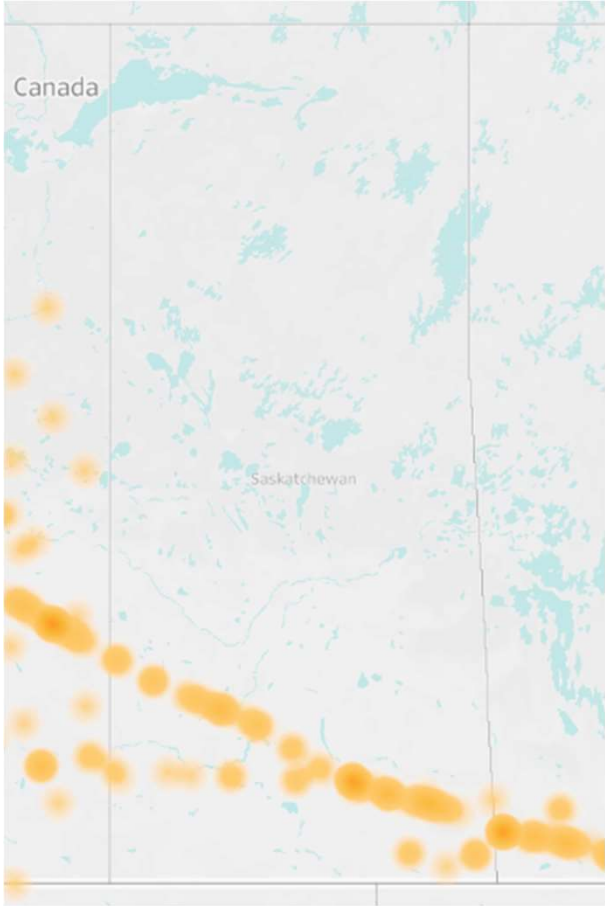
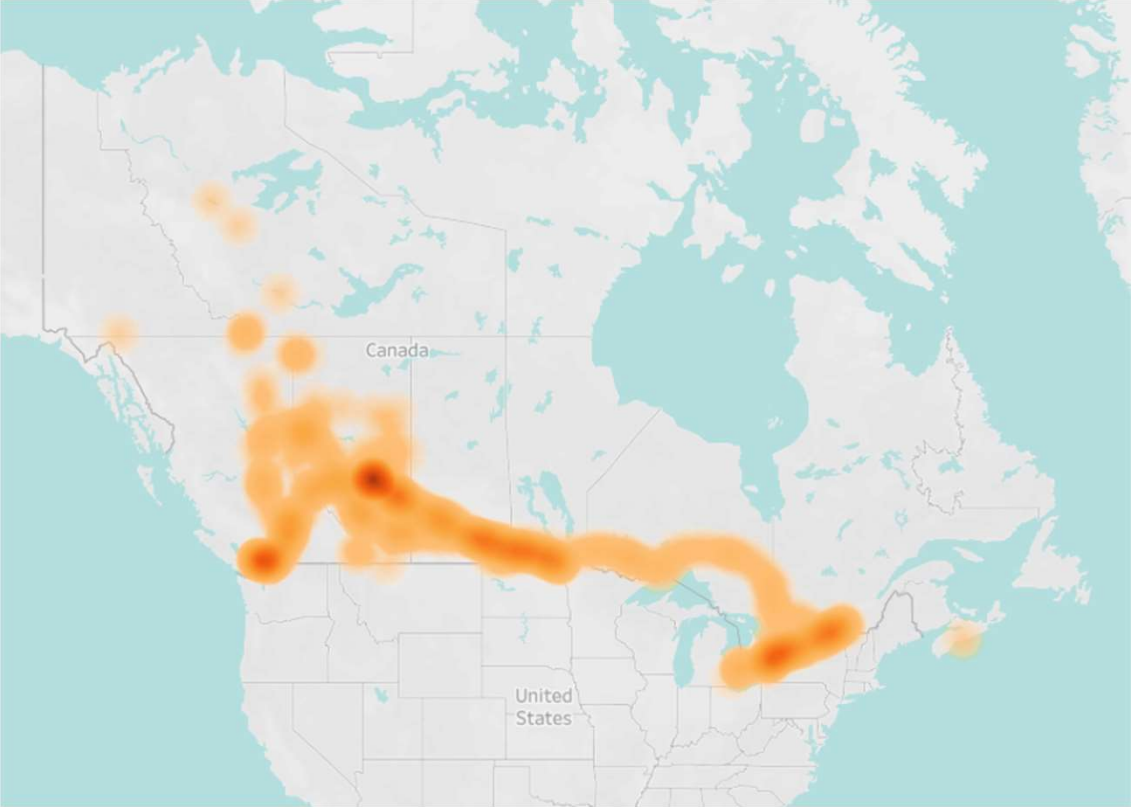
CER is a lifecycle regulator



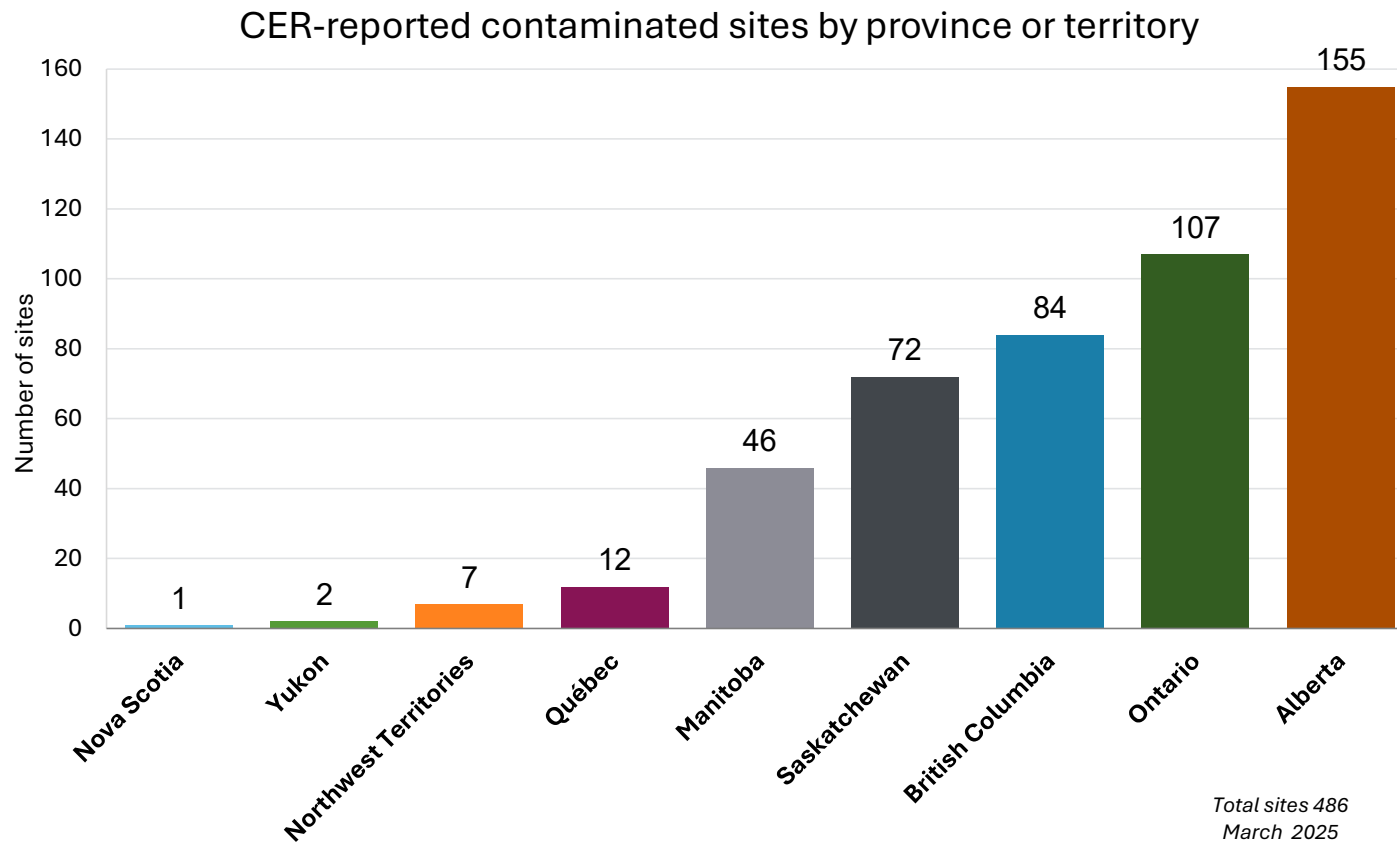
CER is a performance-based regulator

To allow companies flexibility in *how* they achieve compliance

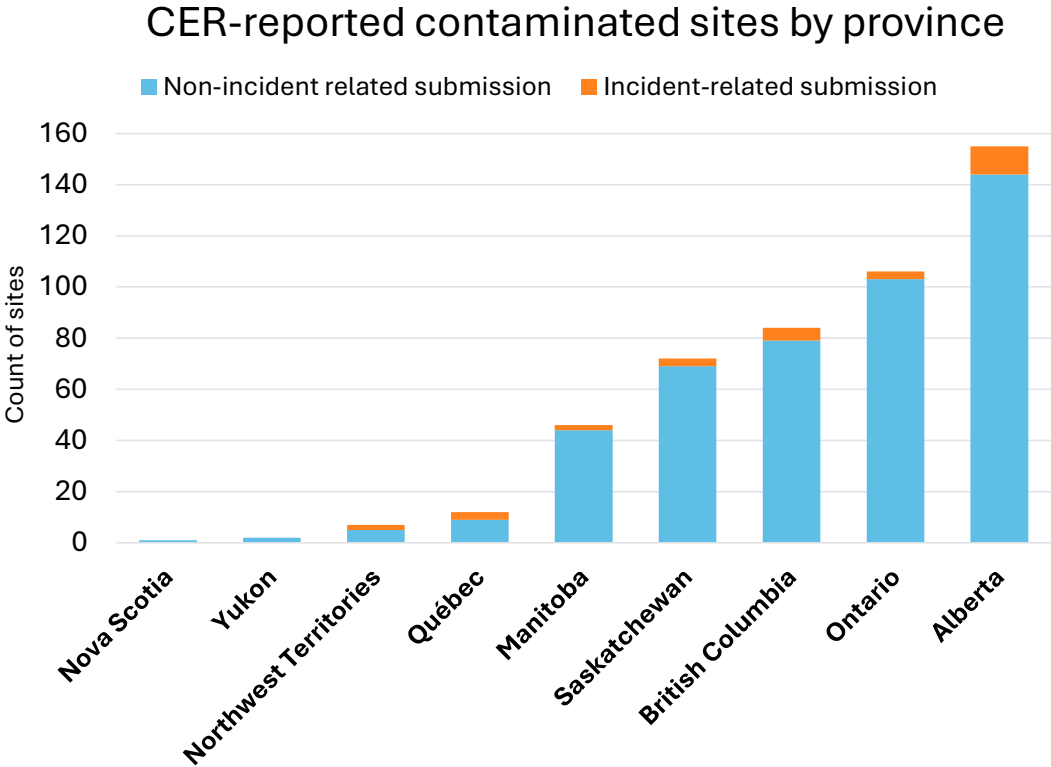
Contaminated sites reported to the CER



Contaminated sites reported to the CER



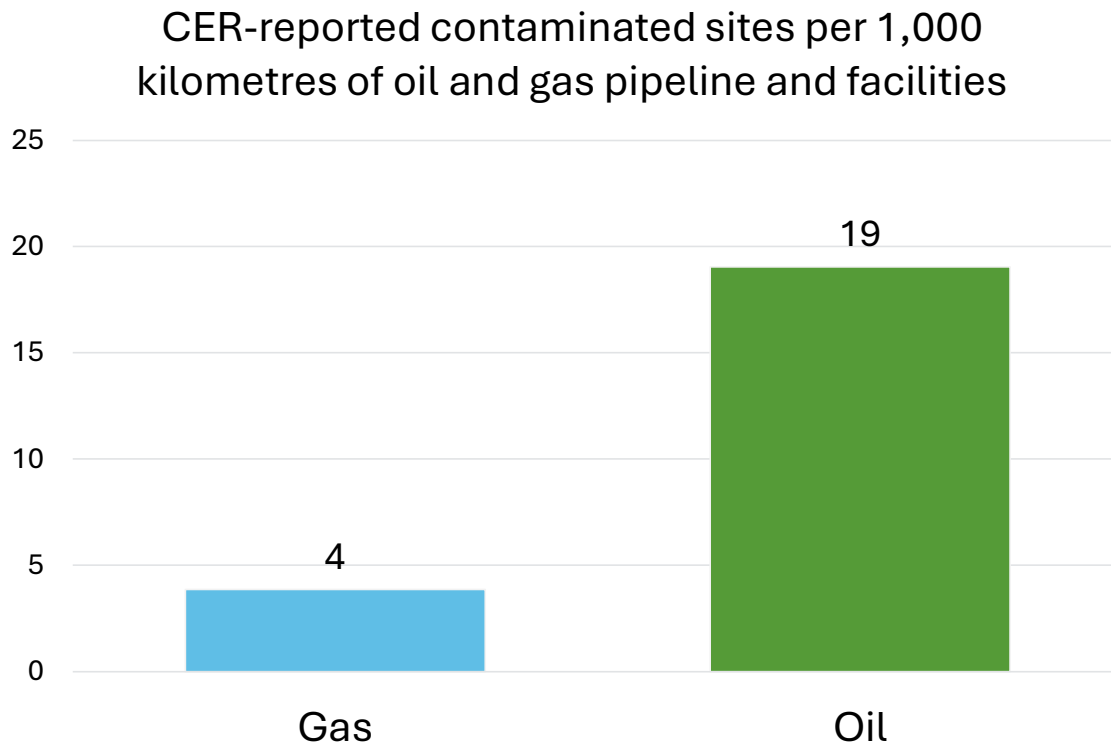
Contaminated sites reported to the CER



CER Interactive Pipeline Map



Contaminated sites reported to the CER



Gas pipeline: 51,000 km

- 198 reported contaminated sites

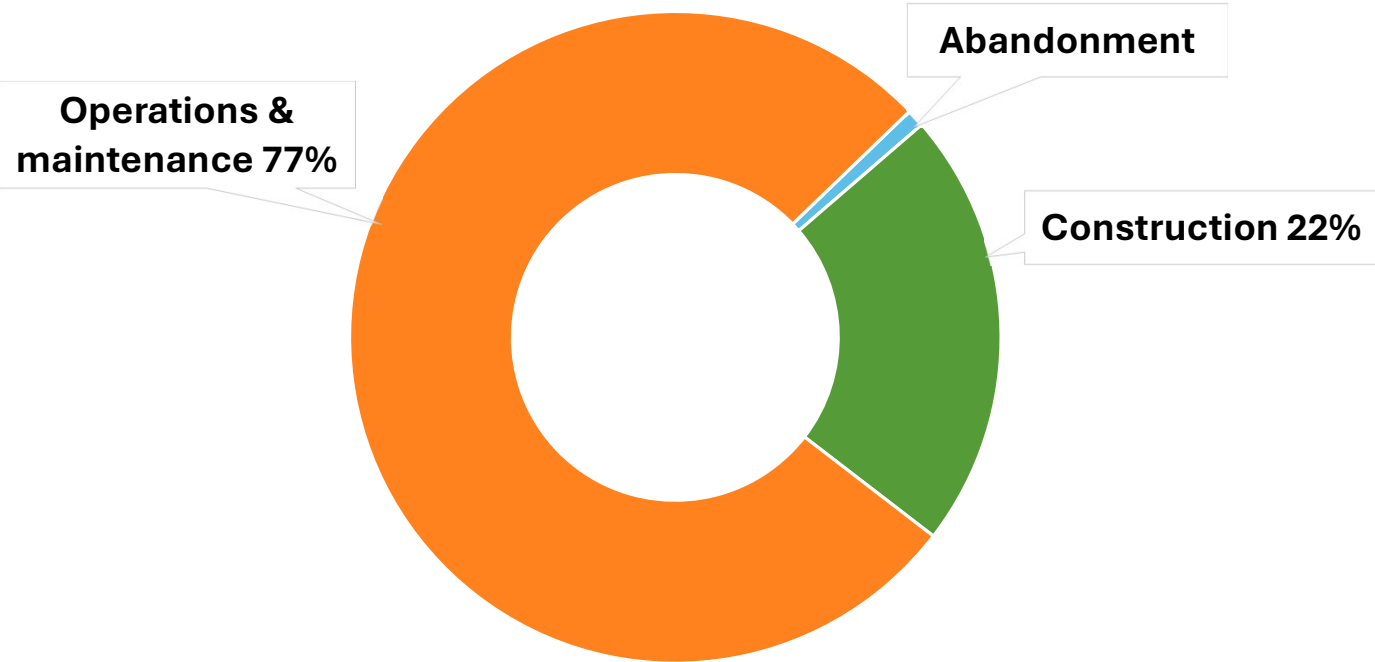
Oil pipeline: 20,600 km

- 394 reported contaminated sites

Operational, abandoned, deactivated, decommissioned pipelines

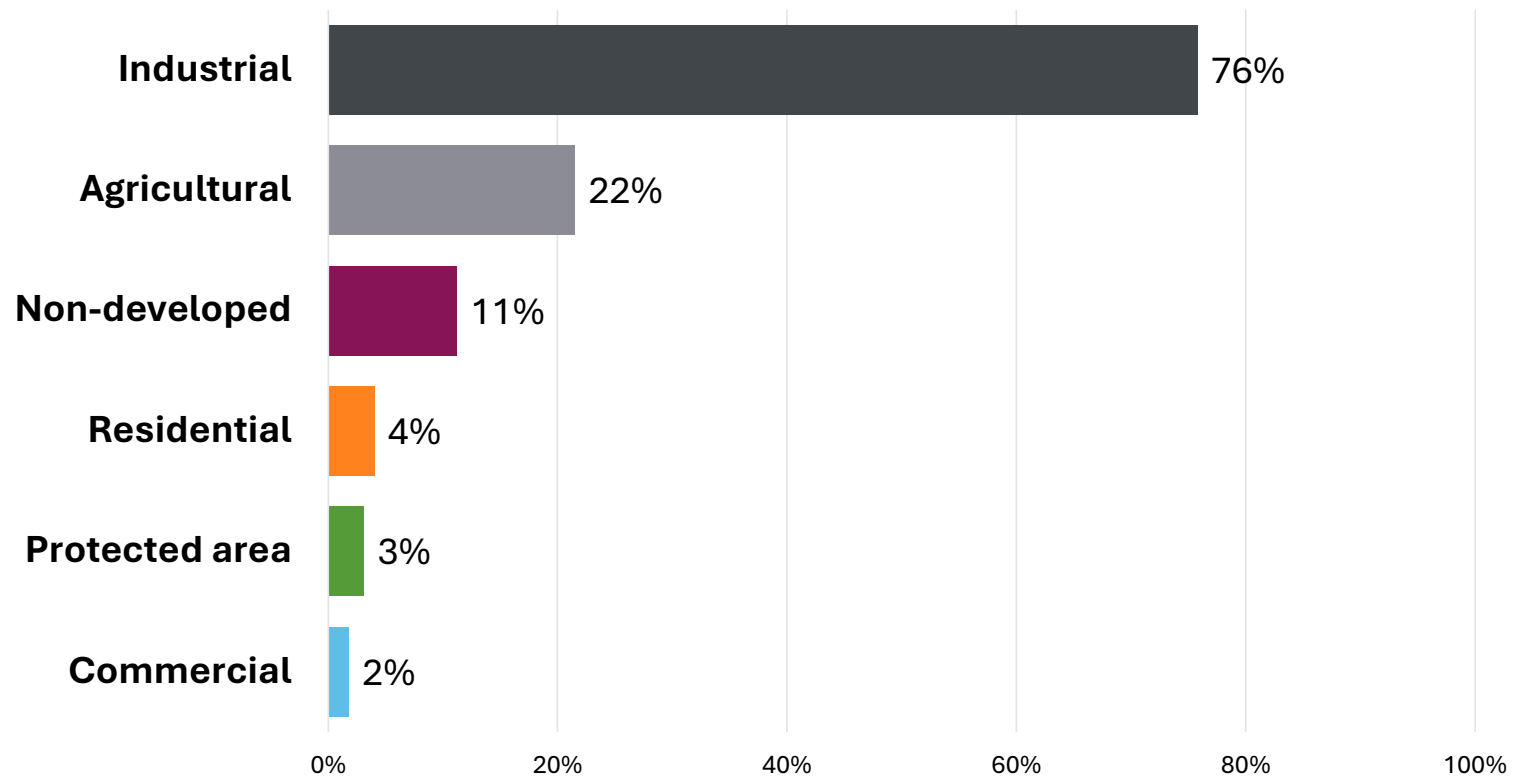
Contaminated sites reported to the CER

Activity at the time of contamination discovery



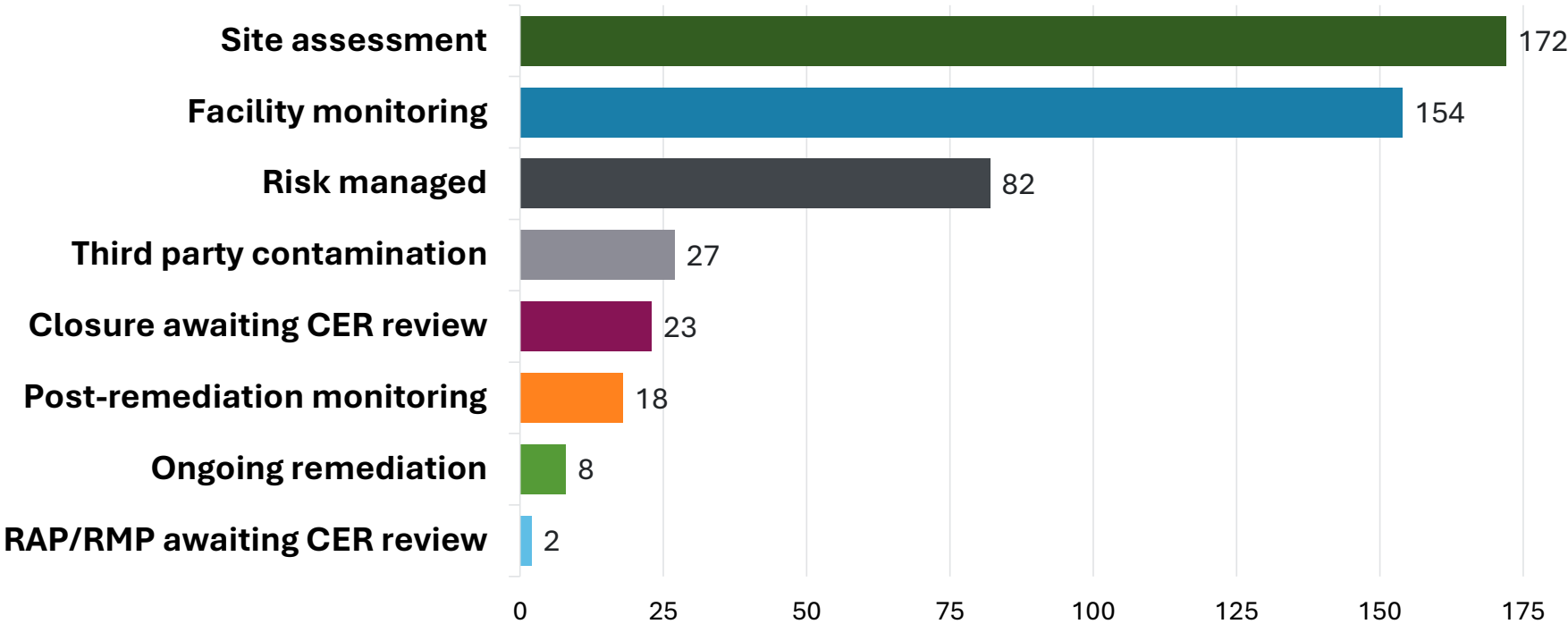
Contaminated sites reported to the CER

Reported land use at the time of contaminated site discovery



Contaminated sites reported to the CER

Status of CER-reported contaminated sites



Total sites 486



Contaminated sites information

Pipeline Profiles

RegDocs

Interactive Pipeline Map

CER Remediation webpage



Pipeline Profiles

Explore key data and information for pipelines regulated by the Canada Energy Regulator, including use, safety and environment, tolls, and financials.



Select a pipeline profile to explore

Oil and Liquids

- [Aurora](#)
- [Cochin](#)
- [Enbridge Bakken](#)
- [Enbridge Line 9](#)
- [Enbridge Canadian Mainline](#)
- [Express](#)
- [Genesis](#)
- [Keystone](#)
- [Milk River](#)
- [Montreal](#)
- [Enbridge Norman Wells](#)
- [Southern Lights](#)
- [Trans Mountain Expanded System](#)
- [Trans-Northern](#)
- [Wascana](#)
- [Westspur](#)

Natural Gas

- [Alliance](#)
- [Brunswick](#)
- [Foothills](#)
- [Many Islands](#)
- [Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline \(M&NP\)](#)
- [NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. \(NGTL\)](#)
- [TransCanada \(TC\) Canadian Mainline](#)
- [Trans Québec & Maritimes \(TQM\)](#)
- [Vector](#)
- [Westcoast or BC Pipeline](#)



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Explore BERDI

The Canada Energy Regulator's new [BERDI search tool](#) provides easy access to regulatory data on Canada's land and water, weather and wildlife, species at risk, environmental protection, public safety, and more.

Welcome to REGDOCS

REGDOCS is a regulatory database for activities and transactions conducted at the Canada Energy Regulator.

Search by Keyword(s):

 Search

Exclude Receipts

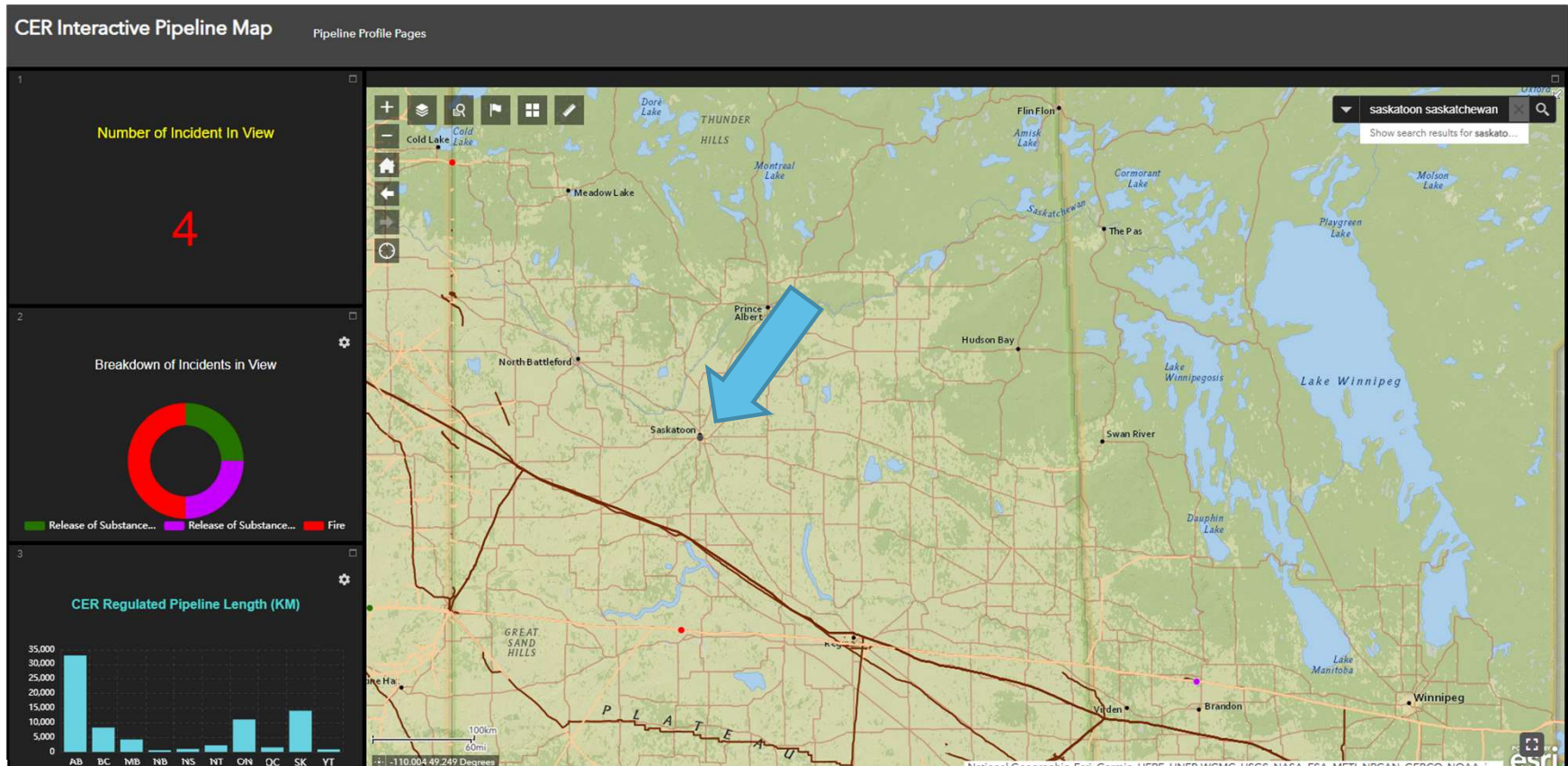
Search by Document Number:

 Search

Examples: A12345, A12345-9, A1A1A1

Canada 

Contaminated sites information



Contaminated sites information

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[Home](#) > [Safety and Environment](#) > [Environment](#) > Remediation

Reporting

We require companies to report contamination they encounter. The CER 2020 Remediation Process Guide further explains what needs to be reported and what activities need to take place after contamination is reported.

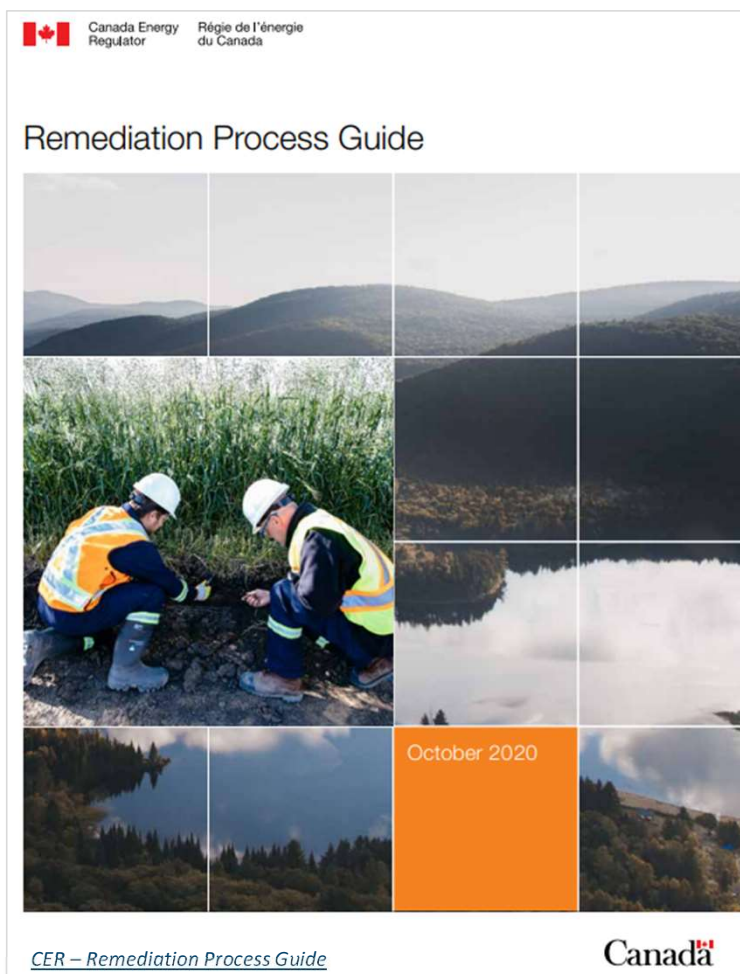
To learn more about the Notices of Contamination that have been submitted to the CER, click on the button below.

[View the Notices of Contamination](#)

If a release occurs, companies need to follow the CER [Event Reporting Guidelines](#).
[Learn more about reporting releases to the CER.](#)

- To view the NOCs and annual updates that have been submitted to the CER visit [REGDOCS](#).
 - You can search by **Company – Notification of Contamination (Featured Item) – Year**. This will bring you to the list of NOCs and annual updates submitted by a company that calendar year. To search for all annual updates linked to the NOC, search using the REM number (ex. REM2021-000).
- NOC submitted since 15 August 2018 are also available as a [data set on Canada Open Government](#). The dataset is updated monthly. Where applicable, the dataset has been integrated with the CER's pipeline information product Pipeline Profiles (see the Safety and Environment section).

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Remediation Process Guide, or RPG

- Guidance on how to demonstrate contamination is being adequately remediated or risk managed

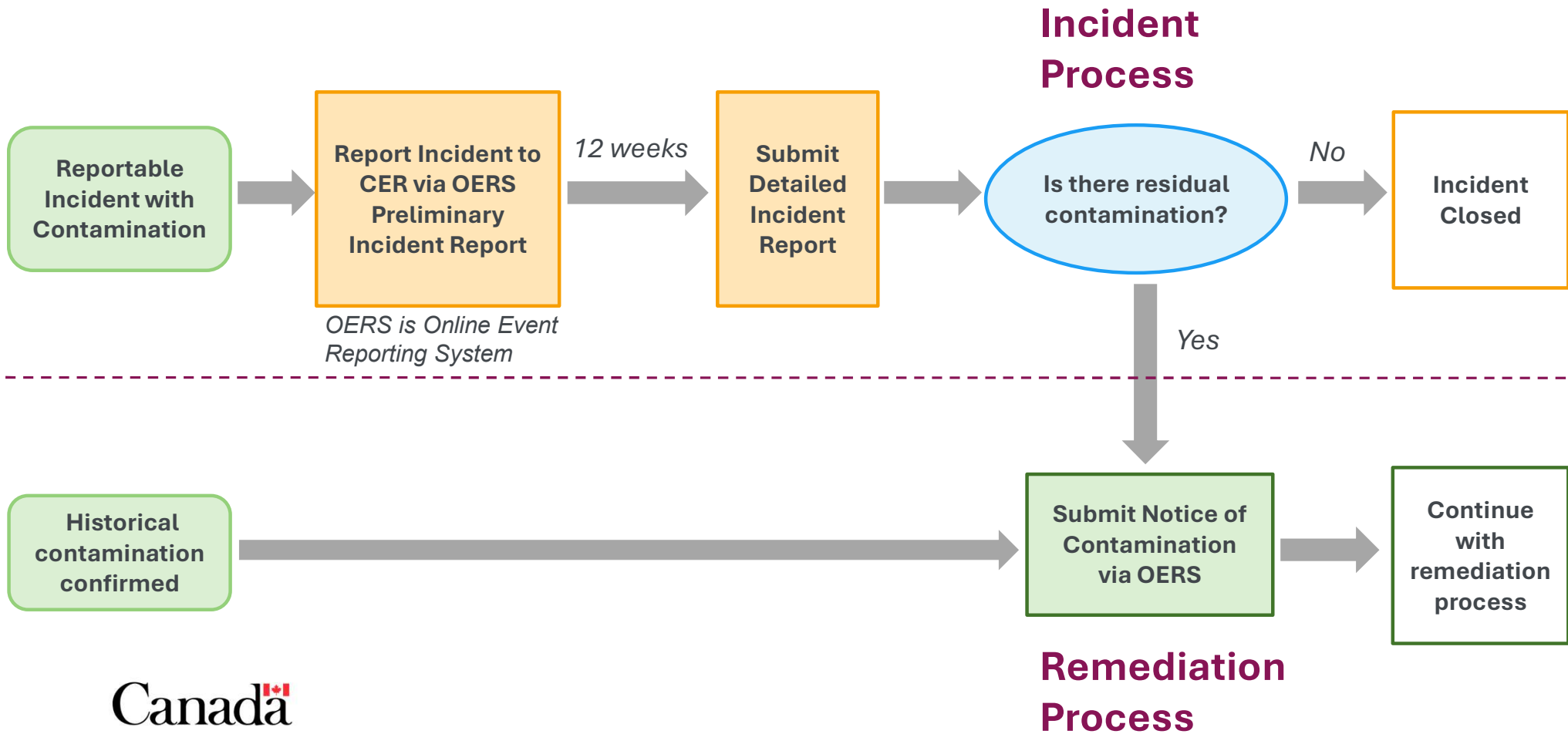
Found on the [CER Remediation](#) webpage

- Also, where RPG or CER Remediation updates are found

RPG update being prepared

Canada

Incident vs. historical contamination remediation process transition



Remediation Process

Notification and Engagement

- Companies **establish** a systematic and proactive approach to project- specific engagement with potentially affected persons and communities
- A **Record of Engagement** is a component of remedial action plans, risk management plans and closure plans

Annual Updates

- All **active** sites
- Submitted to the CER by **30 June** every year
- **Updated 2025** in the Online Event Reporting System

Common questions/gaps in reports

- **Conceptual Site Model**, especially Chemicals of Concern
- Analytical reports (or other **lack of evidence** for conclusion)
- Include **groundwater discussion**
- Worked example of calculations
- Clear definition of “population” for statistical description



Thoughts and observations

Climate change readiness

- FCSAP (2022) Integrating Climate Change Adaptation Considerations into Federal Contaminated Sites Management

Remedial approaches

- Risk management
- Innovation in remedial approach
- Site-Specific Remedial Objectives



Questions?

remediation@cer-rec.gc.ca



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