

COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT PUBLIC AND MEDIA RELEASE CRITERIA

OPEN INVESTIGATIONS

While accurate, clear, concise and timely information is critical during an environmental emergency, we will be cautious to not release any information that could compromise the investigation. Outside of an emergency, Alberta Environment will not release any information about an ongoing investigation, except to confirm that we are investigating.

ENFORCEMENT ORDERS/ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ORDERS/WATER MANAGEMENT ORDERS

Alberta Environment will issue an information bulletin to media on all Water Management Orders, Enforcement Orders and Environmental Protection Orders issued to companies, organizations or municipalities under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA), the *Climate Change and Emissions Management Act* and the *Water Act*.

Bulletins will be issued on orders naming individuals only if it is deemed to be in the public interest and does not interfere with further progress on the file or issue.

Public interest is evaluated and determined if the offence:

- Presents an opportunity to educate the public about the proper handling of the incident;
- Helps deter future incidents of a similar nature; or,
- Warrants a public notice in terms of significant, visible or adverse affect on the environment, or if Alberta Health Services determines there is a public health risk. (NOTE: with public health issues, Alberta Health Services would issue the news release).

All bulletins must be approved by the lead investigator, legal services and the Director of Communications before being issued. Bulletins will be archived on the Government of Alberta website and will also be posted and archived on the Alberta Environment website. Bulletins will be issued within five working days of the order being issued. If an order is substantially amended (by adding to or revising the remedial requirements) an additional information bulletin will be issued. Summary information on all orders issued, including to individuals, will also be posted online quarterly as part of Quarterly Compliance Reports.

ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES, WARNING LETTERS

Alberta Environment will *not* issue information bulletins on warning letters, administrative penalties or tickets/fines issued under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancements Act* (EPEA), the *Climate Change and Emissions Management Act* or the *Water Act*.

Information on warning letters, administrative penalties or tickets/fines will be posted online quarterly as part of Quarterly Compliance Reports, including the name of the individual, company or municipality issued the penalty; the date of the penalty; a brief description of the offence and the location where the offence occurred. Information will be posted within 90 days of the previous quarter.

CHARGES UNDER EPEA, CLIMATE CHANGE AND EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT ACT AND WATER ACT

Alberta Environment will post information on the Alberta Environment website once charges are laid and the defendant has been served for all charges under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, the *Climate Change Emissions Management Act* or the *Water Act*. Information will be posted within five working days of the charges being served. An information bulletin will be issued to advise media each time a charge is added to the web site.

Information on charges will include the name of the individual, company or municipality charged; the date the charges were laid; the date of the alleged offence; a brief description on the alleged offence (one to two sentences); the specific charges (including the section of the legislation) and the date and location of the next scheduled court appearance. All content must be approved by the Crown Prosecutor and the Director of Communications before being posted.

SENTENCING

Alberta Environment will issue an information bulletin to media on all sentences related to charges under the *Environmental Protection Enhancement Act* (EPEA), the *Climate Change Emissions Management Act* and the *Water Act*. Information bulletins must be approved by the Crown Prosecutor and the Director of Communications before being released.

Information bulletins will be archived on the Government of Alberta website and will also be posted and archived on the Alberta Environment website. Bulletins will be issued within five working days of the sentence being issued. Once a case has been concluded, the sentence will be added to the Alberta Environment webpage with a link to the information bulletin. Should charges be withdrawn or the individual, company or municipality charged be acquitted or found not guilty, the webpage will be updated to reflect that information.