

Compliance Assurance Program

Alberta Environment and Parks administers a variety of environmental and natural resource related legislation and programs. The Operations Division of our department has the core responsibility for developing and delivering the Compliance Assurance Program. The program begins with a foundation of sound **regulatory requirements** (or “rules”) through statutes, regulations, authorizations, codes of practice and associated policies, standards and guidelines. Compliance with these requirements is achieved through a combination of education, prevention and enforcement activities.

The key responsibilities of our department’s compliance assurance staff include preparation and distribution of educational material and guidance documents on compliance, planning and conducting proactive compliance monitoring programs through inspections, audits and reviews, responding reactively to emergent non-compliance incidents, conducting investigations, and undertaking enforcement responses.

Education

The **Education** component of compliance assurance promotes compliance by raising awareness of environmental stewardship, sustainable resource development, the regulatory requirements, how to comply with those requirements, and the consequences of not complying with the requirements.

Caring for the environment is a shared responsibility. Alberta Environment and Parks works with Albertans, municipalities and industry to ensure they understand the role they play in protecting our environment and natural resources.

Educational initiatives focus on the regulated community which holds approvals, licenses and registrations under our mandated legislation, and individuals or companies whose activities might not require authorization from our department, but could still impact the environment or our natural resources.

Prevention

The **Prevention** component of our program promotes compliance by building capacity and the willingness within the regulated community to comply with the regulatory requirements. It also identifies and addresses potential problems before they result in non-compliance. Prevention is a shared responsibility and includes the activities and actions of this department, other regulatory authorities, the public, the regulated industry and other stakeholders.

The department regulates a wide range of industrial facilities in the province under our mandated legislation. This is most commonly done through conditions set out in environmental approvals or codes of practice.

Enforcement

The **Enforcement** component of our program encourages compliance, if necessary compels compliance, and also deters future non-compliance. Parties that are in non-compliance are required to remedy problems – to correct the non-compliance and to mitigate any damages. Enforcement also contains deterrence measures, which are used to discourage future contraventions and repeat contraventions. Deterrence is strengthened by timely, predictable, and appropriate enforcement actions that cause potential violators to determine that the risk of detection and the resulting sanctions outweigh the potential benefits of non-compliance.

The focus of our compliance assurance program is on educating the regulated community, preventing non-compliance and obtaining voluntary compliance. Where non-compliance is identified, all of the circumstances will be evaluated and our staff will work to identify and correct them. However, those who do not comply with the laws and regulations will be held responsible for the effects of their actions.

For More Information

For more information on the compliance assurance program, contact the Alberta Environment and Parks regional office nearest you.

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