

# Status Update Template

February 25, 2025

## Chapter 2, Energy and Resources-Licensing and Inspecting Active Oil and Gas Wells and Facilities, Provincial Auditor 2024 report Volume 1

<b>Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)</b>	<b>Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report</b>	<b>Planned Actions for Implementation</b>	<b>Timeline for Implementation</b>
<b>1. We recommend the Ministry of Energy and Resources justify approving applications for new oil and gas wells or facilities where the operator owes money to the Government of Saskatchewan.</b>	33	Partially Implemented	Exploring options to address debt checks prior to issuing a new license. Considerations include how to define debts owing and threshold values.	Have a definition of debt owing and process and policy in place to address licensing process when there are debts owing.	September 2025
<b>2. We recommend the Ministry of Environment document key judgments about environmental risks when reviewing and approving oil and gas well and facility applications.</b>	35	Not yet initiated	Will explore options to formalize and record key decision factors for decisions related to oil & gas permitting.	Evaluation of key considerations related to legislative requirements for non-routine well licence applications. Checklists could be designed and retained to ensure all environmental risks are defined and assessed and correlate specific permitting clauses to reduce risks.	January 2026
<b>3. We recommend the Ministry of Energy and Resources implement a risk informed plan for inspecting oil and gas wells and facilities.</b>	38	Partially Implemented	The Ministry has commenced a review of wells and facility data, including that being generated from the 5-year inspection project currently underway, to inform risk assessment criteria.	We want to have a risk assessment process that is adaptive and able to be continuously improved that will identify inspection targets annually.	April 2026

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<b>4. We recommend the Ministry of Energy and Resources develop standard expectations to guide staff when completing oil and gas well and facility inspections and escalating enforcement actions.</b>	39	Partially Implemented	The ministry staff have been compiling current practice and policy information from each field office, in person information gathering sessions with 2 of the 4 regional offices has occurred and gathering/updating of documentation is in development. A higher-level compliance framework is in place and using collected data and risk evaluation, that higher level framework would be tailored for inspection compliance activities.	Have central and shared documentation for policy and process associated to inspections. Identify standard inspection work and that which is unique to each office area within that. Have documented compliance policy built specifically for inspection enforcement.	April 2026
<b>5. We recommend the Ministry of Energy and Resources review oil and gas waste-disposal facility reports timely to monitor whether environmental risks are identified requiring further action.</b>	42	Fully Implemented	The ministry has developed a database to document waste processing facility reports received and reviewed and a system enhancement in IRIS was released in December 2024 to support online submissions. The review policy has been documented and will undergo regular assessment with an eye on continuous improvement to determine if changes are needed.	Document process and ensure review of reports is occurring as it should with any follow up actions taken as appropriate.	Implemented, December 2024
<b>6. We recommend the Ministry of Energy and Resources enhance written reports given periodically to senior management by including analysis on regulatory activities (e.g., inspections, complaints, non-compliance) related to oil and gas wells and facilities.</b>	43	Fully Implemented	The ministry leverages tools and methods used for data collection and sharing as outlined in some of the work on previous recommendation. COGNOS and Power BI are a couple of tools used to support all the ongoing work to address the audit report and to improve our capacity to provide senior management reporting on work.	ER uses COGNOS, PowerBI and ArcGIS to analyze collected data and information as well as generate reports to inform decision making. Have dashboards in place to share licensing and inspection information. Can build on demand reports and continuously improve data sharing using these tools.	December, 2024

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## Chapter 10, Energy and Resources-Managing Future Cleanup of Oil and Gas Wells, Provincial Auditor 2023 Report Volume 1

<b>Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)</b>	<b>Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report</b>	<b>Planned Actions for Implementation</b>	<b>Timeline for Implementation</b>
<b>We recommended the Ministry of Energy and Resources complete its assessment of the financial and environmental risks arising from legacy well sites, assess its liability, and develop a plan for cleaning up contaminated legacy well sites. (2012 Report – Volume 2, p. 253, Recommendation 8; Public Accounts Committee agreement December 9, 2013)</b>	140	Implemented	In 2018, the Ministry of Energy and Resources determined the proportion of legacy well sites needing to be inspected to assess the environmental risks of legacy well sites. The Ministry completed those inspections and results indicate limited environmental issues with legacy well sites. Legacy well sites were cleaned up without an independent report by an environmental specialist.		
<b>We recommended the Ministry of Energy and Resources manage the financial and associated environmental risks related to the timely cleanup of inactive wells and facilities. (2012 Report – Volume 2, p. 253, Recommendation 7; Public Accounts Committee agreement December 9, 2013)</b>	141	Implemented	Effective January 1, 2023, the Ministry of Energy and Resources implemented the Inactive Liability Reduction Program to manage the increase of inactive wells in Saskatchewan. This requires oil and gas companies to spend a pre-determined amount each year on cleaning up inactive wells.		