

**Ministry of Natural Resources and
Forestry**

Resources Planning and Development
Policy Branch
Policy Division
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

**Ministère des Richesses naturelles et
des Forêts**

Direction des politiques de planification et
d'exploitation des ressources
Division de l'élaboration des politiques
300, rue Water
Peterborough (Ontario) K9J 3C7

September 1, 2023

Subject: Proposed *Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act* regulation changes for special projects and well security

Hello,

We are writing today to share information about regulation changes being proposed under the *Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act* that would:

- Establish the processes and requirements that would enable projects to test or demonstrate new or innovative activities in Ontario to pursue authorization under the *Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act*, including measures to support the protection of people and the environment and provide for local and Indigenous community engagement and consultation, where appropriate, on applications for licences and permits.
- Remove well security exemptions and caps, going forward, for all wells under this Act, when
 - wells are newly drilled, deepened or converted to another use, or
 - a well licence is transferred.
- Increase security caps when companies amalgamate (i.e., no longer allow for security to be refunded to operators on the basis of a security cap when companies amalgamate).

If approved, the proposed changes would come into effect on January 1, 2024.

If approved, the proposed changes to well security exemptions and caps would also apply to operators who make requests for transfers, new well licences, conversions, deepening, or consents to adjust security due to amalgamations, that are received by the ministry after the date these proposed changes were posted to the environmental and regulatory registries.

More details on the proposed changes can be viewed in the proposal notice on the Environmental Registry of Ontario: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-7507>. Feedback on the proposed changes can be provided directly to the ministry or through the environmental registry.

The decision notice for changes to the *Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act* to support the regulation of special projects and to enhance measures to safeguard people and the environment that were proposed last spring through *Bill 91, Less Red Tape, Stronger Economy Act, 2023* (<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-43/session-1/bill-91>) has now been posted and can be viewed here: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6752>.

If you would like more information or have any questions about the proposed changes, please contact Andrew Ogilvie, Manager of Resources Development Section, at 705-761-5815 or through email: Resources.Development@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Keyes", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jennifer Keyes
Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch