



Fact Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Board Profile

Under the Natural Resources Conservation Board Act

- The Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) contributes to the sustainable development of Alberta's natural resources through open, impartial and fair public reviews of major development projects that will or may affect the people, economy and environment of the province.
- Established in 1991 under the *Natural Resources Conservation Board Act*, the Board is a quasi-judicial tribunal that reviews applications for proposed developments. These developments include those from the forestry, tourism and mining sectors, and water management projects or other projects determined by the Cabinet of the Alberta government.
- The NRCB has a mandate to determine whether a proposed project is in the public interest. In making its decisions, the NRCB considers the social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed projects.
- The NRCB may, *with prior Cabinet authorization*, grant an approval on any terms and conditions that the NRCB considers appropriate. Cabinet authorization may include additional terms and conditions imposed by Cabinet. The NRCB also has the authority to deny or defer applications.
- For projects that the Board reviews and determines are in the public interest, Cabinet authorization is required *prior* to commencing project development. Also, obtaining an NRCB approval does not dispense with the need to obtain other licenses or permits as outlined in other acts, regulations or by-laws.
- The Board is accountable to Albertans for the careful use of public funds and encourages resolution of issues between parties before the hearing process in order to minimize review time and costs.
- The NRCB encourages all Albertans, particularly those directly affected by a proposed development, to participate in the review process.
- Copies of the *Natural Resources Conservation Board Act*, *Rules of Practice of the Natural Resources Conservation Board Regulation*, and the *Administrative Procedures and Jurisdiction Act*, are available through King's Printer. NRCB guides are available by contacting the Edmonton office or visiting the NRCB's website (www.nrcb.ca).

The NRCB is committed to balanced decision making in the public interest.

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