



OIL & GAS IN OUR WATERSHED

The **Lesser Slave Watershed Council (LSWC)** is in the process of developing an **Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)**. This process involves input from government, industry stakeholders, and individuals to address issues and concerns about our watershed, including ecosystem health, water quality, and sustainable water usage. Using the information we collect, the IWMP will assess these concerns and develop appropriate solutions.



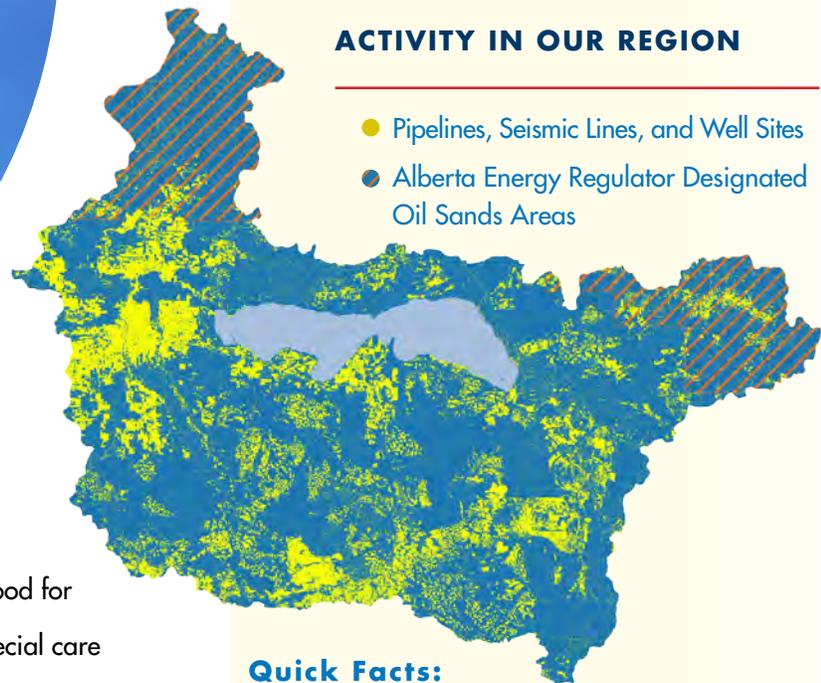
The oil and gas industry is the most significant economic driver in the Lesser Slave Watershed, providing a livelihood for many families in the region. Industry activity requires special care to protect aquatic ecosystems in the watershed.

Oil and gas companies and associations, the provincial government, and the Alberta Energy Regulator all have parts to play in the sustainable management of our watershed.

The IWMP will bring all these interests together to identify strategies and best practices to allow for desirable economic outcomes alongside environmental preservation.



SNAPSHOT OF OIL & GAS ACTIVITY IN OUR REGION



Quick Facts:

- Pipelines, seismic lines, and well sites have extensive coverage in the watershed.
- The Swan River Sub-watershed, contained within our watershed, holds the third largest oilfield deposit in Canada.
Source: MD of Big Lakes website under Services/Economic Development/Industrial Infrastructure
- Oil sand areas are located in the Lesser Slave





WATERSHED RISKS

- Land clearing for access to pipelines and well sites increases the risk of runoff and sedimentation into ditches, streams, and rivers, reducing water quality.
- Stream crossings may cause stream silting and barriers to fish movement, which decreases water quality and fish populations.
- Oil and gas uses fresh water for extraction.
- “Fracking” extraction techniques may create cracks in underground aquifers, causing water to leak out or allowing contaminants to move into the groundwater.

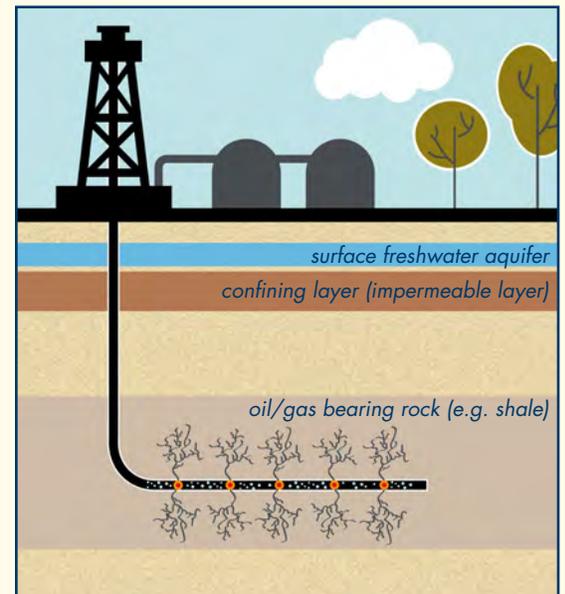


PRACTICES TO REDUCE RISKS

- Identify and avoid sensitive habitats.
- Employ advanced drilling technologies (such as horizontal, extended reach, and multilateral drilling) to reduce the number of wells and production pads and avoid sensitive areas.
- Work with other industries to minimize disturbances (roads, transmission lines, pipelines).
- Progressive reclamation of decommissioned well sites, roads, and facilities.
- Identify opportunities for water recycling and water treatment to reduce fresh water use in extraction.
- Prompt spill response.

FRACKING

In hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” a high-pressure fluid (usually water, sand, and chemical additives) is injected into deep-rock formations to create cracks through which natural gas and oil can flow more freely. This process allows access to oil and gas resources that could not be extracted using conventional techniques, but it also raises environmental concerns. For instance, fresh water injected underground is permanently removed from the natural “water cycle.”



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The health of our watershed impacts the well-being of our environment, plants and animals, and the people who live and work here. The more information we have, the better equipped we are to offer sustainable, effective solutions to issues facing our watershed.

Your opinions and experiences are a crucial part of a successful plan.

We want to hear from you! To talk to us, learn more, or get involved, please call the LSWC at **780-523-9800** or visit **www.lswc.ca**