



**Alberta  
Energy  
Regulator**

# ***2016 CPANS Annual Conference and General Meeting***

***May 3 2016***

## ***Taking Action in Peace River***

**The AER Response to Odours and Emissions from Heavy Oil  
Operations in the Peace River Area of Alberta**

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*The **Alberta Energy Regulator** (AER) ensures the safe, efficient, orderly, and environmentally responsible development of hydrocarbon resources over their entire life cycle.*

## Agenda:

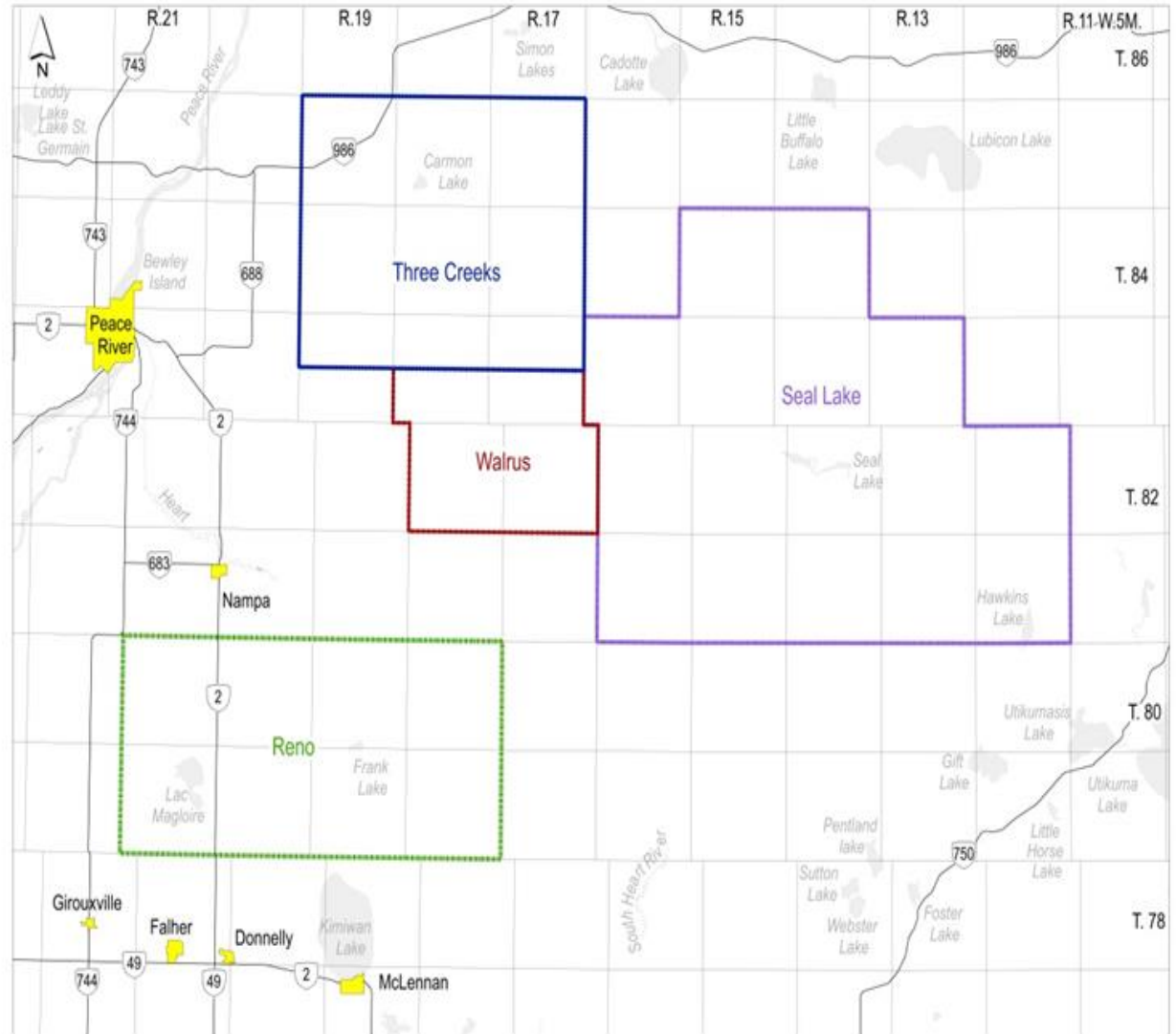
- Context and Scope
- Regulatory Outcomes
- Overview of Directive
- Stakeholder Consultations
- Performance Dashboard
- Next steps

## Context

- 》 Inquiry into odours and emissions (Jan 2014)
- 》 Released report on recommendations (March 2014)
- 》 Accepted recommendations (April 2014)
- 》 Enacted *limited* regulatory changes (April 2014)
- 》 New requirements have been developed that will:
  - Operationalize remaining recommendations
  - Consolidate requirements into single, area-based framework

# Area – Based Boundaries

Scope



**Outcomes**

## Minimize odours and emissions to the extent reasonably practical

1. Reduce gas vented from all sources
2. Increase conservation of gas
3. Reduce flaring and incineration of gas
4. Reduction of odour events
5. Meet regional air quality targets
6. Increase public confidence in the regulatory system







## Gas Conservation

### Objective:

» Increase the conservation of gas resources

### Requirements:

» Prescribe 95% conservation rate (new operators)

» Approved gas conservation plan (existing operators)

## Fugitive Emissions

Objective:

› Reduce fugitive emissions

Requirements:

› Inspection standards

› Repair times

› Reporting

**Truck Loading  
and Unloading,  
Tank  
Maintenance**

**Objective:**

» Minimize odours from truck transfers; tank maintenance

**Requirements:**

» Install emissions controls

» Develop emissions control program

## Ambient Air Monitoring

### Objective:

- » Establish air monitoring program

### Requirements:

- » Mandatory participation

## Objective:

» Consistent reporting on progress in meeting outcomes

## Requirements:

» Annual performance reporting

## » Continuous Engagement

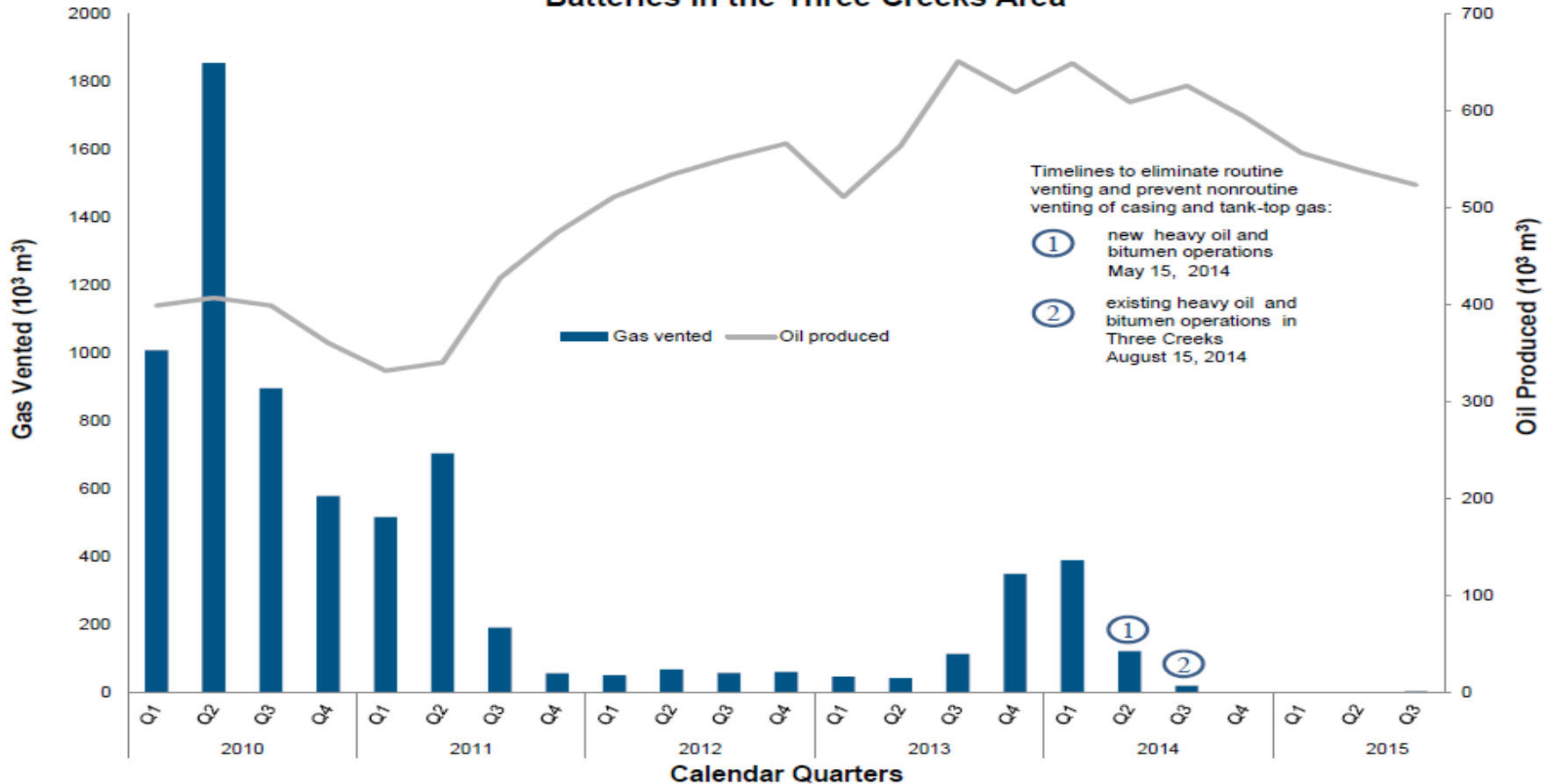
- Area residents
- Industry operators
- Industry associations
- Environmental NGOs
- Government of Alberta partners

## » Public Consultation

- Draft requirements posted online - 30 – day public consultation period in October 2015

# Peace River Performance Dashboard – Example 1

**Figure 3 – Vented Gas and Oil Production Reported to Petrinex from Oil and Bitumen Batteries in the Three Creeks Area**



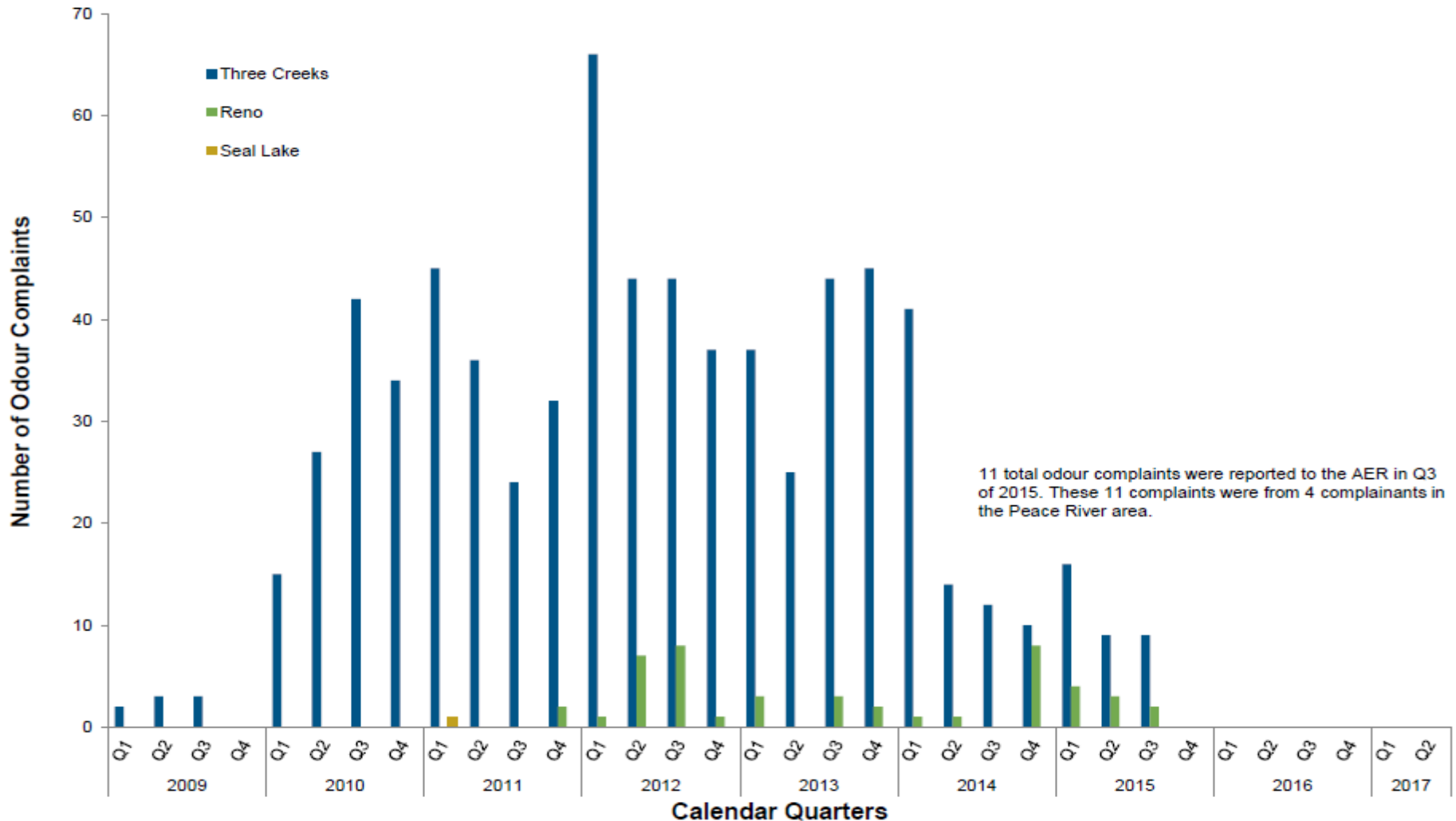
Vented gas is reported by operators to Petrinex. Data provided includes all oil and bitumen batteries. Venting requirements identified above apply to heavy oil and bitumen operations. Units of 10³ m³ are 1000 cubic metres.

Data extracted from Petrinex on January 4, 2016. Chart published on January 21, 2016. See disclaimer provided on outcome page.

The AER is following up on the venting reported by Murphy Oil Company Ltd. in Q3 of 2015.

# Peace River Performance Dashboard – Example 2

Figure 15 – Odour Complaints Reported to the AER from the Three Creeks, Reno, and Seal Lake Areas



Data extracted from AER internal systems on January 7, 2016. Chart published on January 21, 2016. See disclaimer provided on outcome page.



**Further  
Information**

» AER website

- Taking Action in Peace River  
(<https://www.aer.ca/about-aer/spotlight-on/taking-action-in-peace-river>)

AER

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