
From Complex to Common Sense

Transforming Alberta's Environmental Regulatory System



Objectives for Today



Share **what** AEPs regulatory systems transformation journey is about over the next 2-3 years







Discuss **why** this matters to industry, proponents and our shared broader context



Translate **how** benefits and improvements will be realized by Albertans

Call to Action - *Why System Transformation is Needed Now?*

-  We need to bring systems into the 21st century
-  AEP is committed to a *common sense, fair, and predictable* regulatory process while maintaining our high environmental standards
-  Opportunity is now – it aligns with government’s commitments to Red Tape Reduction (RTR), Outcomes-Based Regulation, Economic Recovery
-  AEP recognizes that a well-functioning regulatory system is key to the province's economy and future investment

This will be one of the most significant transformations AEP has ever undertaken

How We Are Becoming a Modern Regulator – Requires a Systems Approach

GOAL: Outcomes-Based Regulatory System



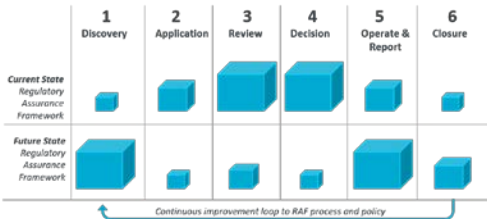
SOCIAL



ENVIRONMENTAL



ECONOMIC



Transformed Regulatory Process



Digitized & Automated Regulatory Platform



Modernized Crown Land Management



Local and Sub Regional Plans and Policies

So *What* is System Transformation?

Systems Transformation is the *integrated portfolio of department activities* essential to realizing a fully transformed environmental regulatory management system.

System Transformation is:

- Changing the way Albertans will navigate the regulatory system
- Harmonizing Regulatory *Process – Technology – Policy – Legislation*
- Built upon *3 Integrated Pillars* of Department Activity

Regulatory Transformation Program

A 'one-window' regulatory process that is integrated, outcomes-based, and risk-managed.

Sub-Regional and Local Planning

Site based planning to balance the diverse goals of Alberta's land, air, water and biodiversity.

Integrated Crown Land Management

Modernized legislation to balance the shared use of Crown Land and Parks for economic, social and environmental purposes

Focus for Today – *We are Here* in Our Journey

1. INTEGRATED CROWN LAND MANAGEMENT



Modernized Legislation, Regulations, Classifications, and Policy



Multi-Use Crown Land Management for Public and Park Land: Recreation and Tourism, Conservation, Sustainable Development

2. SUB-REGIONAL & LOCAL PLANNING AND POLICY



Site Specific Policy and Plans



Sector Examples: Caribou Sub-Regional Plans, Fish & Wildlife, Designated Industrial Zones (DIZ)

3. REGULATORY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM



1. RTR – Red Tape Reduction



2. RAF – Regulatory Assurance Framework



3. DRAS – Digital Regulatory Assurance System

How Crown Land Management Supports Regulatory Transformation

Modernizing and Integrating Crown Land Management

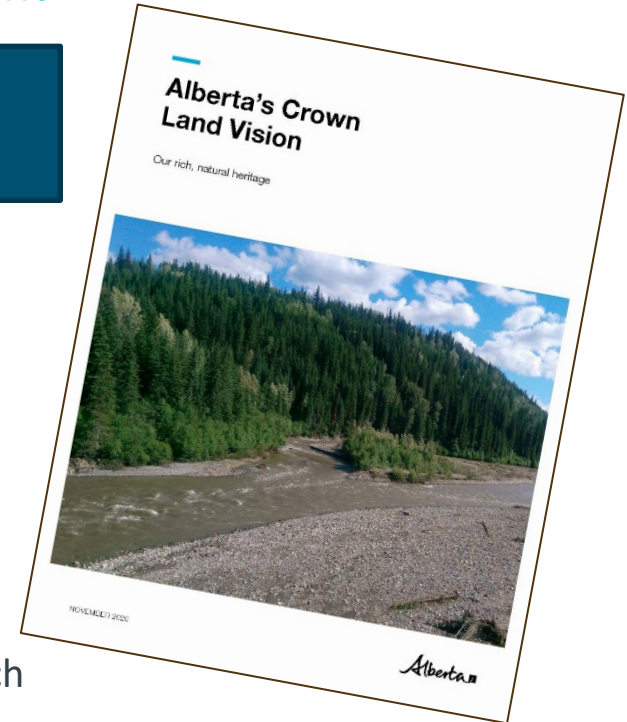
Modernizing Crown Land Management will Support Transformed Regulatory Processes

This Will Include:

- Managing **all** provincial Crown lands (parks and public land)
- Achieving a clear and understandable system for land use
- Moving to sustainable funding and partnerships for recreation
- Focusing on outcomes and reducing red tape
- Modernizing is about improving *how* Crown land is managed

Planned Activities Include:

- Share government's vision for integrated, modernized approach
- Talk to Albertans on sustainable recreation – funding opportunities, partnerships
- Optimize delivery of structured recreational activities
- Update and streamline legislation, and approaches and tools; further engagement to come



Benefits of Sub-Regional and Local Planning on Regulatory Transformation

Two Examples to Share



Sub-Regional Plans Example 1: Caribou Recovery Planning

WHY SUB-REGIONAL PLANS MATTER

1. Sub-regional plans (SRP) will maintain a working landscape that can support economic and recreational opportunities and meet caribou recovery requirements.
2. Each SRP is informed by recommendations from multi-stakeholder task forces.
3. Each SRP will be tailored to address the activities that are most important locally (e.g. oil sands are important in some sub-regions, but not others).
4. Each SRP will include management approaches that address access management (road network), energy, forestry, recreation and tourism activities.

BENEFITS TO INDUSTRY

- ✓ Provide certainty to industry operating within the area and increase investor confidence.
- ✓ Enable further economic development and opportunity that can support local communities.
- ✓ Address pressures for industry to divest from Alberta; demonstrate ESG focus of resource sectors.
- ✓ Directly address the risk of federal intervention
- ✓ Remove and consolidate legacy land use plans and guidelines in a single plan; reduce red tape

Section 11: Caribou Recovery Planning

- *On October 23rd, 2020 Alberta and Canada entered into a conservation agreement under Section 11 of the federal Species at Risk Act, laying out timelines for completion of sub-regional plans that achieve caribou recovery objectives.*

WHY Section 11 MATTERS

1. Reduces the risk of federal intervention in Alberta's land and resource management
2. Adds strong protection against a possible Emergency Protection Order, which would devastate industries operating in areas with caribou.
3. Keeps Alberta in the lead to complete its task force process and develop sub-regional plans that support caribou recovery.
4. Secures federal funding commitment to support restoration of legacy seismic disturbances throughout caribou ranges. Estimated economic activity exceeding \$1 Billion.

WHAT IS A Section 11?

- A Section 11 agreement is NOT a land use plan

It IS:

- An agreement to take actions that are intended to stabilize and recover caribou populations in Alberta over the long term (50 to 100 years).
- A commitment to timelines for the development and implementation **of sub-regional plans.**



Sub-Regional Plan Example 2: Designated Industrial Zones

The Designated Industrial Zone or (DIZ) is a local regulatory framework for designated industrial regions that provides certain and efficient approval processes and supports responsible industrial cluster development.



WHY DIZ MATTERS TO INDUSTRY

1. Reduce regulatory burden for both industry and permitting bodies.
2. Responsive to the speed of business to maintain competitiveness with other competing jurisdictions.
3. Provide a localized approach unique to the industrial heartland and the outcomes being sought by government, municipalities and Indigenous communities.
4. Leverage cluster efficiencies to reduce overall ecological footprint and promote industrial growth and diversification.
5. Modernize the overall regulatory system for heavy industrial value-add facilities.

BENEFITS TO INDUSTRY

- Increased investor certainty
- Key investment jurisdiction for environmental focused investors
- Accelerated and clear application requirements (“Nexus Pass”)
- Stakeholders can be invested in the bigger, longer picture
- Industrial growth and diversification
- Increased job growth and high paying employment

Understanding the Regulatory Transformation Journey

What is the Regulatory Transformation Program?



Fast-Track to Regulatory Transformation



1. Meeting Our Red Tape Reduction Platform Commitments



2. Implementing RAF: AEP's New Regulatory Assurance Framework



3. Implementing DRAS: AEP's New Digital Regulatory Assurance System

Why Red Tape Reduction Matters to Regulatory Transformation?

RED TAPE REDUCTION PLATFORM COMMITMENTS

- 🎯 Reducing regulatory and administrative burdens and improve service experience
- 🎯 Reducing regulatory requirements by 33% by 2023



Drive Economic Growth



Improve Service Delivery



1/3 Reduction in Requirements



One in
One out

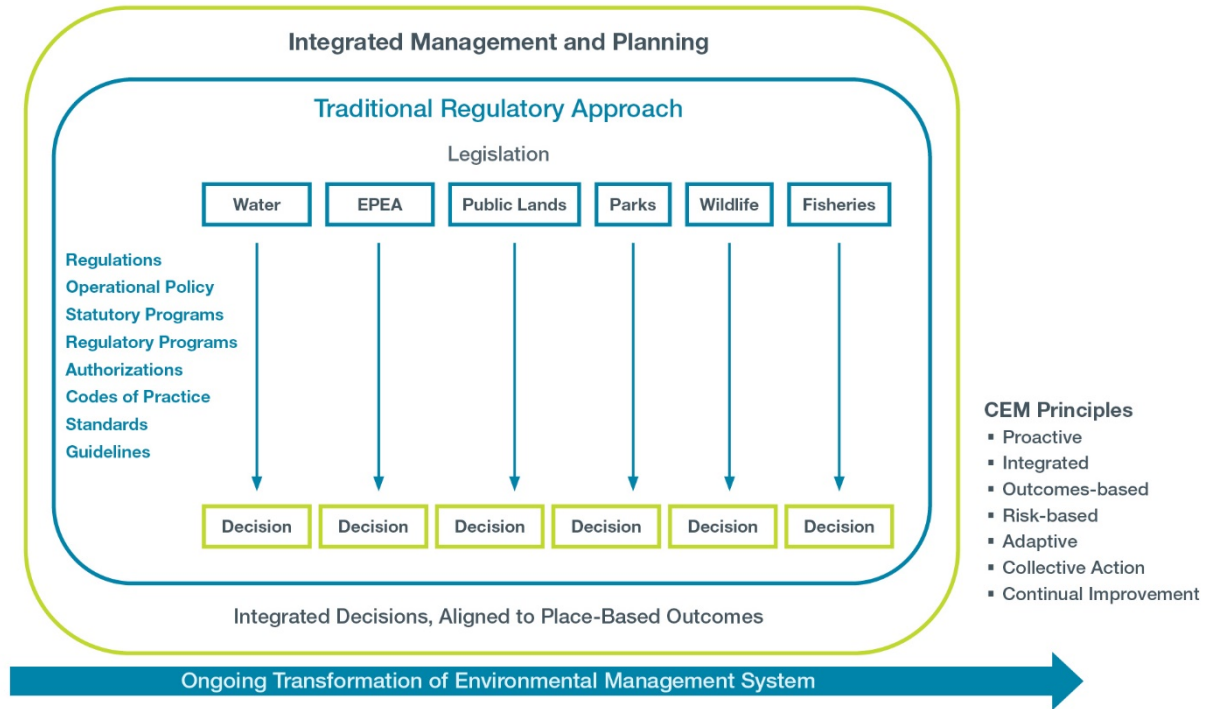
- ✓ As of February 1, 2021 10% redundant outdated and unnecessary requirements eliminated, and on pace to meet 12% reduction target by March 2021
- ✓ 74 Red Tape Reduction Initiatives completed across multiple environmental media and industries

 Protected environment	<p>Priority Interventions Modernizing Legislation Regulatory System Transformation Consistency in Crown Land Management</p>	 Reduced cost to the ministry and stakeholders
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Shifting From Traditional to Modern Environmental Regulatory Management

Becoming a Modern Regulator

- Requires major changes to how we regulate to meet the current realities and broader context of cumulative effects and shared use of the land base over time and geographically.
- Alberta's social, environmental and economic context has changed, the regulatory system has not evolved significantly in response.



Our Regulatory System From Traditional.....To Modern

Shifting From.....

Emphasis on application process and developing approval conditions.

.....To

Emphasis on regulatory assessment of active operations to outcomes focused operating standards.

This Means



- ✓ Staff spend more time spent as a regulator of current operations, versus approval of applications.
- ✓ Faster turnaround for authorizations without compromising environmental standards.
- ✓ The environment is protected by ensuring environmental outcomes are being met through the lifecycle of the activity, versus minimizing risk in the application stage.

Our Regulatory System From Traditional.....To Modern

Shifting From.....

Referrals of applications for comment and conditioning by subject matter experts.

.....To

Proponents have clear application standards and requirements prior to submission of application.

This Means



- ✓ Proponents submit higher quality applications contributing to faster decisions on approvals.
- ✓ Better use of your regulatory expertise.
- ✓ Quality, structured data is collected in the application phase, leading to streamlined reporting.

Our Regulatory System From Traditional.....To Modern

Shifting From.....

Periodic compliance inspections and reactive management.

.....To

Risk-informed responses to incidents and self-reporting. Continuous assessment of operations for meeting of policy and management outcomes.

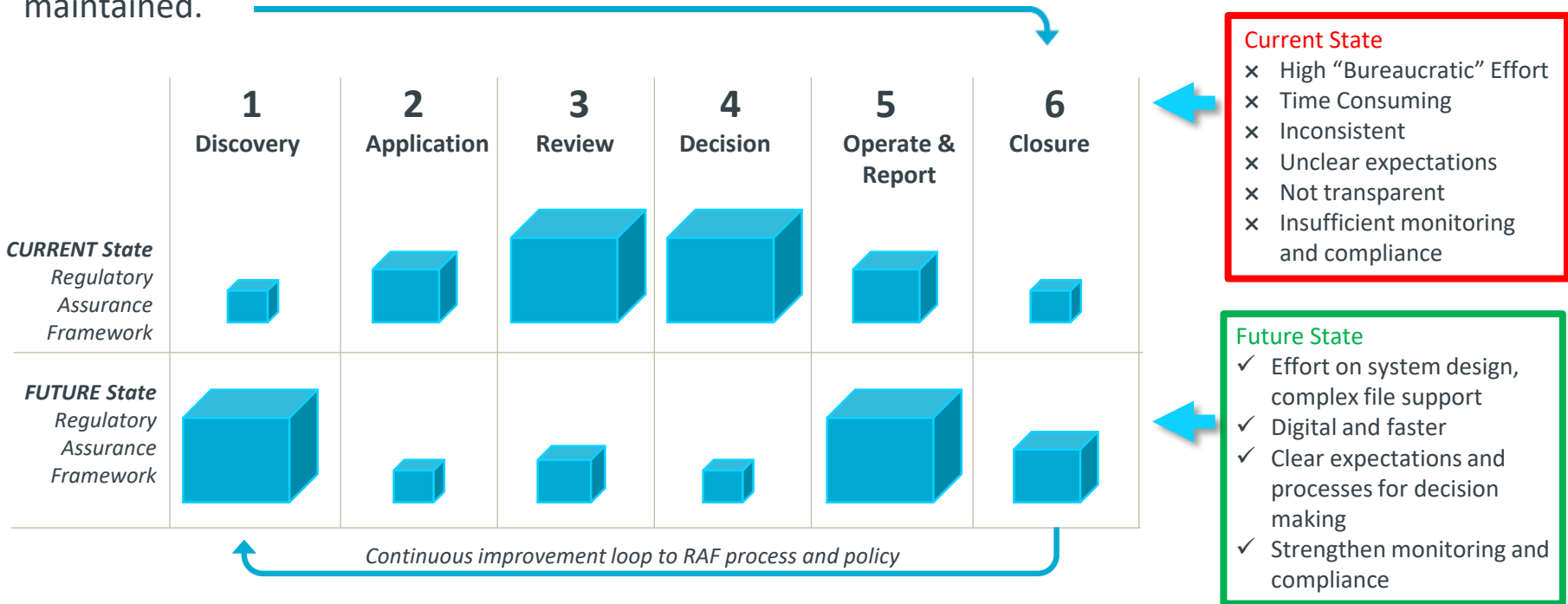
This Means



- ✓ Regulatory outcomes are achieved by applying effective management responses.
- ✓ Incidents and self-reports are valuable sources of data to inform future operational strategic, policy and operational decisions.

What is Changing – RAF?

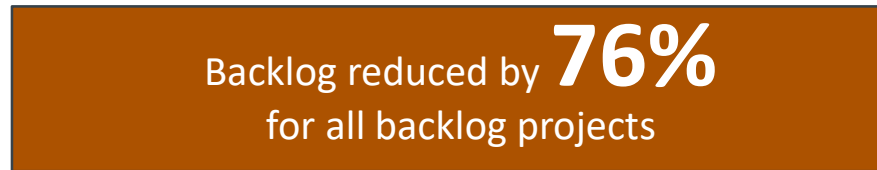
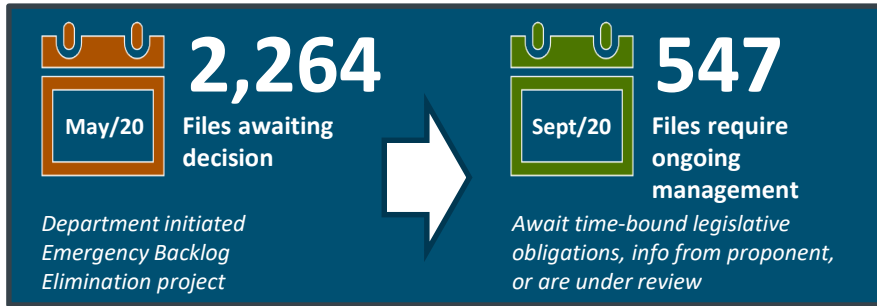
Regulatory Assurance Framework: AEP’s foundational approach to enabling economic development activity while ensuring environmental standards outlined in policies, plans, and legislation are maintained.



How Do We Know This Works?

Regulatory Backlog Reduction Initiative

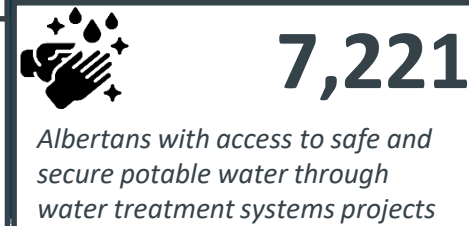
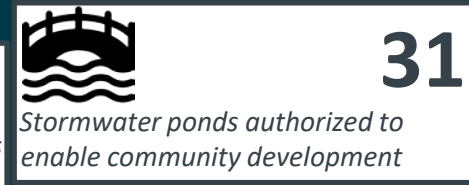
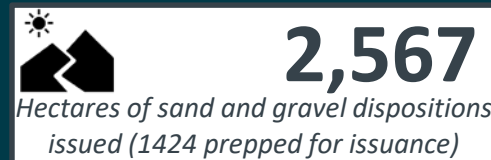
Initiative Summary Statistics



Key Achievement and Impacts

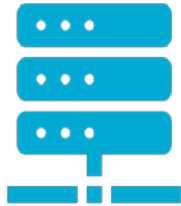
1. Reduction of backlog has enabled economic stimulus.
2. Long-term, sustainable process improvements have been made.
3. The project has validated the system improvements and will inform our regulatory transformation.

Examples:



How Are We Enabling Regulatory Change – DRAS?

The Digital Regulatory Assurance System, or *DRAS*, is the multi-million dollar investment as the technological backbone of the transformed regulatory system, enabling clear, expedient decision making and straightforward environmental monitoring.



DRAS
Automating
Alberta's
Regulatory System
by 2023.

DRAS will replace the multiple independent and outdated systems with one single, consolidated system for proponent applications, approvals, and long-term monitoring.



Proponents will navigate an integrated, one window entry-to-exit experience, with clear and consistent requirements that can be tracked over the full activity lifecycle.

DRAS Design Examples

Environment

Protecting Alberta's environment and natural resources includes preserving the quality of our water, air, natural lands and wildlife.

About the Application Processes

Who needs to apply
When do I need a permit/disposition
How do I apply


[Learn More >](#)



Apply for a Permit or Disposition

Begin the process of applying for your disposition or permit.

[Start Application >](#)



My Dashboard


View your current applications, dispositions, amendments, appeals and complaints.

[View My Items >](#)


Most Read Articles

-  Register For MyAlberta ID
Kevin Liao • 15 Views • about a month ago • ★★★★★

Featured Articles

-  Application Planning and Procedures
• 4 Views • 3mo ago • ★★★★★

Most Useful Articles

-  Application Planning and Procedures
• 4 Views • 3mo ago • ★★★★★



DRAS Design Examples

Home > DRAS Service > Water > Drainage Application

Search



-- None --

Yes

* Method of drainage

- Ditching
- Pumping
- Stormwater
- Tile Drainage
- Rural Drainage
- Other

* Estimated Annual Dewatering Volume (entered in m3)

* Maximum rate of discharge (entered in cubic meters/second)

The pumping rate of your pump, or the maximum flow rate of your flow structure or you Q100

* Type of discharge

-- None --

Are you following the guidance of the Master Drainage Plan or WA Authorized Stormwater Management Plan?

-- None --

* Select which waterbody will be impacted by the project

- Lake
- Water course
- Wetland
- Surface run off
- Ground water
- None

* Type of Water course

DRAS Design Examples

Home > My Items

My Dashboard

My Applications by Stage



- Draft = 25 (69.44%)
- Decision = 4 (11.11%)
- Technical Review = 4 (11.11%)
- Completeness = 2 (5.56%)
- Closed = 1 (2.78%)

My Authorizations by State



- Closed = 1 (100%)

My Active Applications

Pipeline Telecommunication- Activity - Pipeline - Attachment Test **ToDo** 5
DAPP0001074 • Draft

CoP - Pipeline Telecommunication- Pipeline - Test 5 **ToDo** 1

My Active Authorizations

Short description
DDIS0001004 • Closed

My Active Statement of Concerns

Statement of Concern for - DAPP0001014
DCAS0001003 • New

DRAS Design Examples

The screenshot shows a web-based map interface. On the left, a map of the Whitecourt area in Alberta is displayed, featuring a red location pin and a large, semi-transparent circular search radius. The map includes labels for 'Whitecourt', 'Chip Lake', and 'Isle Lake', along with highway markers for 18, 22, 43, and 44. On the right, a dark overlay panel titled 'Public Notices' is open. It contains the text 'Select a point on the map or search a location to find for public notices', a search range slider set to 20km, and a search input field containing 'mayerthrope'. Below the search field, a specific notice is listed: 'DAPP0001122 - polygon - shanehelm - 1612215898237'. A 'Close' button is visible at the bottom right of the overlay panel.

SAND & GRAVEL - WATER ACT APPROVALS

**Summer
2021**

Completion

Process



Complete

Policy Coord.



In progress

Files Check



Complete

User Stories



In progress

CM



In progress

DRAS



Est. Summer 2021

WATER LICENSES

**Summer
2021**

Completion

Process



In progress

Policy Coord.



In progress

Files Check



Est. Dec 2020

User Stories



Est. Jan 2021

CM



Est. Jan 2021

DRAS



Est. Summer 2021

LAND USE RESERVATION MANAGEMENT

Process



Complete

Policy Coord.



In progress

Database



Early Winter 2021

CM



In progress

DRAS



Est. Fall 2021

SERVICE DESK (INCIDENT MANAGEMENT)

Planning



In progress

Systems Review



Est. Dec 2020

Process



Est. Winter 2021

DRAS



Est. Spring 2021

ELECTRONIC CONTENT SERVER SYSTEMS

Planning



In progress

User Stories



In progress

Process



Early Winter 2021

DRAS



Est. Spring 2021

CONTACT AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT

Planning



In progress

User Stories



In progress

Process



Early Winter 2021

DRAS



Est. Spring 2021

FIRST NATIONS CONSULTATION INTERFACE CHANGE

Planning



Complete

ACO Coord.



In progress

Process



In progress

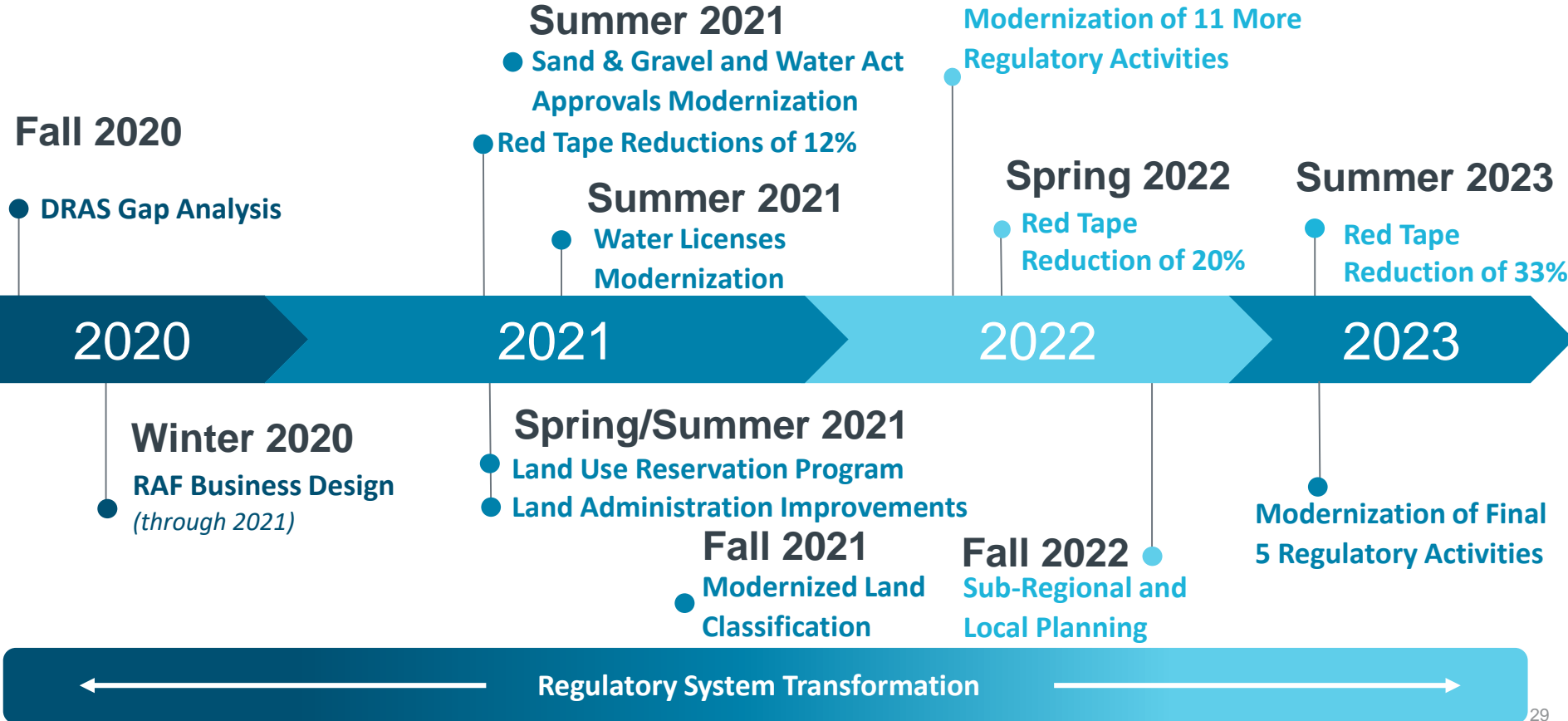
DRAS



Est. Spring 2021

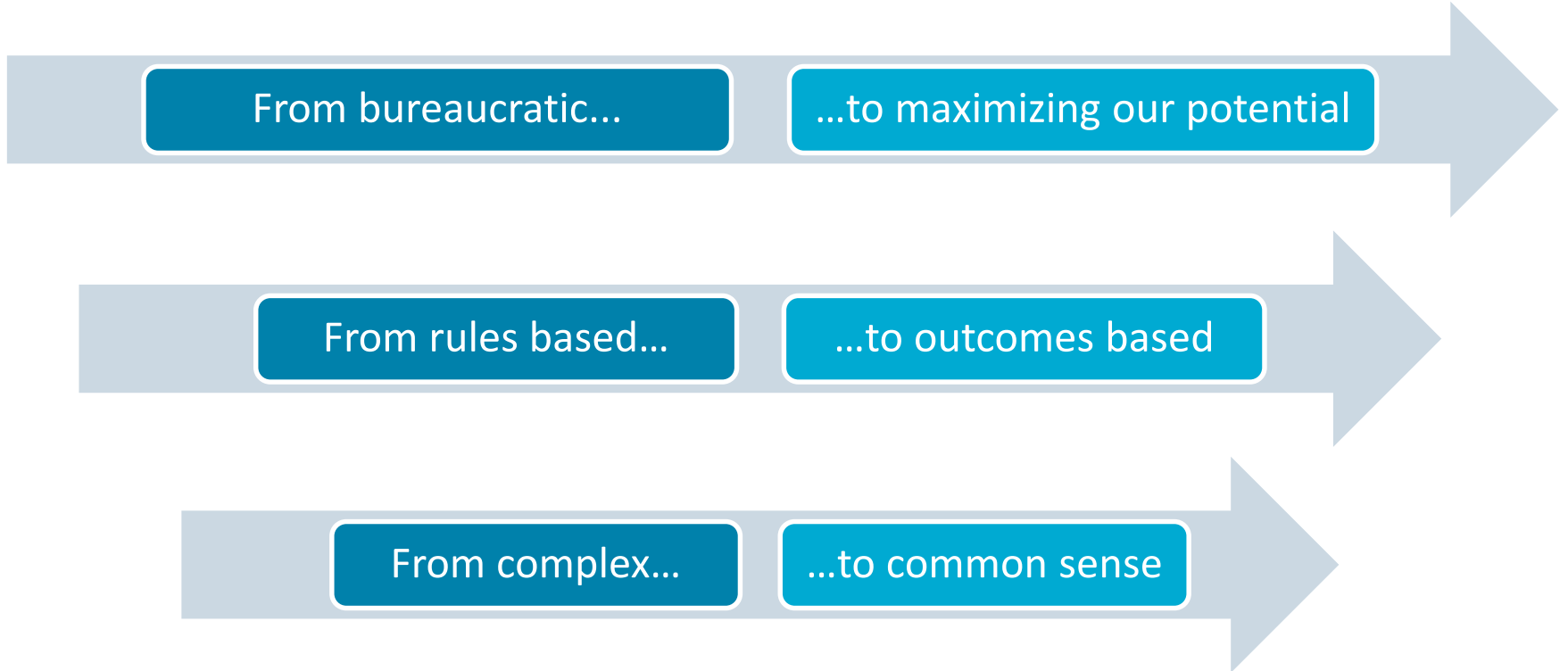
The Plan Ahead and Near Term Milestones

What's the Plan for Environmental Regulatory Transformation?








Revisiting the System Transformation from Complex to Common Sense

Alberta Environment and Parks is undergoing radical transformation:



In Closing, AEP's System Transformation Will:

-  Bring regulatory processes and systems into the 21st century
-  Demonstrate clear "rules of the game" easing complex regulatory burden on industry and safeguard Alberta's air, land, water and biodiversity
-  Expedite economic development and increased competitiveness
-  *Be Enabled by Transformed Processes – Technology – Policy - Legislation*
-  Ensure Albertans rich, natural heritage is preserved for future generations to enjoy in a manner that meets diverse goals

Questions?

