

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a bright green hard hat and safety glasses, is shown in profile, looking towards the left. She is standing in a field of harvested crops, possibly corn, with rows of stalks stretching into the distance under a clear blue sky. The entire scene is framed by a thick blue border.

JUNE 17, 2026

Information session

Weed & Pest Control on AER-Regulated Sites

Weed and Pest Control Project Team

RURAL MUNICIPALITIES OF ALBERTA

Presentation Overview

- New regulation to address pest and weeds on AER regulated sites.
- Roles and responsibilities of partners
- RCAM Orders as a regulatory backstop through AER
- Process overview, standard operating procedure, referral webform, and online tools.
- Key takeaways
- Communications and Resources

Regulation - Oil and Gas Conservation Act (OGCA)

- Authorizes the AER to issue RCAM Orders on AER-regulated sites under Agricultural Pests Act and Weed Control Act
- Supports notice actions taken by local or provincial authorities
- Applies after a notice is issued, appeals concluded and the notice has expired
 - Failure to comply with the notice
- RCAM order is not a cost recovery mechanism – compels compliance and possible escalating action

Interpretation

1(1) In this Regulation,

- (a) “energy resource enactment” has the same meaning as in the *Responsible Energy Development Act*;
- (b) “specified enactment” has the same meaning as in the *Responsible Energy Development Act*.

(2) For the purpose of the Act, “reasonable care and measures” includes an action that must be taken to comply with the following:

- (a) an energy resource enactment;
- (b) a specified enactment;
- (c) *Agricultural Pests Act*;
- (d) *Weed Control Act*.

Roles and Responsibilities (Process Overview)

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI)

- Provincial authority, oversight and ministerial authorities
- Notices
- Support to AER for evidence for RCAM Orders and as SMEs

Local Authorities (Municipal Inspectors / ASBs)

- Notices
- Support to AER for evidence for RCAM Orders and as SMEs

AER

- RCAM Orders based on evidence and submitters attestation
- RCAM Order management shared responsibility with partners
- Compliance Assurance Program

Cost Recovery for Local Authorities or Landowners?

- GoA decision to apply RCAM orders as the regulatory backstop, prioritizing timely intervention over cost recovery
- AER authority is limited to regulated parties - licensees, Working Interest Participants (WIPs), Orphan Well Association (OWA) so cost recovery for municipalities or landowners not possible
- Proactive approach to address weeds on OWA sites for 2026 and future seasons
- Interventions funded through the OWA operating budget

RCAM Order Scope and Effectiveness

- Pest or weed issue is directly linked to an AER-regulated site (pipeline ROWs and First Nation reserves excluded)
- RCAM Order – most effective on solvent licensees
- Complexity increase and effectiveness may decrease for licensees in financial distress, or WIPs involved, or OWA
- RCAM Order process is time consuming and dependent on when a referral is received

RCAM Order Referral Process

- Complaint or inspection identifies pest or weed issue
- Local or provincial authority issues notice
- AER Licensee fails to comply (notice issued/expires, appeals concluded)
 - A municipality is **not** required to complete weed control before submitting an RCAM Order referral
- Referral submitted to AER through web form
- RCAM Order process and management

Information for Referral Support

OneStop Public Map Viewer

- Identify AER-regulated sites and boundaries
- Confirm location and responsible parties
- Map layer for regional AER Field Centres and MDs

ST104 publication and Daily Licence Reports

- Licensee and approval holder contact information

OWA Public Map Viewer and Inventory spreadsheet

- Identify orphan or managed sites

AER Compliance Dashboard

- Issued RCAM Orders

Continuous improvement

Processes, tools, training and online resources will evolve with experience.

Key Takeaways

AGI and local authorities remain the primary enforcement bodies

- Continue applying existing tools (the notice)
- RCAM Orders provide a last-resort escalation tool

Referrals must be evidence-based, well-documented and defensible (for due process reasons)

- RCAM referral only when criteria are met
- Coordinated effort between AER and weed inspectors
- Carefully considered based on risk etc.

May 1 OGCA regulation active (expires May 1, 2031)

- Process overview and SOP in place
- OWA Weed Management Plan under discussion (AER, AGI, and OWA)
- Six- and 18-month performance review

Communication & Resources

- Bulletin, web page and referral form on aer.ca – Live!
- Emailed industry associations, municipalities and synergy groups
- Resources for municipal inspectors
- Held April 28, 2026, information session with the Ag fieldmen
 - Provide follow-up sessions as needed
- Stakeholder presentations as needed

Expectations

- Keep an eye out for weeds/pests on well sites
- This a new regulation
 - Opportunity for improvement
 - Evolving process
- ASBs and AAAF (fieldmen) were briefed and involved in process development
- Your support is required for success



Questions?