

Notice of Red Tape Review: *The Subsurface Mineral Conservation Regulations*

The Government of Saskatchewan is promoting a healthy economy by finding ways to reduce red tape. Red tape is any government compliance requirement that hinders productivity by unnecessarily consuming a business or an individual's time and resources.

Most government compliance requirements are listed in regulations. Regulations are developed to ensure fairness, public health, safety, social well-being, and environmental protection. However, regulations that reach beyond their intended purpose and scope create unnecessary red tape and impede Saskatchewan's economic competitiveness. Reducing red tape helps businesses innovate, grow, and remain competitive locally, nationally, and internationally. Detailed information on removing red tape can be found here:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations/help-cut-red-tape>

Examples of red tape include:

- Unclear, confusing, and overly complex rules;
- Unpublished and unknown rules;
- Outdated and/or irrelevant rules;
- Rules that rely too heavily on penalties instead of on incentives to promote change;
- Rules that negatively impact a business's competitiveness, growth, and ability to innovate;
- Excessive application and approval wait times;
- Burdensome, unnecessary, and ineffective paperwork and processes; and
- Outcomes that can be better achieved by the private sector than through regulations.

The Ministry of Energy and Resources (ER) is currently reviewing ***The Subsurface Mineral Conservation Regulations*** (SMCR) and its associated forms, policies, and processes for red tape. In conjunction with *The Oil and Gas Conservation Regulations, 2012*, the SMCR regulates the drilling of wells near subsurface mineral dispositions and the confidentiality period for well information submitted with respect to the Prairie Evaporite Formation. A copy of the SMCR can be found here:

<https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/72796>

The Process

ER is seeking written comments from stakeholders from September 16, 2022 to October 17, 2022. Please direct any comments, questions, and/or your identified red tape related to the SMCR to:

ER Service Desk at er.servicedesk@gov.sk.ca

Attn: Paul Mahnic, Director, Technical Services
Lands and Corporate Services Division, Lands and Mineral Tenure Branch
Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources
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The deadline for submitting written comments/questions and identified red tape is **October 17, 2022**.
