

The mining industry is also served by the Research Council of Alberta which has made geological surveys of most of the province and has carried out projects concerned with the uses and development of minerals. The Council has studied the occurrence, uses and analyses of Alberta coals and their particular chemical and physical properties, the use of coals in the generation of power, and the upgrading and cleaning of coal; and has also studied briquetting, blending, abrasion loss, shatter and crushing strength, asphalt binders and dust-proofing of coal. Studies have been made of glass sands, salt, fertilizers, cement manufacture and brick and tile manufacture.

The province from time to time has had commissions examine various aspects of the mining industry when it has considered that their findings would be of assistance in developing such industries. The province, together with the Canadian Association of Oil Well Drilling Contractors and the Canadian Petroleum Association, maintains a detailed supervisory and safety training program concerned with the drilling of oil and gas wells. Of assistance also to mining companies and oil companies are the special reductions provided for in the Alberta Income Tax Act. These follow the parallel provisions in the federal Income Tax Act.

British Columbia. The British Columbia Department of Mines and Petroleum Resources provides assistance to the mining industry through two established branches and two new divisions, Economics and Planning, and Mineral Taxation.

Inspectors of the Mineral Resources Branch are stationed at various centres throughout the province. In addition to inspecting coal mines, metal mines and quarries, they may also examine prospects, mining properties, roads and trails, and carry out special investigations under the Mineral Act. Environmental Control inspectors conduct dust, ventilation and noise surveys at all mines and quarries and recommend improvements in environmental conditions. Other inspectors administer the Roads and Trails and Prospectors Grub-stake programs, and the reclamation sections of provincial mining statutes.

The Geological Division carries out a variety of geological studies and publishes data concerning mineral deposits. It makes assessments of the mineral potential of land, collects, stores and disseminates geological statistical data, and records the exploration and mining activities of the industry. An inventory of mineral deposits is under way with a view to establishing a quantitative appraisal of mineral resources. The Division offers a restricted number of free assays for prospectors, identifies rocks and minerals, and provides lectures for courses in prospecting. The Mining Titles Division administers provincial laws on the acquisition of rights to minerals and coal. It provides information, including approximate-site maps, on mineral claims and placer leases and their ownership as well as data on the ownership, location and status of coal licences and coal leases.

The Petroleum Resources Branch is responsible for administering the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act and related drilling and production regulations. These regulations stipulate efficient and safe practices to be used in the drilling, completion and abandonment of wells, provide for the orderly development of fields, and for the conservation and prevention of waste of oil and natural gas within the reservoir and during production operations. Every well location must be approved by the Branch before drilling begins. All drilling and production operations are inspected frequently to ensure full compliance with regulations which govern such features as facilities and practices used, adequate plugging of abandoned wells, surface restoration of well sites, procedures for well-testing and measurement, disposal of produced water, fire protection and general conservation. Complaints of property damage resulting from drilling and producing operations and from geophysical work programs are investigated. Comprehensive records of all drilling and producing operations are maintained and are published or made available for study by anyone interested in oil or gas development in the province. Samples of bit cuttings as well as all core from every well drilled are retained for study. Detailed reservoir engineering and geological studies are carried out on the basis of technical information submitted from operating companies, as well as on information acquired through field work. Estimates of reserves of oil and natural gas are made annually. Crown owned oil and natural gas rights are evaluated prior to being disposed of by public tender.

British Columbia has made provision for Crown participation in future mineral development and was the first Canadian province to adopt the use of the metric system for staking, effective March 1, 1975.