

administration of the public lands within the department's jurisdiction by virtue of the Public Lands Act and of the Agricultural and Recreational Land Ownership Act and regulations.

The Alberta energy resources conservation board administers statutes and regulations dealing with energy resource and environmental management functions regarding petroleum, natural gas, oil sands, pipelines, electric energy and coal. It is responsible for reserves appraisal; regulation of exploration, development, pipelines, and transmission lines; safety regulations; waste prevention; protection of correlative rights; appraisal of productive capacities, provincial requirements, and extra-provincial markets; recording and reporting statistics; and advising government. Its programs and responsibilities are co-ordinated with those of the departments of environment and of energy and natural resources in environmental and land-use matters.

The Alberta research council is engaged in the study and inventory of Alberta's geology and mineral resources. It maintains a research program which includes self-initiated projects, projects requested by other government agencies, and contracted research for industry.

British Columbia. The energy, mines and petroleum resources ministry assists in the orderly development of the energy and mineral sectors through administration of statutes respecting minerals, monitoring of industry activity, and providing incentives for exploration and development of new sources of energy and minerals. It is responsible for an energy policy, the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, British Columbia Petroleum Corporation, and British Columbia Energy Commission.

The department provides safety, engineering, and environmental inspection services pertaining to the exploration, development, and production of coal, metal and other mining activities. The ministry also provides regional and applied geological, economic, statistical, and laboratory services to industry and government; provides various financial incentive programs for mineral exploration and development; and administers the disposition of titles and other forms of tenure on Crown mineral lands.

Under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act and related regulations every well location must be approved before drilling begins. All drilling and production operations are inspected to ensure compliance with regulations governing facilities and practices. Complaints of property damage are investigated and records of all drilling and producing operations are published or made available for study. Samples of bit cuttings and core from every well drilled are retained for study, and detailed reservoir engineering and geological studies are carried out. Estimates of oil reserves and natural gas are made annually. Crown-owned oil and natural gas rights are evaluated prior to disposition by public tender.

Mining legislation

12.8

Federal and departmental jurisdictions

12.8.1

Mineral rights vested in the Crown in right of Canada include those in Yukon and Northwest Territories and those underlying certain federal lands in the provinces. In 1979 the federal government acknowledged provincial claims to offshore mineral rights underlying eastern coastal waters within Canada's continental limits.

With respect to western coastal waters, the issue of control of offshore minerals with British Columbia had not yet been resolved. The Supreme Court of Canada in its opinion of November 1967 stated that, as between Canada and the province of British Columbia, Canada has proprietary rights in and legislative jurisdiction over "lands, including the mineral and other natural resources, of the seabed and subsoil seaward from the ordinary low-water mark on the coast of the mainland and the several islands of British Columbia, outside the harbours, bays, estuaries and other similar inland waters, to the outer limit of the territorial sea of Canada, as defined in the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act. . . ." The court also said the federal government has legislative jurisdiction "in respect of the mineral and other natural resources of the seabed and subsoil beyond that part of the territorial sea of Canada. . . to a depth of 200 metres or,