



POLICY

Special Areas Board

SECTION: MSL, ROE, LOC, EASEMENTS
SUBJECT: Access for Seismic Drill Lines and Well Site Development Near Water Bodies Within the Special Areas

06-02

The Special Areas Board prohibits seismic drilling within the historical water lines, and well site establishment within 100 metres of the historical water lines, of named water bodies within the Special Areas.

Approved by Special Areas Board
June 7, 1994, by Motion 8-2-94.

Jay J. Slemp, Chairman
Special Areas Board

ISSUE: The need to protect named water bodies and aquifers within the Special Areas from damage incurred due to oil field activities.

RATIONALE: There exists a need to avoid the potential for mixing or contamination of the various water zones.

The need to protect wildlife and specialized plant habitat.

The potential for contamination should a spill occur.

Reclamation of the site presents and unresolved issue that offers unique problems. Traditional dry land procedures are inadequate for these situations.

The need to avoid undue physical disturbance of the lake bed. Access for well site activity has led to the concern that fill material for roads, dikes, and pad sites increases the potential for disturbing the prairie and associated habitat. Seismic activity can leave ruts or cause equipment to become stuck in the unstable wetland material. Retrieval would impact the surface in a negative manner. Questions of reclaiming these situations remain unanswered.

Associated with the above concern is the recognized dynamic nature of water levels in these water bodies. Many lakes in the Special Areas are of an intermittent nature. Filling and flooding can occur subject to local climatic conditions. The chances are reduced during drought years, however these cycles can revolve in an unpredictable manner. A subsequent occurrence is often subject to the presence or absence of wind. This phenomena itself could jeopardize the stability of a well site located within the lake bed.

There exists the dilemma of transporting the product from the well site. Whether by access road or pipeline, the unstable nature of a lake bed presents unique and ongoing problems for the surrounding terrain.

The Special Areas Board is recognized as the landowner; and for the concerns stated above, the Board exercises its' prerogative to prohibit entry onto these specified areas.