



SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY

2012-01

May 4, 2012



Preventative Measures to Protect Birds and Wildlife

Requirement

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) reminds industry that operators must ensure preventative measures are in place to protect birds and wildlife from coming into contact with potentially harmful fluids stored in open top tanks, c-rings and earthen excavations in adherence with the provincial Wildlife Act and federal Migratory Bird Convention Act.

The following and/or a combination of the following are suggested practices for the protection of birds and wildlife around exposed fluids:

- Noise repellents/scare cannons.
- Decoys/scarecrows.
- Reflectors.
- Netting.
- Wires/reflectors.
- Wildlife fencing with a minimum height of 2.13 metres.
- Planning and management programs to ensure protection of birds and wildlife.
- Regular inspection of open top tanks, c-rings and earthen excavations.
- Observation to ensure bird and wildlife deterrents are in place and working effectively.

Additionally, the Commission's [Information Letter 09-07](#) details the requirements for the containment, storage and disposal of returned fracture fluids to enhance protection of the environment, wildlife and groundwater.

On May 2, 2012, 17 ducks were found on the surface of a temporary water holding structure used to store and contain flowback fluids and produced water. The Commission informed Environment Canada, which has jurisdiction over migratory birds, as well as initiated an investigation and ordered the operator of the wellsite to make immediate modifications to all structures to prevent further incidents.

In addition, the Commission is taking steps to ensure that all operators have effective barriers in place to prevent similar occurrences. Compliance and enforcement staff are currently examining other fluid storage structures to ensure such measures are in place.

If you have any questions regarding this Safety and Environmental Advisory, please contact:

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