

OIL SANDS INFORMATION PORTAL USER GUIDE




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Getting Started

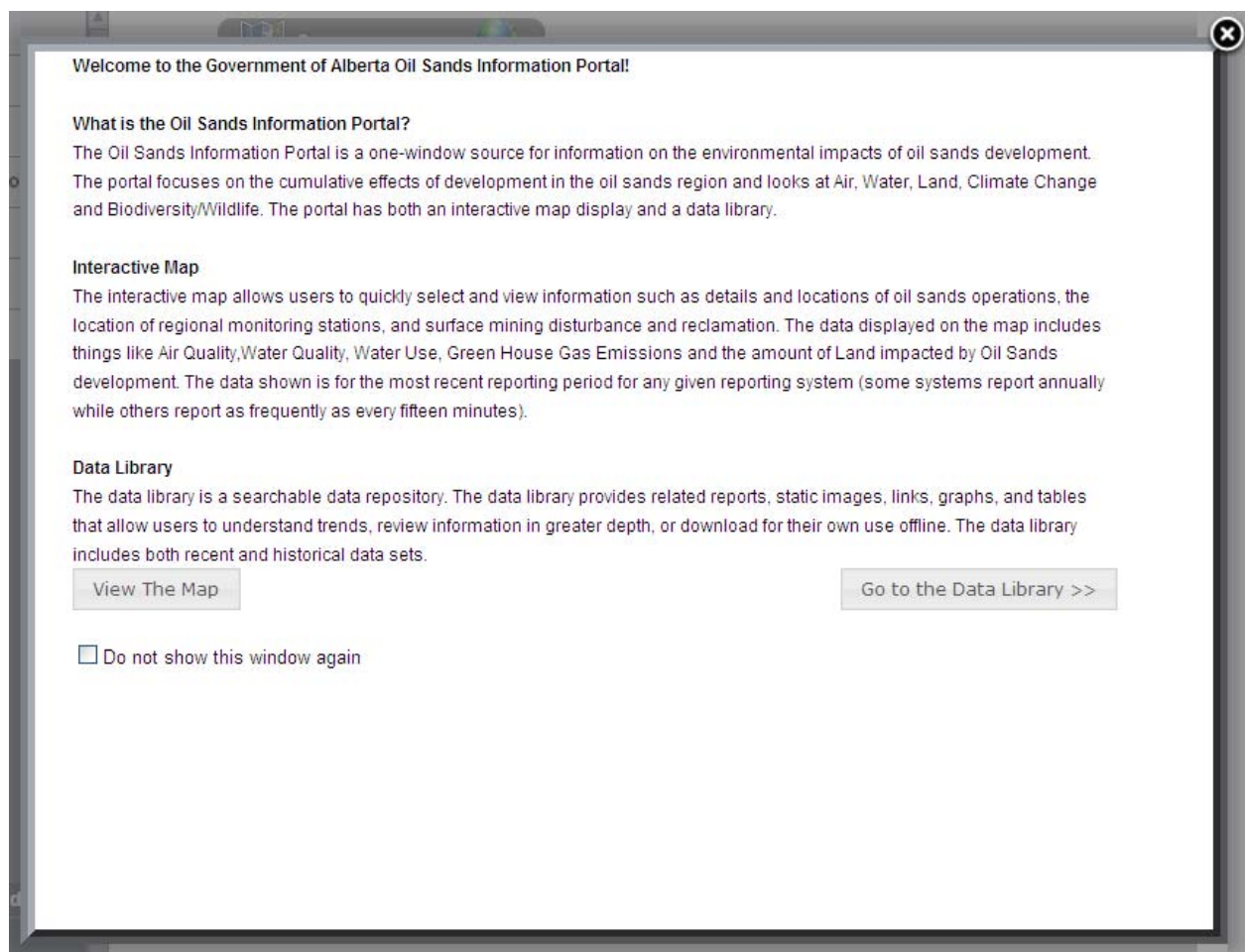
Welcome Screen

The Welcome screen describes the Oil Sands Information Portal and its two parts: the interactive map and the data library.

To view the map, click on the *View The Map* button or click on the  in the top right corner.

To view the Data Library click on the *Go to the Data Library* button.

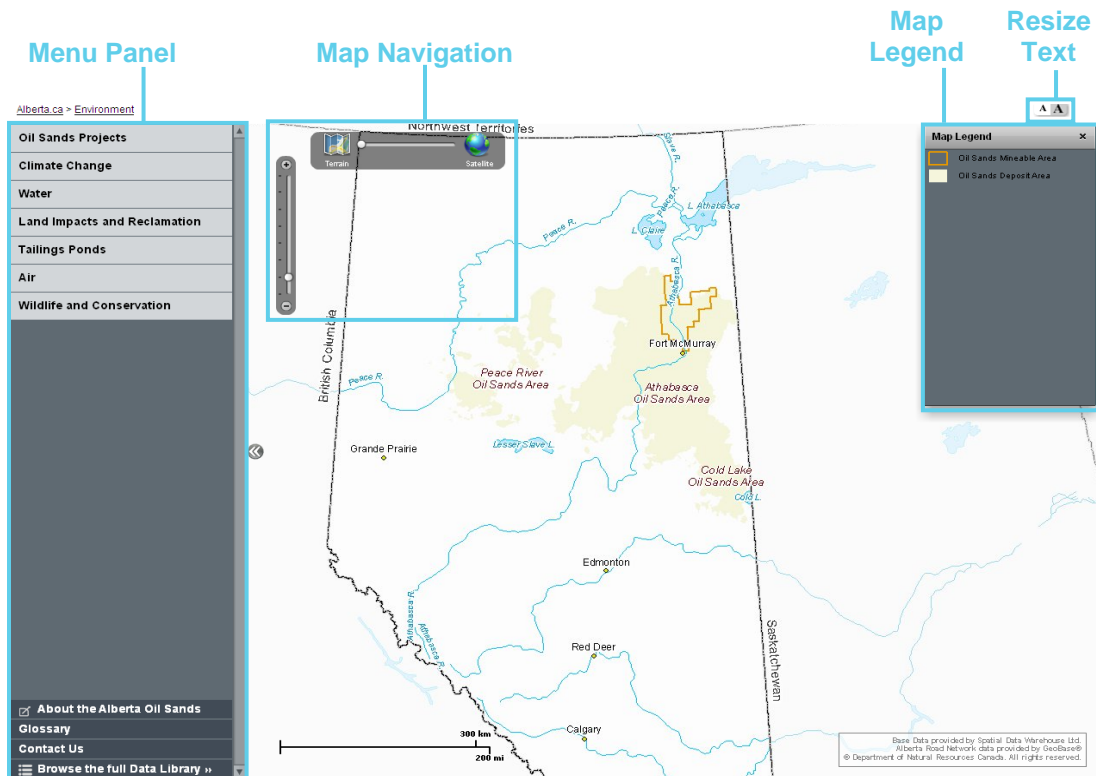
To prevent the welcome screen from displaying again when you launch the Portal, select the “Do not show this window again” checkbox.



INTERACTIVE MAP

Screen Layout

The image below depicts a typical user screen. The available features depend on the menu tab you are viewing.




Menu Panel



The menu panel contains tabs for different categories (e.g. Climate Change; Water; Air; etc.) which will expand or close when you click on the category name. The menu panel also includes links to the Glossary and Data Library.


Hide/Show Menu

Click on  to hide the menu panel. Click on  to show the menu panel.

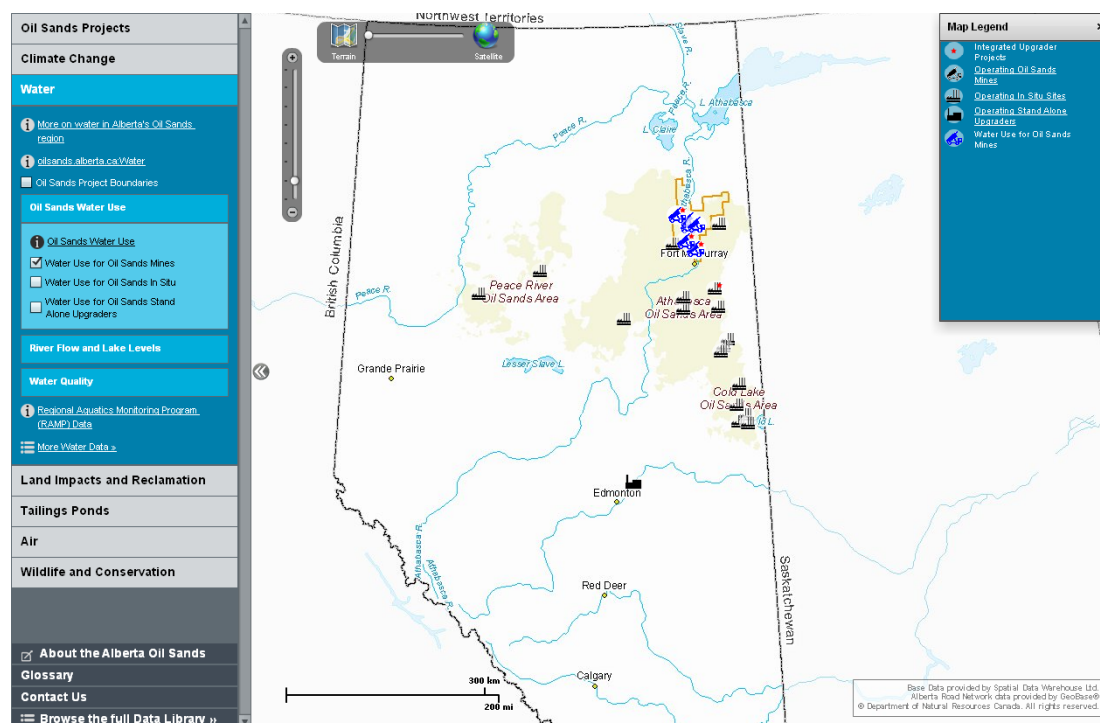
Expanding Menus

Click on the category name to expand the menu (e.g. Water). Clicking on sub-menu tabs will also expand them, revealing various options you can select to display on the map.

For example, selecting the checkbox next to “Water Use for Oil Sands Mines” displays the corresponding icons on the map.

Click on  to display additional information.

Click on  to view the Data Library.



Map Navigation

Zoom Bar



Click on the "+" button to zoom in one level, or the zoom out "-" button to zoom out one level. Hold the left mouse button down to drag the slider up or down, or click anywhere on the zoom bar to zoom the map to a specific zoom level.

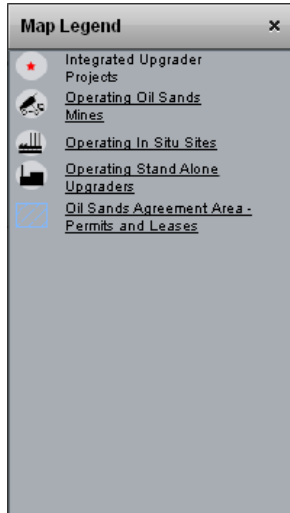
You can also zoom in and out using the "+" (plus) and "-" (minus) keys on your keyboard, or by using your mouse click wheel (if you have one).

Terrain-Satellite Bar

Hold the left mouse button down to drag the slider left or right, or click anywhere on the bar to toggle the map between terrain and satellite view.




Map Legend



The Map Legend contains descriptions of the different icons shown on the map. Click on the "X" in the top right corner of the Map Legend to hide it. Click on [Show Legend](#) to show the Map Legend. Click on the links in the legend to display additional information.

Map Panning

When you point your cursor at the map, it will turn into the pan symbol . Hold down the left mouse button to drag the map in any direction. You can also pan the map using the arrow keys on your keyboard.



Map Icons

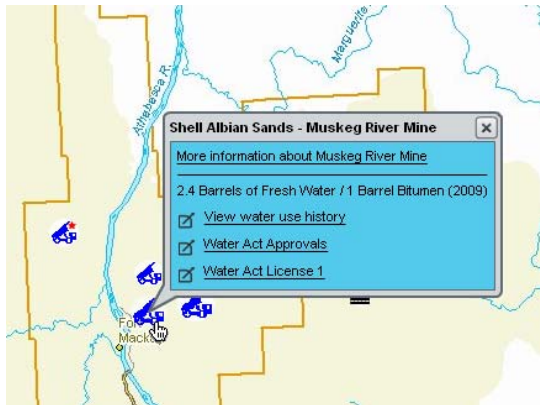
Icon Hover Tooltip


Hovering over an icon on the map will produce a tooltip displaying the name of the item you are hovering on.

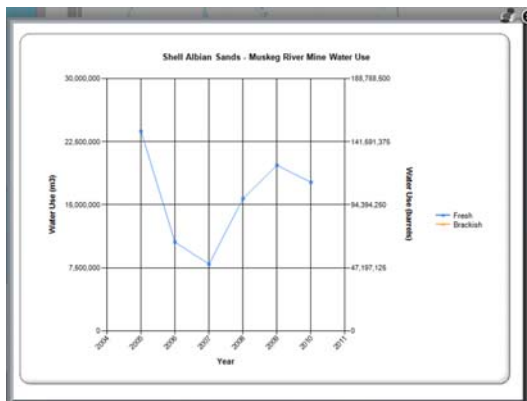


Project Information Box


Click on an icon on the map to produce a project information box. The available information depends on the project and category topic you are viewing.



Click on the links in the box to display additional information. For example, clicking on “View water use history” produces a lightbox displaying a graph. Click on  to print.

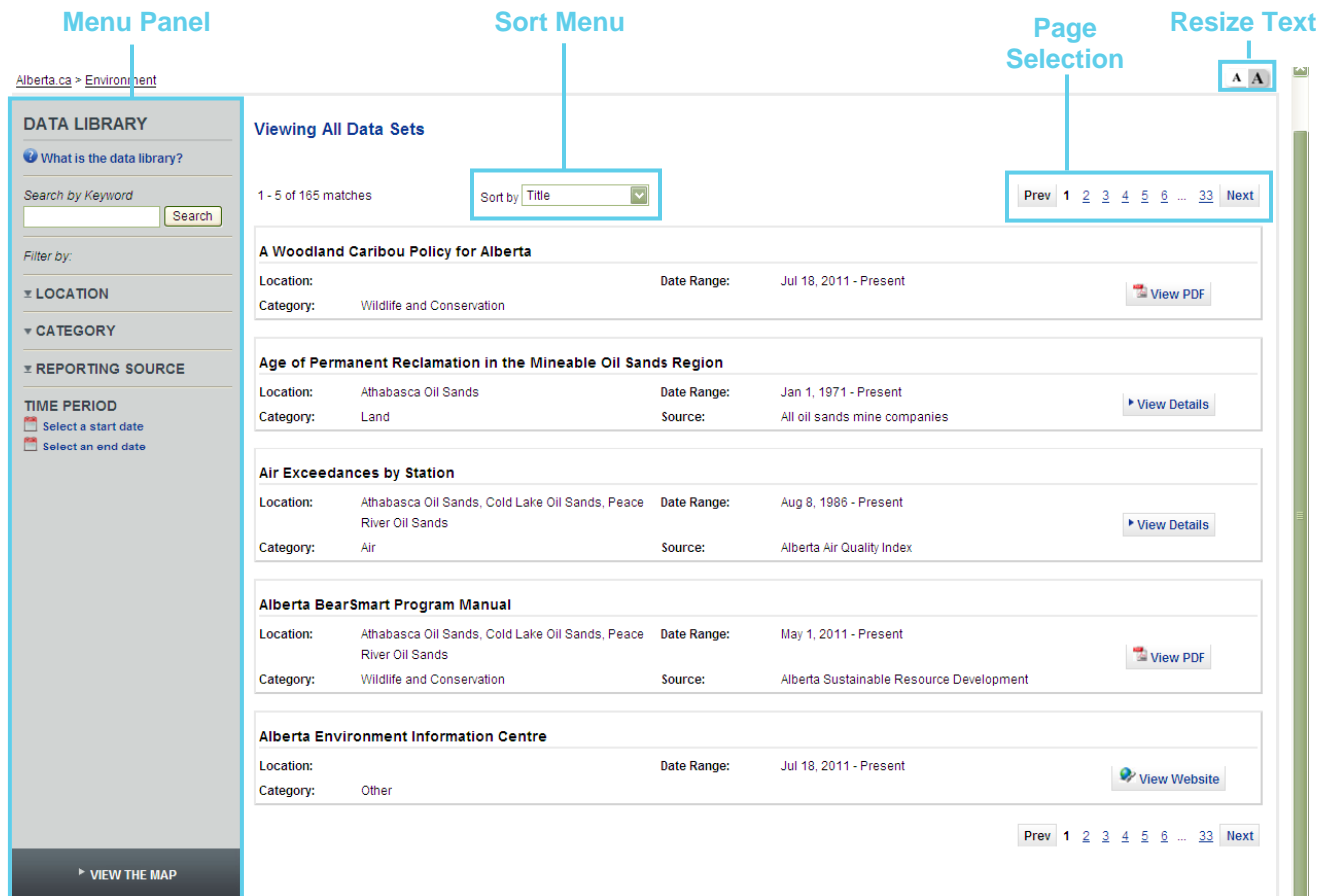


DATA LIBRARY

To view the Data Library click on the *Go to the Data Library* button on the Welcome screen. You can also pull up the Data Library from other areas of the portal by clicking links with the  symbol.

Screen Layout

The image below depicts a typical user screen.



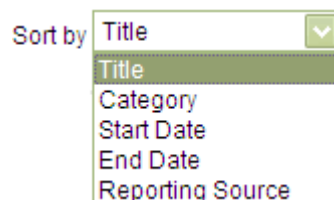
The screenshot shows the Data Library interface with the following components labeled:

- Menu Panel:** Located on the left, it includes a breadcrumb trail (Alberta.ca > Environment), a search bar, filter options (LOCATION, CATEGORY, REPORTING SOURCE, TIME PERIOD), and a 'VIEW THE MAP' button.
- Sort Menu:** A dropdown menu labeled 'Sort by' with 'Title' selected.
- Page Selection:** A pagination bar showing 'Prev', '1', '2', '3', '4', '5', '6', '33', and 'Next'.
- Resize Text:** A button with 'A' and 'A' icons for adjusting text size.



The main content area displays a list of data sets under the heading 'Viewing All Data Sets'. The first item is 'A Woodland Caribou Policy for Alberta', followed by 'Age of Permanent Reclamation in the Mineable Oil Sands Region', 'Air Exceedances by Station', 'Alberta BearSmart Program Manual', and 'Alberta Environment Information Centre'. Each item includes details like Location, Date Range, Category, and Source, along with links to 'View PDF' or 'View Details'.

Sort

You can sort the returned results by clicking on the *Sort by* drop-down list and selecting one of the following options: Title, Category, Start Date, End Date, or Reporting Source.



Resize Text

Click on   to resize the text larger or smaller.

Menu Panel

The menu panel contains options to search by keyword and filter searches by *Location*, *Category*, *Reporting Source*, and *Time Period*. There are also links to view additional information about the Data Library and to view the interactive map.

Search

Search by Keyword


Type a location, project name, topic, etc. in the *Search by Keyword* input box and click *Search* (or press the *Enter* key) to return a list of matching data sets.

Search by Keyword

The screenshot shows the 'DATA LIBRARY' interface. On the left is a 'Filter by' sidebar with tabs for LOCATION, CATEGORY, REPORTING SOURCE, and TIME PERIOD. The main content area is titled 'Viewing data sets matching "Water":'. It shows a search bar with 'Water' entered and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, it indicates '1 - 5 of 84 matches' and 'Sort by: Title'. Five data sets are listed, each with a title, location, date range, source, and a 'View PDFs' or 'View Website' link. The data sets are: 'Cold Lake - Beaver River State of the Basin Reports', 'Comparison of the ratio of allocations to average annual flow in the Athabasca to the same ratio in other provincial rivers', 'Current Water Flow - Athabasca River Below McMurray (Station RATHMCM)', 'Current Water Flow - Athabasca River near Crooked Rapids (station RATHCKRP)', and 'Current Water Flow - Athabasca River near Old Fort (Station RATHFORT)'.

For Example, if you type in "Water" and click *Search*, related data sets will be displayed.

Filter

Click on the *Location*, *Category*, *Reporting Source*, or *Time Period* tabs in the menu panel to expand them. Click on any of the displayed criteria to filter the search results by. To remove a filter, click on .

The screenshot shows the 'DATA LIBRARY' interface with filters applied. The 'Filter by' sidebar on the left shows 'LOCATION' expanded with 'Athabasca Oil Sands', 'Cold Lake Oil Sands (2)', and 'Peace River Oil Sands' selected. 'CATEGORY' is expanded with 'Projects' selected. The main content area is titled 'Viewing data sets matching "water." and:'. It shows a search bar with 'water' entered and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, it indicates '1 - 1 of 1 matches' and 'Sort by: Title'. One data set is listed: 'Enforcement Actions', with location 'Athabasca Oil Sands, Cold Lake Oil Sands, Peace River Oil Sands', date range 'Jan 1, 1979 - Present', source 'All companies subject to Environmental Protection Order(s)', and a 'View Details' link.

Search Results

View Search Results

Click *Next* to see the next page of search results, or *Prev* to go back a page. You can also click directly on the page numbers shown.

Prev 1 2 3 4 5 6 ... 33 Next

Select Data Set

From the list of search results, click the *View* button next to the data set you are interested in.


Viewing Data Set Details

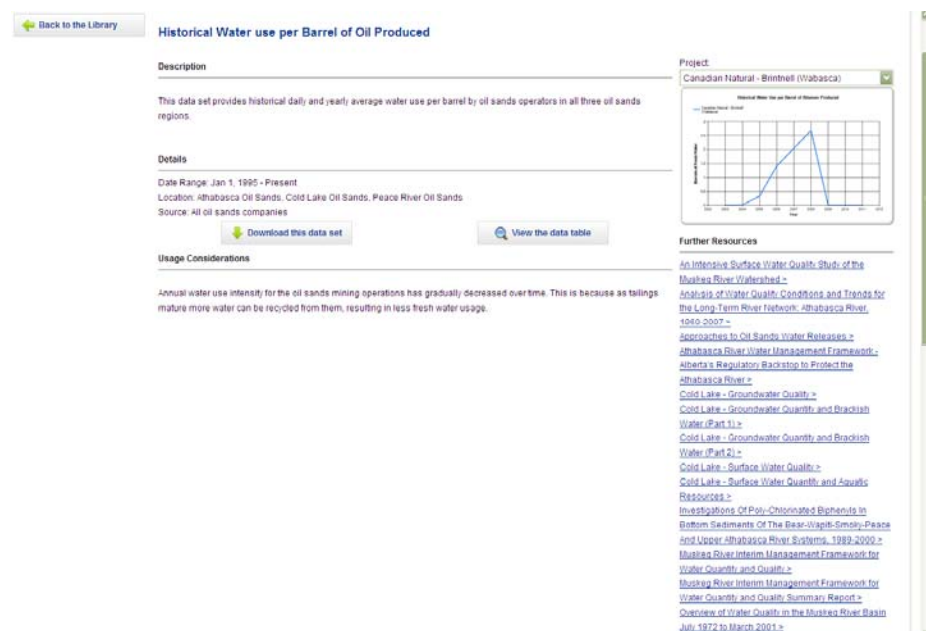
Please note that the information available varies depending on the data set you are viewing.

In the example data set below, you can view the data by clicking on *View the data table* or you can click on *Download this data set* to download the data into an Excel spreadsheet or Adobe PDF file, which you can then choose to save and/or print.

Click on the graph to enlarge it. You can display a different graph by clicking on the drop-down list located above it and selecting one of the projects.

There are links to additional sources of information located under the *Further Resources* section.

Click on  to return to the search results page.



The screenshot displays the details for the data set 'Historical Water use per Barrel of Oil Produced'. It includes a description, details (date range, location, source), and usage considerations. A line graph shows historical water use from 1980 to 2000. Further resources are listed at the bottom.

Historical Water use per Barrel of Oil Produced

Description

This data set provides historical daily and yearly average water use per barrel by oil sands operators in all three oil sands regions.

Details

Date Range: Jan 1, 1995 - Present
Location: Athabasca Oil Sands, Cold Lake Oil Sands, Peace River Oil Sands
Source: All oil sands companies

[Download this data set](#) [View the data table](#)

Usage Considerations

Annual water use intensity for the oil sands mining operations has gradually decreased over time. This is because as tailings mature more water can be recycled from them, resulting in less fresh water usage.

Project: Canadian Natural - Bimble (Athabasca)

Further Resources

- [An Intensive Surface Water Quality Study of the Athabasca River Watershed](#)
- [Analysis of Water Quality Conditions and Trends for the Long-Term River Network: Athabasca River, 1940-2007](#)
- [Approaches to Oil Sands Water Release](#)
- [Athabasca River Water Management Framework](#)
- [Alberta's Regulatory Backstop to Protect the Athabasca River](#)
- [Cold Lake - Groundwater Quality](#)
- [Cold Lake - Groundwater Quantity and Brackish Water \(Part 1\)](#)
- [Cold Lake - Groundwater Quantity and Brackish Water \(Part 2\)](#)
- [Cold Lake - Surface Water Quality](#)
- [Cold Lake - Surface Water Quantity and Aquatic Resources](#)
- [Investigations of Poly-Chlorinated Biphenyls in Bottom Sediments of the Bear-Wapiti-Smoky-Peace and Upper Athabasca River Systems, 1989-2000](#)
- [Athabasca River Interim Management Framework for Water Quantity and Quality](#)
- [Muskogee River Interim Management Framework for Water Quantity and Quality Summary Report](#)
- [Overview of Water Quality in the Athabasca River Basin July 1972 to March 2001](#)

Further Assistance

If you experience any difficulties with the application or need assistance, please contact the Environment Webmaster at: AENV.Webmaster@gov.ab.ca.