

The background of the cover is a photograph of an oil drilling rig at sunset. The rig is a tall, lattice-structured derrick with a red light at the top, illuminated by its own lights. It is positioned on a dark, flat surface, likely a drilling pad. To the right of the rig, there is a support vehicle or trailer with a yellow light. The sky is a mix of deep blue and orange from the setting sun. The overall composition is vertical, with the rig occupying the left half of the frame.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 2025

Une version française de se document
est disponible

CROGO

NWT OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

If you would like this information in another official language, call us.
English

kĩspin ki nitawihhtĩn ě nĩhiyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.
nēhiyawēwin (Cree)

Tłıchq yatı k'èè. Dı wegodı newq dè, gots'o gonede.
Tłıchq

ʔerihht'is Dēne Sųłiné yatı t'a huts'elkēr xa beyáyati theʔą ʔat'e, nuwe ts'ēn yóttı.
Dēne Sųłiné (Chipewyan)

Edı gondı dehgháh got'je zhatié k'ée edat'éh enahddhę nıde naxets'é edahí.
Dene Zhatié (South Slavey)

K'áhshó got'jne xadā k'é hederı ʔedjht'íé yeriniwę níde dúle.
Dene Kádá (North Slavey)

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijáhch'uu zhit yinohtan jı', diits'at ginohkhii.
Dinjii Zhu' Ginjik (Gwich'in)

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqluta.
Inuvialuktun

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Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.
Inuinnaqtun

Indigenous languages:
Request_Indigenous_Languages@gov.nt.ca

French:
orogo@gov.nt.ca

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SOUTH SLAVEY

Godj Tleh Det'q gots'eh Tleh Nihts'j eghalagenda k'ëë (OROGO) la daqndih t'áh tleh det'q gots'eh tleh nihts'j t'áh eghalagenda sii, seë nezú zheehéh eghalagenda gots'eh zhaat'áá ts'eh k'éh chu nezú k'ëogeah gha gots'eh azhjj kii tleh det'q gots'eh tleh nihts'j t'áh eghalaenda le, sii kaqndih t'áh chu k'ëogeah gha.

K'ëndah keodahshá enahthë enidé, satsq ahsii lq kenandih k'éh gots'ë gondi nináhʔa, www.oro.go.gov.nt.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE REGULATOR

I am pleased to present this Annual Report on the activities of the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) in 2024-2025.

This year we have seen continued progress towards the safe plugging, cutting, and capping of suspended wells in OROGO's jurisdiction. Fewer than ten suspended wells remain that require abandonment under the deadlines established in the *Well Suspension and Abandonment Guidelines and Interpretation Notes*. The abandonment of pipelines and removal of above-ground oil and gas infrastructure associated with these wells is also underway.



Pauline de Jong, Regulator, OROGO
(Credit: Angela Gzowski)

As these wells and production fields move towards the end of their life cycle, we have turned our attention to addressing any remaining contamination resulting from operations regulated under the *Oil and Gas Operations Act*. We co-hosted a workshop on this important topic with the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board in February 2025 and have had productive one-on-one discussions with other regulators that will inform OROGO's approach.

This year also saw increased interest in the Well Watch Program. Several communities and individuals contacted OROGO to learn more about historic wells in their regions. OROGO was also invited to present on the Well Watch Program to the Regional Boreal Caribou Range Planning Working Group (organized by the Department of Environment and Climate Change) and the Sahtú Renewable Resources Councils.

Finally, in 2024-2025 OROGO issued the *Service Rig Operation Safety Guidelines and Interpretation Notes*, which set out minimum standards for critical well control equipment, describe required administrative controls, and provide guidance to operators in support of OROGO’s mandate to promote human safety.

In closing, I thank the OROGO team for its efforts in 2024-2025 and extend our appreciation for the ongoing support we receive from the Alberta Energy Regulator, the Canada Energy Regulator, and the Northwest Territories Geological Survey.



Liard F-25 facility, near Fort Liard, July 2024. (Credit: OROGO)

CREE

ôma masinahikew kamikos ohci ôma nahaw isihcikewin ohci pimiy mîna pahkitewipimiy pimpayihcikewin (OROGO) kehcinahiwewin pimiy mina pahkitewipimiy waskawiwin mîna kîkway ka nikaniskamihk eta kanaweyihtâmihk mîna isi nakayâskamowin kîkway ka nâkateyihkamihk tansi kesâyahk nema nahascikewin pahkitewipimiy isihcikewin

ohci ayiwak kwayaskomowewin kiyokata www.oro.go.nt.ca

THE REGULATOR

MANDATE

The Regulator is designated by the Commissioner in Executive Council under the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* (OGOA).

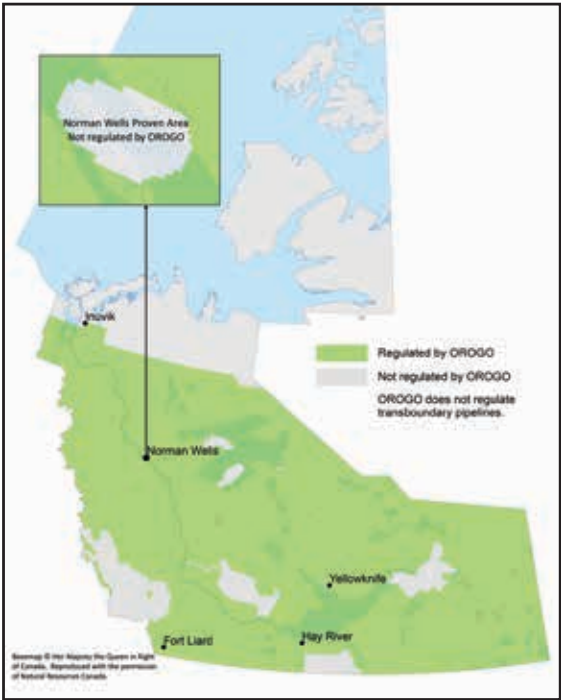
The Regulator’s mandate is to regulate the exploration for and exploitation of oil and gas resources for the primary purposes of ensuring human safety, environmental protection, and the conservation of those resources. The Regulator’s mandate does not include promoting oil and gas-related development.

The Regulator’s activities are governed by OGOA, the *Petroleum Resources Act* (PRA) and the regulations under those Acts, as well as the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

JURISDICTION

The Regulator has jurisdiction over the regulation of oil and gas works and activities in the onshore Northwest Territories (NWT), except for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and lands that were not transferred from the Government of Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories with devolution on April 1, 2014. Within these boundaries, the

Regulator has jurisdiction over oil and gas activities on Aboriginal settlement lands as well as other private lands. The Regulator does not have jurisdiction over transboundary pipelines.



RESPONSIBILITIES

The Regulator is responsible for:

- Considering applications for and issuing Operations Authorizations (including geophysical operations authorizations);
- Considering applications for and issuing Well Approvals for activities including drilling, re-entry, work overs, completion, recompletion, suspension, and abandonment of a well or part of a well;
- Inspecting active and historic oil and gas facilities;
- Responding to incidents and spills at regulated oil and gas facilities;
- Considering applications for and issuing Significant Discovery Declarations and Commercial Discovery Declarations; and
- Issuing Operating Licences.

DELEGATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Delegations

Section 8 of OGOA allows the Regulator to delegate any of their powers under OGOA.

Sections 27(7) and 35(4) of the PRA allow the Regulator to delegate their powers to issue Significant Discovery Declarations and Commercial Discovery Declarations.

No delegations were made under OGOA or the PRA in 2024-2025.

Appointments

Pauline de Jong was designated as the Regulator on August 2, 2020.

Section 4 of OGOA requires the Regulator to appoint a Chief Safety Officer and a Chief Conservation Officer.

Mike Martin, Senior Technical Advisor, was appointed Chief Safety Officer effective June 26, 2020, and Chief Conservation Officer effective November 14, 2022. These appointments ended on March 4, 2025, and resumed on March 20, 2025.

Brandon Bradbury, Technical Specialist, was appointed Safety Officer and Conservation Officer effective December 20, 2022. These appointments ended on March 4, 2025, at which time Brandon Bradbury was appointed Chief Safety Officer and Chief Conservation Officer. Brandon Bradbury's appointments as Chief Safety Officer and Chief Conservation Officer ended on March 20, 2025, and his appointments as Safety Officer and Conservation Officer resumed.

GWICH'IN

Aii Khaii akoo ts'at Nan Tl'at Guk'atr'lnaatii kat (OROGO) nits'oo khaii gòo nan tl'at hàh goo'aii danh tthak lòo nan diinagòo'ee gwà'àn tthak gwijzrii hàh gwint' àntr'ahkaii ji' geenjit guk'àndeht' inaatlh.

Tth'aih hee jii geenjit gaviidàndai' yinohtan ji', jii gwits'at gwinoht'li: www.oro.go.nt.ca

THE OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

ROLE

The role of the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) is to support the Regulator in carrying out their statutory responsibilities under OGOA and the PRA.

STRATEGIC PLAN

OROGO's strategic plan, established in 2016-2017, sets out its mission, vision and strategic objectives.

Mission

We regulate oil and gas activities to keep people safe and protect the environment where we live and work.

Strategic Objectives



To enhance certainty and predictability in our actions and in regulatory decisions.



To promote accessibility and transparency in our work.



To build and maintain resilient working relationships.



To grow oil and gas regulatory capacity in the Northwest Territories.

Vision

OROGO is a respected and effective regulator grounded in the values of Northerners.

STAFF

OROGO’s staff complement consists of four positions: the Executive Director, the Senior Technical Advisor, the Technical Specialist, and the Regulatory Information Officer. There were no changes to the OROGO team in 2024-2025.

OROGO receives technical advice and support from the Canada Energy Regulator and the Alberta Energy Regulator through service agreements. OROGO can also access support from other regulators or consultants.

LOCATION

OROGO’s offices are located on the 4th floor of the Northwest Tower in Yellowknife. The public is invited to visit during working hours, weekdays between 8:30am and 5:00pm, except statutory holidays.



The OROGO Team: Mike Martin (Chief Safety Officer and Chief Conservation Officer), Pauline de Jong (Executive Director), Ekaterina Nagui (Regulatory Information Officer), and Brandon Bradbury (Safety Officer and Conservation Officer). (Credit: Angela Gzowski)

INUINNAQTUN

Uqhuryuaplu Gaasiliiplu Aulapkiayit Munaqhiyiita Havakviat (OROGO) hapkunanik munaqhivaktuq uqhuryuaplu gaasiliiplu hulilukaarutait aulatdjutainniklu ihuangnikkut aanningniattukkut nunaplu immaplu itdjuhiit ihumagittiaqhugit, uqhuryuaqarvigigamikik gaasiliiqarvigigamikiklu munarittiaqhugit atungniit pivaktut.

Appiqhuutiqaruvit ilihimattiarumaguvitluunniit hapkuninga, una takuurvia qaritauyakkut pulaanginiarialik: www.oroغو.gov.nt.ca

2024-2025 ACTIVITIES

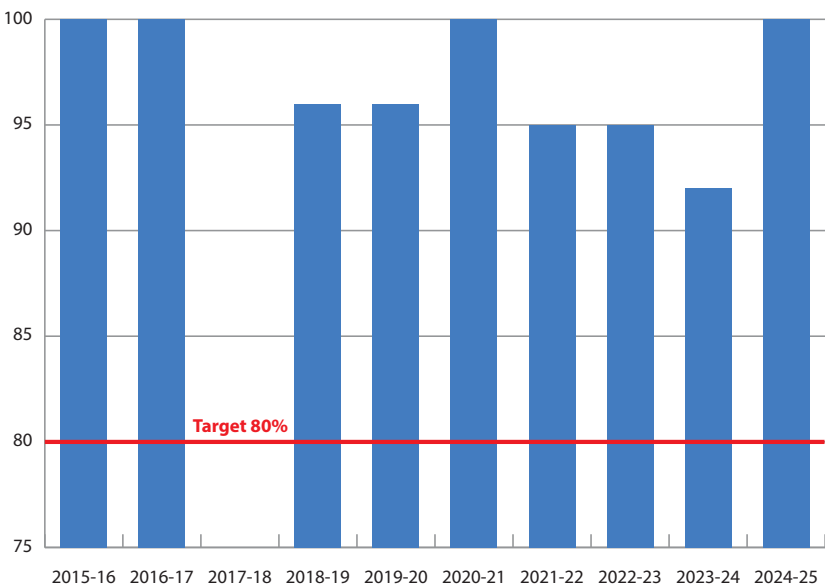
APPLICATIONS

In 2024-2025, OROGO received:

- One application for an Operations Authorization;
- Seventeen applications to vary existing Operations Authorizations or Well Approvals;
- Five core sample requests; and
- All annual reporting requirements for continued compliance, including production reports, environmental reports, and safety reports.

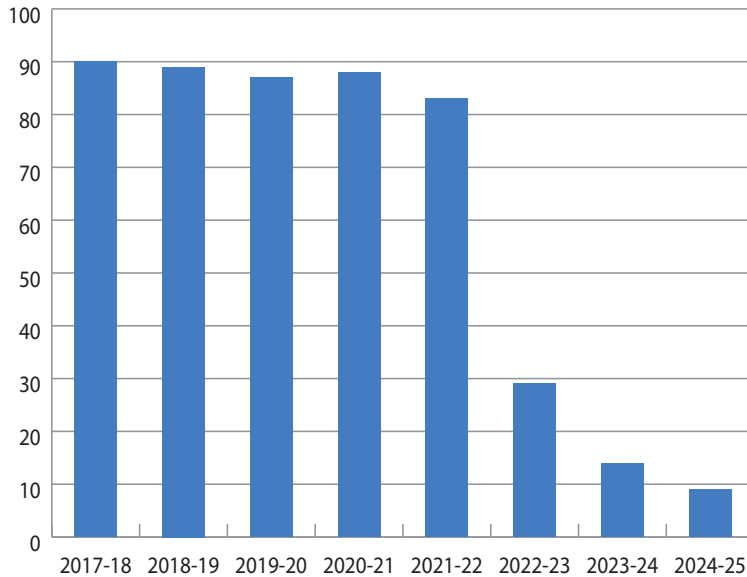
OROGO processed 100% of the Operations Authorizations and Well Approvals issued in 2024-2025 within its established service standards, well above its target of 80%.

Applications Processed Within Service Standard (%)



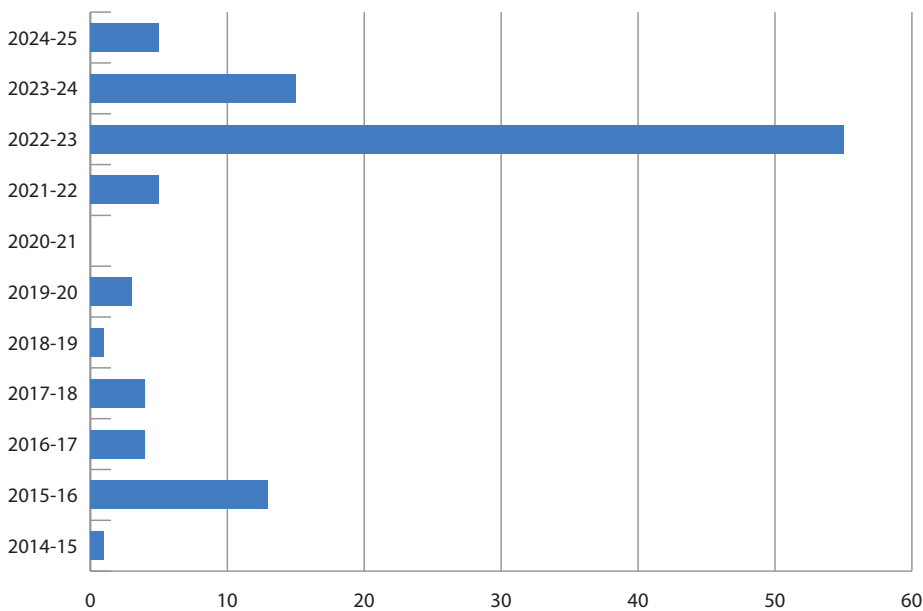
Since 2015-2016, OROGO has processed more than 80% of all applications for Operations Authorizations and Well Approvals within its established service standards. No applications were processed in 2017-2018.

Suspended Well Status



As of March 31, 2025, nine suspended wells remained in OROGO's jurisdiction.

Inactive Wells Safely Abandoned



Oil and gas wells safely abandoned under OROGO jurisdiction since April 1, 2014.

INUKTITUT

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In 2024-2025, OROGO introduced new service standards for the processing of Well Operations Reports and Change of Well Status requests. OROGO received five Well Operations Reports or Change of Well Status requests in 2024-2025. All were processed within the 30 business day timeframe established by the service standard.

INSPECTIONS

OROGO's inspection activities in 2024-2025 fell into two categories:

- On-site inspections of authorized oil and gas activities; and
- Review of operator inspections of suspended wells.

In 2024-2025, OROGO staff conducted the following inspections of active well operations:

- One post-abandonment inspection of a well in Inuvik in May 2024;
- One inspection of surface infrastructure and facility removal near Fort Liard in July 2024;
- Two inspections of well abandonments near Colville Lake in February 2025;
- A post-operations inspection of the Cameron Hills field in September 2024, including:
 - 41 abandoned well inspections;
 - An inspection of the completed pipeline decommissioning operations and surface infrastructure and facility removal operations.

In 2024-2025, OROGO introduced new service standards for the completion of inspection reports. OROGO completed 45 inspection reports, only one of which was issued within the ten business day timeframe established by the service standard. The primary reason for the delay in issuing inspection reports was the volume of reports associated with the post-operations inspection of the Cameron Hills field.

The *Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations* require operators to regularly monitor and inspect their suspended wells to ensure they are in good condition and are not leaking. In 2024-2025, OROGO received 13 inspection reports, including gas migration testing reports, from the operators responsible for ongoing monitoring of suspended wells. OROGO staff reviewed all these reports and followed up with operators to address any potential issues.

ORDERS

The Regulator did not issue any orders in 2024-2025.

The Chief Safety Officer issued an order, ORD-2024-001-SOG, to Alvarez and Marsal Canada Inc., Receiver for Strategic Oil and Gas Ltd., on December 17, 2024. As of March 31, 2025, Alvarez and Marsal Canada Inc. was in compliance with the order.

INCIDENT RESPONSE

Oil and gas incidents are reported to the Regulator in two ways. If the incident results in a spill over a certain threshold from OROGO-regulated facilities or pipelines, the incident must be reported through the NT-NU 24 Hour Spill Line Spill Line, which then routes the information to OROGO. All incidents must also be reported directly to OROGO through a dedicated 24/7 phone line, even if the incident results in a spill below the threshold or is a non-spill incident or a near miss.

In February 2024, the Chief Safety Officer and Chief Conservation Officer confirmed to all operators that gas migration and surface casing vent flows are considered incidents under the *Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations* and must be reported to OROGO and to the NT-NU 24 Hour Spill Line. Two such incidents were closed in 2024-2025, when well repair and abandonment operations were successful. One incident of surface casing vent flow remains open as of March 31, 2025.

Activities in 2024-2025 resulted in one near-miss reported to OROGO. The reports required under the *Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations* were received and reviewed by OROGO.

2023-2024 Incidents and Near-Misses

Incident #	Nature of the Incident
NM-2024-001-PAR-POA-2620-D-12-9	Environmental

In May 2024, OROGO observed a live emergency response exercise at the Ikhil pipeline gate station in Inuvik in conjunction with the Canada Energy Regulator.

OTHER INITIATIVES

Promoting Open and Transparent Regulation

OROGO continues to promote an open and transparent oil and gas regulatory system in its jurisdiction.

In 2024-2025, OROGO:

- Presented its activities at the Yellowknife Geoscience Forum in November 2024;
- Participated in the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board's review of draft standard permit conditions related to oil and gas;
- Participated in the Environmental Assessment Measures Implementation Working Group Planning meeting organized by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board in January 2025;
- Co-hosted a workshop on regulating legacy contamination from oil and gas activities with the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board in February 2025; and
- Contributed to updating the *Guidelines for the Closure and Reclamation of Advanced Mineral Exploration and Mine Sites in the Northwest Territories*, issued by the Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley, to include oil and gas operations.

In 2024-2025, OROGO facilitated pre-operations planning meetings and weekly operations update meetings with operators, staff of the Mackenzie Valley and Sahtú Land and Water Boards, staff of the Workers Safety and Compensation Commission, and inspectors from the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

OROGO continues to participate in [FracFocus.ca](https://www.fracfocus.ca). [FracFocus.ca](https://www.fracfocus.ca) provides the public with information about the composition of the hydraulic fracturing fluid used by oil and gas companies, along with other information on hydraulic fracturing, groundwater and surface water protection, and related oil and gas activities in Canada.



Tie-in to transboundary pipeline, Cameron Hills, September 2024. (Credit: OROGO)

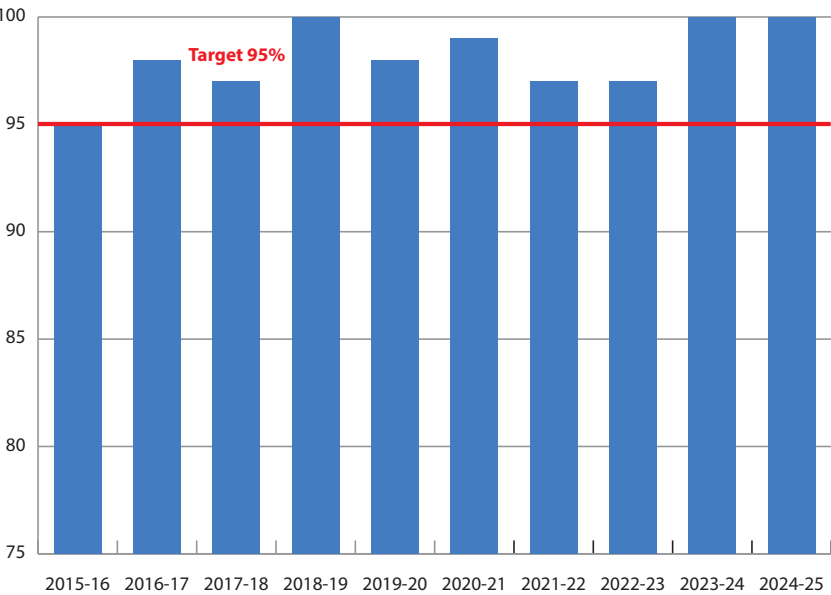
Making Information Available

OROGO is a repository for information collected during oil and gas activities. Information about oil and gas activities in the Regulator’s jurisdiction is available on OROGO’s website or by contacting the Information Office at orogo@gov.nt.ca.

Access to well materials (cuttings, fluid samples, and core samples) is also available by applying to the Information Office. Five requests to sample these materials were received in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. These materials are located at the Geological Survey of Canada core facility in Calgary, Alberta.

In keeping with its objective of accessibility, OROGO places a high priority on responsiveness to public inquiries. In 2024-2025, OROGO responded to 35 public inquiries, all within one business day, well within its service standards.

Response to Public Inquiries Within Service Standards (%)



Since 2015-2016, OROGO has provided a preliminary response to at least 95% of all public inquiries within one business day.

Guidelines and Interpretation Notes

Section 18 of OGOA authorizes the Regulator to issue guidelines and interpretation notes about the application and administration of OGOA and its regulations.

In 2024-2025, OROGO completed public engagement on the draft *Service Rig Operation Safety Guidelines and Interpretation Notes*. A summary of the engagement results and the final *Service Rig Operation Safety Guidelines and Interpretation Notes* were issued on March 31, 2025.



Liard K-29 fluid knock-out facility, near Fort Liard, July 2024. (Credit: OROGO)

Relationships with Other Regulators

OROGO prioritizes building and maintaining resilient working relationships with other regulators. It participates in groups that bring regulators from different jurisdictions together, as well as establishing direct, one-on-one relationships through Memoranda of Understanding and other tools.

OROGO participates actively in the NWT Board Forum, which brings together resource management organizations in the territory and strives to improve and maintain effective lines of communication between its members and to resolve common issues and share expertise. In November 2024, OROGO participated in an NWT Board Forum meeting in Fort Smith.

Since 2021, OROGO has co-chaired the NT-NU Spills Working Group, which provides for a consistent approach to regulating spill response operations throughout the Northwest Territories and Nunavut by clearly articulating which agency will act as the Lead Agency in the event of a spill and providing a mechanism for interagency cooperation between Federal, Territorial, and Indigenous governments.

OROGO is a member of the Western Regulators Forum (WRF), which focuses on facilitating the exchange of information and discussion of ideas about energy regulation, collaborating on research into issues of common interest, and supporting inter-organizational communications and engagement. The WRF includes representation from Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, as well as the Canada Energy Regulator. In 2024-2025, OROGO participated in a WRF community of practice on the use of drones in energy regulation and in multi-regulator dialogues on Indigenous Reconciliation and Emergency Management and on Emerging Energy Regulation. OROGO also participated as an observer in a WRF project on strategic use of standards.

OROGO continues to be an International Affiliate member of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC), which allows it to participate on committees, join in oil and gas studies, and access international best practices. Seven other Canadian provinces and territories are IOGCC International Affiliates.



Pointed Mountain pipeline tie-in, near Fort Liard, July 2024. (Credit: OROGO)

NORTH SLAVEY

Diri Tlehgot'ine Goꝛeghálaeda k'é eyia areyqné Tlehret'o hé Tleh dek'ale hé areyqné asáqodé lé, nezq bet'á, ghqedı (OROGO) goredı qt'e bek'eodi gha yeghokedı qt'e.

Waa begodı k'eoruzhá nahwhę nídé ejq www.oro.go.gov.nt.ca k'e dat'e qt'e

Outreach and Engagement

OROGO participated in community outreach and stakeholder engagement activities in 2024-2025, including:

- The Geoscience Forum in November 2024; and
- The annual meeting of GNWT departments involved with petroleum related initiatives in February 2025.

OROGO continues to work with communities through the Well Watch Program, which encourages local land users to report concerns with historic, abandoned well sites so they can be assessed and any identified risks can be addressed.

In 2024-2025, OROGO presented to the Regional Boreal Caribou Range Planning Working Group (organized by the Department of Environment and Climate Change) and the Sahtú Renewable Resources Councils on the Well Watch Program.

OROGO received inquiries about ten potential well sites of interest in 2024-2025.

Capacity Building

OROGO continues to enhance its own capacity to regulate oil and gas activities and to promote oil and gas regulatory capacity building across northern organizations.

OROGO facilitated a workshop on the regulation of end-of-life oil and gas infrastructure in November 2024 and presented its role and activities to students from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation in December 2024.

OROGO staff participated in formal and informal learning opportunities throughout the year, including:

- The Energy Safety Canada (ESC) Petroleum Safety Conference;
- Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) Training presented by Environment and Climate Change Canada;
- Plugging Practices Update – Methodologies and Emerging Issues presented by the Society of Petroleum Engineers and the IOGCC; and
- Incident Command System 200 training.



TELJHQ

Tieh eyits'q Tiehtsj Wehoidi t'à Eghàlageedaa Wenjhtl'èkò (OROGO) dè gots'q tleet'o eyits'q tieh xè eghàlagiidèe sii edete ts'à kehogiihdi xè dè gomqò gòʔqò tsjgowii ts'à k'ehogera, hani-ldè dè gots'q tleet'o eyits'q dègotlee gólàa sii deʔò wek'ehowi ha-le.

Deʔò wegodi k'èahsq ha nldè satsò t'à asii hàetaa www.oro.gov.nt.ca k'eyaahti.



Contact Information

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OROGO Incident Response Line (24/7): 1-867-445-8551