

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA
AND THE ALBERTA ENERGY AND UTILITIES BOARD
ON GOVERNMENT GEOSCIENCE PROGRAM COORDINATION IN ALBERTA**

This Memorandum of Agreement is made this 1st day of January 1999, between

Her Majesty the Queen in the right of Canada, herein represented by and acting through the Minister of Natural Resources,

AND

Her Majesty the Queen in the right of Alberta, herein represented by and acting through the Minister of Energy.

ADMINISTRATION

This agreement shall be administered by the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) responsible for the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC), acting on behalf of the Minister of Natural Resources for Canada (NRCan), and the Division Leader (DL), Resources, Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB), representing and acting on behalf of the Minister of Energy of Alberta.

BACKGROUND

The Geological Survey of Canada carries out national geoscience programs to define the geology and resources of Canada. These programs are typically thematically based and national or broadly regional in scope and significance. They are operated across Canada and include aspects of fundamental research, technology development and information transfer not contained in the programs of all of the provincial and territorial survey organizations. In addition to its activities on land, the GSC operates marine and coastal studies that are unique among the geological survey organizations. The GSC also has a lead role in representing Canada in international geoscience activities.

The Alberta Geological Survey (AGS) is a Group in the Resources Division of the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board. The EUB has responsibility to ensure that development of Alberta's energy resources takes place in a responsible manner and in the public interest and to ensure safe and efficient utility service. The AGS carries out programs specific to the economic development and resource management of the Province of Alberta. These programs are carried out at a scale appropriate to addressing provincial responsibilities and are geographically limited to the jurisdiction over resources, environment and land of the province. They contribute to a systematic description of the geology of Alberta, including its energy, mineral and groundwater resources. The provincial programs are largely directed toward sustainable economic

development and are closely linked to the needs of clients within the Province of Alberta. They are also related to provincial land use and social issues.

The responsibilities of the two surveys can be met most effectively and efficiently by using the complementary skills and competence of the GSC and the AGS. The programs of the two organizations are therefore mutually supportive. This agreement is designed to improve the effectiveness of that mutual support.

This agreement complements the Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord, which defines the different and complementary roles of the GSC and the provincial and territorial geological surveys and establishes a general framework for cooperation and collaboration in geoscience between the two levels of government.

PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

The following principles shall guide GSC-AGS cooperation in geoscience.

Geoscience activities by the GSC within Alberta shall be planned in consultation and coordination with the AGS.

Geoscience activities undertaken by the GSC within Alberta that are directly relevant to provincial responsibilities for energy, mineral and groundwater resources, and land management, shall be conducted in collaboration with the AGS, on the basis of mutual agreement.

Each Party shall have access to Alberta geoscience information generated by the other Party, in accordance with principles outlined by the National Geological Surveys Committee.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Agreement is to facilitate effective cooperation and collaboration between the GSC and the AGS in meeting the geoscience needs of the Alberta government, Alberta industry, and the Alberta public, and the national responsibilities of the GSC. This shall be achieved by:

1. establishing a Cooperation Committee to facilitate communication between the Parties and to carry out the intent of this agreement;
2. establishing an external Geoscience Advisory Committee that provides direction and guidance to both the GSC and the AGS;
3. working cooperatively to determine the geoscience needs of Alberta, establish priorities, and investigate ways by which the capabilities of either Party can be directed most efficiently to meet these needs;

4. investigating all opportunities to conduct projects jointly and to share facilities and equipment;
5. consulting jointly with the users of government geoscience products and other interested stakeholders in Alberta;
6. conducting geoscience activities in Alberta under integrated annual work plans;
7. providing opportunities for scientific staff to work together to facilitate knowledge and technology transfer and to provide exposure for EUB staff to GSC's international activities; and
8. emphasizing those program elements and projects in which collaboration and cooperation between the Parties, other agencies of the federal and provincial governments, universities and industry are most beneficial to the public.

COOPERATION COMMITTEE

The Parties to this agreement shall establish a Cooperation Committee, to be composed of management personnel from the AGS and GSC divisions working in Alberta.

Responsibilities

The Cooperation Committee shall be responsible for consulting with users of government geoscience products, determining the geoscience needs of Alberta, preparing integrated annual work plans, and for any other activities that contribute to better cooperation and collaboration between the Parties. This Committee shall report to the ADM responsible for the GSC and the DL, Resources, EUB.

Membership

1. The Cooperation Committee shall consist of three or more members from each Party, in approximately equal numbers.
2. The Cooperation Committee shall be co-chaired by one (1) member from each Party.
3. The co-chair and the members on the Cooperation Committee representing Canada shall be appointed by the ADM responsible for the GSC. The co-chair and the members of the Cooperation Committee representing Alberta shall be appointed by the DL, Resources, EUB.
4. The co-chairs may invite additional representatives from their organizations to participate in the deliberations of the Cooperation Committee, in order to ensure that there is adequate technical input to the committee's decisions.
5. The committee shall operate by consensus.

Meeting Schedule and Funding

1. The Cooperation Committee shall meet formally at least annually, at a location to be determined by the co-chairs, and at other times as necessary.
2. Participation in the Cooperation Committee shall be at the expense of the participating organization.
3. Provision of secretariat support for the Cooperation Committee shall be shared by the Parties.
4. The Cooperation Committee shall provide minutes of all formal meetings and reports of all workshops to each committee member and to the ADM responsible for the GSC and to the DL, Resources, EUB.

Evaluation of Needs

The first responsibility of the Cooperation Committee shall be to evaluate the geoscience needs of Alberta. The "evaluation of needs" shall be used as a basis for establishing program priorities for the coming 3 years or more.

ALBERTA GEOSCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

An external Geoscience Advisory Committee shall be established as follows.

Objective

The objective of the committee is to provide concerted advice to GSC and AGS on their separate and joint scientific endeavours in the province.

Scope

The committee's scope includes, in broad outline:

1. assist in identifying geoscience needs;
2. advise on and review the programs of both agencies in or related to Alberta;
3. provide strategic guidance to the integrated program;
4. monitor progress of the integrated program;
5. assist in developing close links with clients.

Modus Operandi

The committee shall normally meet at least once a year and shall submit an annual summary report to the ADM responsible for the GSC and the DL, Resources, EUB.

Costs of operating the committee and providing secretariat functions shall be shared equally between the GSC and EUB.

Membership

Members shall be selected and appointed for three-year staggered terms, jointly by the ADM of NRCan and the DL, Resources, EUB.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Subject to modification by written agreement, the Cooperation Committee and the Geoscience Advisory Committee shall work in complement to plan, review and project future collaborative AGS-GSC ventures in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Needs / Review / Future Directions

The annual joint meeting of the Cooperation Committee and the Alberta Geoscience Advisory Committee shall undertake: to establish / re-evaluate the geoscience needs of Alberta; to review progress in the separate and joint programs of GSC and AGS in Alberta; and to recommend future undertakings. Relevant client groups may be asked to participate in the joint meeting as deemed necessary.

2. Program Workshop(s)

Workshops involving personnel from EUB/AGS and GSC shall be convened as required to develop joint initiatives, with or without the participation of third parties.

3. Project Work Plans

The GSC and the AGS shall develop project budgets and joint work plans for the program to be implemented in each new fiscal year, and shall jointly release a summary of all separate and joint projects.

4. National Geological Surveys Committee (NGSC) Review

The projected joint program shall be provided annually, as appropriate, to the NGSC for their review in the context of Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord.

AMENDMENTS

This Memorandum of Agreement does not create legally binding obligations between the Parties, but expresses their desire to cooperate and coordinate geoscience activities. This Memorandum of Agreement may be amended with the mutual written consent of both Parties. Any amendment becomes part of this agreement.

Ralph Goodale
Minister of Natural Resources (Canada)

Stephen C. West
Minister of Energy (Alberta)

JUL 16 1999
Date

17 March 1999
Date