

Managing Noise in the Heartland

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Daily life involves a variety of noise sources – from mosquitoes (20 decibels) to birds chirping (40 decibels) to normal street noise (70 decibels) to a child practicing the trombone (100+ decibels).

Similar to an airport, amusement park, or ocean port, regions with increased activity and multiple sources of noise like Alberta's Industrial Heartland require a specialized approach to managing noise and its impacts.

Recently, a unique noise management plan has received approval for implementation in Alberta's Industrial Heartland. First-of-its-kind in North America, the Regional Noise Management Plan applies industry best practices to environmental noise management.

The plan is designed to help minimize the impact of noise levels from many industrial facilities in the Heartland. Through the plan, companies adopt best practice principles for noise management. They will implement the plan based on what is achievable and practical to address normal operating conditions, routine planned event strategies and new facility standards.

Similar to other monitoring and management systems in Alberta's Industrial Heartland, such as air quality and water quality, the noise management plan provides a guideline and process in order to help manage noise effectively. The plan was created through the cooperation of the Alberta Energy Regulator (formerly Energy Resources Conservation Board) and the Northeast Capital Industrial Association, comprised of twenty four member companies who operate in Alberta's Industrial Heartland.

If you are ever curious about loud noise or alarms from industrial facilities, call the UPDATEline at 1-866-653-9959. It is a 24 hour telephone information line for the community to access. Industrial companies post recorded messages about noise, as well as other industrial site activities.

*Brought to you by **Life in the Heartland**, a partnership aimed at improving access to information, resources, and contacts for residents in and around Alberta's Industrial Heartland. For more information, visit www.lifeintheheartland.com, email info@lifeintheheartland.com or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LifeintheHeartland.*