



BRAZEAU COUNTY

Major Industry Profile

OIL AND GAS

Production in the Pembina Oilfields area began in early 1953 with the discovery well located a few miles south west of Violet Grove. Eventually, 15,000 wells have been drilled with 7,000 still in service today. Forty-five years later, in excess of 1,000 wells continue to be drilled annually. In 2006 alone, approximately 1,450 were drilled; the most ever in one year. The area, commonly known as the Pembina Oilfields, actually contains numerous named oil field areas such as Bigory, Brazeau, Carrot Creek, Crystal, CynPemb, Keystone, Peco, Pembina, Pigeon Lake and West Pembina. The pipeline system that gathers the production from all these fields and transports to Edmonton also picks up oil volumes from the Niton field area to the northwest and from the Willesden Green Field located approximately 65 kilometers south of Drayton Valley. This pipeline system, owned and operated by Pembina Pipeline, also gathers condensate at several gas plants in the Drayton Valley area.

At the present time, approximately 11,400 cubic meters of crude oil per day and 3,300 cubic meters of condensate per day moved through this pipeline system to the Edmonton terminals. The Town of Drayton Valley and Brazeau County are home to a number of environmental companies. One of the most important aspects of the environmental service business is that there is a large infrastructure of equipment in the area. Examples of this equipment would include vacuum trucks, tanks, pumps, etc.

Due to the size of the oil and gas industry in the area, the majority of the companies who call our area home are dealing with oil. Often these companies are making ground-breaking strides in the environmental industry in the areas of waste management and environmental cleanup and reclamation. Amongst these are the NewAlta Corporation Oil Separation Station and labs and the Pembina Area Landfill – the only Class 1A Hazardous Waste Landfill site in Alberta, located 11 km northwest of Cynthia.