



Procedure for cryptocurrency dispositions on public lands

Procedure for cryptocurrency dispositions on public lands | Forestry and Parks

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This publication is available online at [Electronic Disposition System – Overview | Alberta.ca](#)

Version history

Version	Date	Author	Description
1.0	May 11, 2026	Government of Alberta – Forestry and Parks	New activity direction and procedures
2.0	July 7, 2026	Government of Alberta – Forestry and Parks	Procedural updates

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Procedure for cryptocurrency dispositions on public lands

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This procedure establishes requirements to apply for overlapping cryptocurrency disposition activities on public land as administered by the Ministry of Forestry and Parks (the ministry). With cryptocurrency being a new activity considered on public land, clarity of regulatory process is required to inform both proponents as well as regulatory bodies.

This policy is subject to review and may be updated as appropriate based on its application, operational and legislative considerations and evolution of the disposition activity.

1.2 Background

Alberta is actively positioning itself as a competitor in attraction of cryptocurrency mining and blockchain technology, leveraging its low-cost energy, cold climate, and supportive regulatory environment to attract industry investment. This policy was developed to recognize the potential within the province to establish low risk cryptocurrency dispositions onto already existing dispositions while utilizing existing power sources or lower yield natural gas to generate electricity onsite. This approach minimizes the risk to Albertans where cryptocurrency activities may occur within already existing footprints while supporting economic diversification, and new business opportunities.

Economic opportunity

- Many proposals involve using stranded or lower yield natural gas to generate electricity onsite, aligning with Alberta's [Mature asset strategy](#).
- Proposed dispositions to date are small scale, co-located projects that leverage existing infrastructure and minimize new land impacts.
- Government position:
 - Alberta supports responsible innovation and economic diversification.
 - Opportunities on Crown land must align with environmental, regulatory and reclamation requirements.
 - The interim approach enables practical, low risk projects that use existing industrial sites rather than creating new disturbance.

Key aspects of Alberta's cryptocurrency strategy

- Energy-driven mining growth: The province is promoting the use of wasted natural gas for on-site, off-grid power generation for data centers and cryptocurrency mining, reducing emissions while providing untapped power for these ventures.

1.3 Authority

Application procedures and related decisions as subject to [Public Lands Administration Regulation](#), section 9 (application for formal disposition).

1.4 Scope

To clarify the regulatory process and requirements for the application of overlapping cryptocurrency dispositions on public land.

Cryptocurrency disposition applications will not be considered for review under the following conditions:

- Where the proposed cryptocurrency activity falls onto a primary disposition;
 - Issued within a Grazing Lease (GRL), Farm Development Lease (FDL), or Forest Grazing Licence (FGL), or
 - Issued within a Provincial Grazing Reserve (PGR) or within a Forest Reserve,
- Lands regulated under the *Parks and Protected Areas, Wilmore Wilderness Park Act*, the *Forest Reserves Act* and *Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands* (WAERNAHR) lands, and
- Where the proposed cryptocurrency disposition does not overlap an existing disposition, requiring the allocation of vacant public land.

2.0 Policy

The ministry will consider Licence of Occupation (DLO) applications for cryptocurrency activities where the proposed disposition falls entirely within and overlaps an existing disposition (the primary disposition).

Cryptocurrency dispositions will only be considered by the ministry when the proposed activity meets the following criteria:

- Cryptocurrency dispositions that overlap the following existing and active dispositions (as listed) where the primary disposition is developed, operating and in use. Cryptocurrency dispositions proposed on primary dispositions not actively developed or operated will be rejected.

Disposition	Purpose	Activity
DML	Electrical	Power Station/Substation
MLL	PNG or OS Facility	Central Processing Facility
MLL	PNG or OS Facility	Gas Processing Plant
MLL	PNG or OS Facility	Gas Processing Plant – Sulphur Recovery
MLL	PNG or OS Facility	Satellite Site
MSL	PNG or OS Facility	Central Processing Facility
MSL	PNG or OS Facility	Gas Processing Plant
MSL	PNG or OS Facility	Gas Processing Plant – Sulphur Recovery
MSL	PNG or OS Facility	Battery Site
MSL	PNG or OS Facility	Satellite Site

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Disposition	Purpose	Activity
MSL	Wellsite	OS – Cold Production
MSL	Wellsite	OS – Enhanced Recovery
MSL	Wellsite	PNG Production Multi-Well (MW)
MSL	Wellsite	PNG Production Single Well (SW)

- The applicant must obtain written consent from the primary disposition holder (even if the primary disposition holder is the same company).
- The disposition boundary of the overlapping cryptocurrency disposition must fall entirely within the boundaries of the primary disposition. Proposed cryptocurrency disposition boundaries should include the lands required to access and operate the disposition ensuring those activities remain within the boundary of the existing primary disposition.
 - Amendments to the overlapping cryptocurrency disposition may occur as per existing regulatory processes, however boundary amendments and changes must continue to reside within the existing primary disposition footprint.
 - Amendments to the existing primary disposition may be considered by the regulatory body in relation to original purpose of that disposition, however the addition of land to the primary disposition will not be considered where those lands are being acquired to support the expansion of the overlapping cryptocurrency disposition.
- Cryptocurrency dispositions must identify and supply distinct power needs as related to available resources unique to the existing primary disposition and must not access or utilize power from the Alberta Interconnected Electric System.
- The cryptocurrency disposition holder and the primary disposition holder are jointly responsible for reclamation of the overlapping subject land.
- For any reason, should the existing primary disposition be cancelled, surrendered or abandoned, the overlapping cryptocurrency disposition will expire.
- For any reason, should the existing primary disposition holder become insolvent, the ministry in its own discretion may suspend the overlapping cryptocurrency disposition until such time as the primary disposition returns to an active status.
- All dispositions are subject to fees and rents as set out by Ministerial Orders under PLA 9.1 as updated from time to time.

Power generation thresholds

This policy recognizes that depending on the threshold of power generation being considered as part of the cryptocurrency disposition, additional regulatory steps may be required. As such, when considering application to the ministry, the following power thresholds will be managed accordingly:

- Power Generation of less than 1 MW: The ministry will review applications as per these procedures as this threshold does not require *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA) application or Alberta Utility Commission (AUC) regulatory requirements.
- Power Generation of 1 MW or greater: Additional application requirements triggered as this threshold requires EPEA and AUC regulatory oversight.
 - The ministry will only accept a cryptocurrency disposition application if the applicant provides AUC approval for power generation at the time of application. This is required before the ministry can consider the allocation of land for this activity. If AUC approval is not provided at time of application, the application will be rejected.

- The ministry can consider a lands application without EPEA authorization, as this does not preclude the allocation of public land, only the operation of the facility.

Associated fees and rents

Cryptocurrency dispositions will be subject to application and rental fees as per ministerial procedures, with the following clarifications;

- Timber Damage Assessment (TDA): As these activities are limited to lands already under disposition, TDA will not be collected.
- Security: Since cryptocurrency activities on the land will occur within an existing disposition footprint, the ministry does not plan to collect additional security at time of issuance. However, as per policy, the delegated director does have discretion to assess security needs should additional risks become apparent at time of issuance.

The ministry holds the right to review and make changes in the future and may reassess the application of security at time of disposition issuance.

Requirements for Indigenous consultation

Cryptocurrency dispositions, although a relatively new “sector,” of operations being considered on public land, are limited for consideration only onto existing and active dispositions. When considered, those activities will share an existing footprint that results in common use of land when locating structures and conducting operations that align with the operation and development of the existing primary disposition.

Limiting the application of cryptocurrency dispositions onto existing disturbances under disposition prevents impact to undisturbed vacant public land. Cryptocurrency operations can easily integrate into the active operations of the primary disposition eliminating any new, novel or adverse impacts to Indigenous communities.

Based on the direction within this policy, cryptocurrency dispositions fall under existing direction as found within Appendix B: Sector-Specific Activities That May Not Require Consultation from [The Government of Alberta's Guidelines on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management](#) (September 20, 2024):

- Activities that may not require consultation include programs on existing linear disturbances (for example, roads, power lines) or other previously disturbed areas or previously approved programs/dispositions.

In all cases, the Government of Alberta retains the discretion to modify the level of consultation as required.

Third-Party Agreements

The ministry recommends Third-Party Agreements be established between the primary disposition holder and the applicant to further inform the details of consent and accountability of both parties. This agreement should clarify the agreed to commitments between the existing primary disposition holder and the overlapping disposition holder. The ministry does not require copies of the agreement to be provided at time of application.

Additional factors for consideration

As these overlapping cryptocurrency activities utilize existing gas resources for power generation, proper accounting for the gas resource is still required. For clarity, subsurface rights, resource extraction and sale of petroleum and gas products are regulated by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER).

Should a cryptocurrency company assume and become the holder of a petroleum or natural gas disposition, proper regulatory authorities must be maintained to allow the continued production and sale of those resources, regardless of if the overlapping disposition falls to the same company.

Cross-ministry coordination

Oversight of cryptocurrency dispositions on public land is managed by Forestry and Parks (FP) in coordination with the AER.

Engagement may occur with other ministries and agencies should power generation thresholds supporting cryptocurrency dispositions arise:

- AUC authorization is required at time of application for any cryptocurrency disposition application that requires power generation of 1 MW or greater.
- Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) have jurisdiction over power plants supporting cryptocurrency dispositions of 1 MW or greater even when located within other existing dispositions.

Where compliance issues are identified that involve parties of the primary disposition or overlapping cryptocurrency disposition, regulatory agencies will work together to determine the lead investigators and if other regulatory support is required.

3.0 Procedures

Where overlapping cryptocurrency dispositions are being proposed on existing dispositions on public land, FP will consider applications as follows:

Proponents will make applications through the ministry's [Electronic Disposition System](#) (EDS) application portal by selecting the following:

Disposition Type	Purpose	Activity	Description
DLO	Commercial Development	Cryptocurrency – Overlapping - Rural	Specialized facility and supporting structures located within an existing active disposition, designed to house and manage an array of computing infrastructure and systems (such as servers and data storage systems) that support the mining of cryptocurrency.

Disposition Type	Purpose	Activity	Description
DLO	Commercial Development	Cryptocurrency – Overlapping	Specialized facility and supporting structures located within an existing active disposition, designed to house and manage an array of computing infrastructure and systems (such as servers and data storage systems) that support the mining on cryptocurrency within an urban municipality, urban service area, bow corridor or Kananaskis improvement district.

Activity selection is based on the following criteria;

Rule	Activity
Where a cryptocurrency activity overlaps a Mineral Surface Lease (MSL) disposition regardless of location.	Cryptocurrency – Overlapping - Rural
Where a cryptocurrency activity overlaps a Department Miscellaneous Lease (DML) or Miscellaneous Lease (MLL) disposition that is located outside an urban municipality, urban service area, bow corridor or Kananaskis improvement district.	Cryptocurrency – Overlapping - Rural
Where a cryptocurrency activity overlaps a DML or MLL disposition that is located within an urban municipality, urban service area, bow corridor or Kananaskis improvement district.	Cryptocurrency – Overlapping

Application requirements

The submission of a cryptocurrency application must address the following application requirements with complete and accurate information to be considered as complete:

Application requirements	Related information
Submission of a Licence of Occupation (DLO) application	As submitted through the Electronic Disposition System (EDS). Electronic Disposition System – Overview Alberta.ca
Cryptocurrency supplement and site plan	Found on Alberta.ca, applicants will complete and submit the supplement as 'Preapplication information' as part of the EDS submission. Application supplement - Cryptocurrency Applicants will also complete and submit with the application a site plan detailing where the cryptocurrency structures and infrastructure will be located within the cryptocurrency disposition boundary, including: power generation facilities, data pods, transformers, etc.

Application requirements	Related information
Application plan	Plan Confirmation Service (PCS) - Submission of a sketch plan that meets the standards as outlined in the Content requirements for survey plans and sketches for dispositions on Crown lands .
Consent of the primary disposition holder	Consent provided in writing. Attach the completed consent form Consent to occupy - Cryptocurrency : Note: Where the primary disposition holder and the overlapping cryptocurrency applicant are the same, proof of consent is still required.
AUC Authorization	AUC AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED at time of application when associated power generation to the cryptocurrency activity is 1 MW or greater.

Application review: Applications for cryptocurrency dispositions will be reviewed by Public Lands Disposition Management (PLDM) to assess and make decision regarding completeness and issuance.

Completeness decision: Upon receipt of an application submission the ministry will reject the application, should;

- the applicant fail to submit and meet the identified application requirements,
- the plan submission not meet application submission requirements as confirmed by Geomatics Unit,
- the disposition be located within a primary disposition located within agricultural lands, a Provincial Grazing Reserve (PGR), Forest Reserve or park lands,
- the applicant be indebted to the crown, or
- the holder of the primary disposition is struck.

Where requirements are met and the application is deemed complete, the application file will continue to be reviewed by PLDM as part of the merit review, and will not be assigned to the regions.

Merit Decision: The decision maker will consider the aspects of the disposition application and ensure;

- the primary disposition is active and in operation,
- the scale of the cryptocurrency activity is in line with these procedures,
- other parallel regulatory approvals have been considered (as required),
- proper authorities are in place for the use and consumption of the resource for power generation.

Application Referral: Cryptocurrency disposition applications will not require referral to the AER based on the consent provided by the primary disposition holder. Through spatial integration tools and shared databases, the AER is able to identify and locate cryptocurrency dispositions associated to a primary disposition.

The ministry after review will render a decision of issuance or refusal, as per ministerial procedures.

If approved, the term of the disposition will be issued up to the term of the primary disposition, minus 1 day. Renewal terms will be processed subject to the renewal of the primary disposition.

4.0 Definitions

For the purposes of this Directive, the following definitions apply:

“Primary disposition” refers to the existing and active disposition to which the cryptocurrency disposition is being proposed to overlap.

“Primary disposition holder” refers to the holder of the existing and active disposition.

“Active status” refers to the status of the primary disposition where the disposition has been entered, developed and where ongoing operations are occurring that can accommodate an overlapping activity with minimal disturbance.

5.0 Approval

Original signed by

Kevin Quintillio, Executive Director

July 9, 2026

Date