



RESERVOIR SYMPOSIUM

FEBRUARY 4-5, 2026 | CALGARY, AB

Reservoir Characterization for Energy Security

Between Rocks and Rights: Navigating the Legal Landscape of Pore Space

Speaker: Kerri Howard - Partner, McCarthy Tétrault LLP
Riley Thackray, Associate, McCarthy Tétrault LLP

ABSTRACT

As Alberta continues to navigate the expansion of emissions reduction solutions, questions surrounding the ownership, use, and regulation of subsurface pore space have become increasingly important. Pore space represents a critical asset in the province's strategy to support carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) initiatives. This presentation examines the legal and regulatory treatment of pore space and the intersection with existing subsurface resource rights. We will address questions of ownership (who owns and controls pore space), access and compensation (how rights holders are recognized and remunerated), and long-term liability (who bears responsibility for stored substances once operations cease).