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# Exclusion Zone Violations

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CAGC Information Alert

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**Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors**  
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**Details:**

During a post project production review of a stake-less seismic survey conducted in January, it was identified that numerous exclusion zone violations had occurred throughout various phases of the project. The violations included line clearance across an NEB regulated pipeline, acquiring vibrator source points too close to a residence and water wells, and acquiring vibrator source points throughout various pipeline corridors. Further investigation findings noted that neither field nor office management were aware of the violations until the end of project production review with the client. It was decided by both the prime contractor and the client that a formal investigation be completed to identify the areas of breakdown leading to the exclusion zone violations. Although there were several exclusion zone breaches, none of the violations resulted in physical damage to pipelines or structures.

**Causes:**

- Exclusion zones were identified within the electronic survey files for equipment operators, however the updated files were not loaded into the navigation systems.
- Lack of procedure accessibility.
- Lack of specific stake-less operating procedures including defined communication flow between office and field management.
- Lack of documented equipment operator competency and experience verification.

**Mitigations and Corrective Actions:**

- Review of survey procedures and ensure all aspects of conducting stake-less operations are included and communicated to managers.
- Heightened awareness of procedure location and accessibility to personnel.
- Documented competency verification for equipment operators.
- Documented communication flow between office and field management.