

## Alberta protesters lose Castle wilderness Shell Canada sour gas drilling appeal

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EDMONTON - Opponents of a sour gas drilling proposal in a southern Alberta wilderness area won't be able to appeal a decision that allows the project to proceed.

The Alberta Court of Appeal has ruled against arguments that Shell Canada's plan to drill in the Castle wilderness area near Waterton National Park would disrupt a grizzly bear den.

The Court says drilling opponents didn't follow the rules for submitting their objections, nor did they allow the Energy Resources Conservation Board to inspect the den.

The drilling opponents have already blocked one of Shell's attempts to get to the proposed wellsite.

Shell points out there are already 50 wells and 200 kilometres of pipeline in the area and promises to minimize the project's impact.

Opponents say the wellsite would be located within an area that is supposed to be environmentally protected.