

Application and Review Process

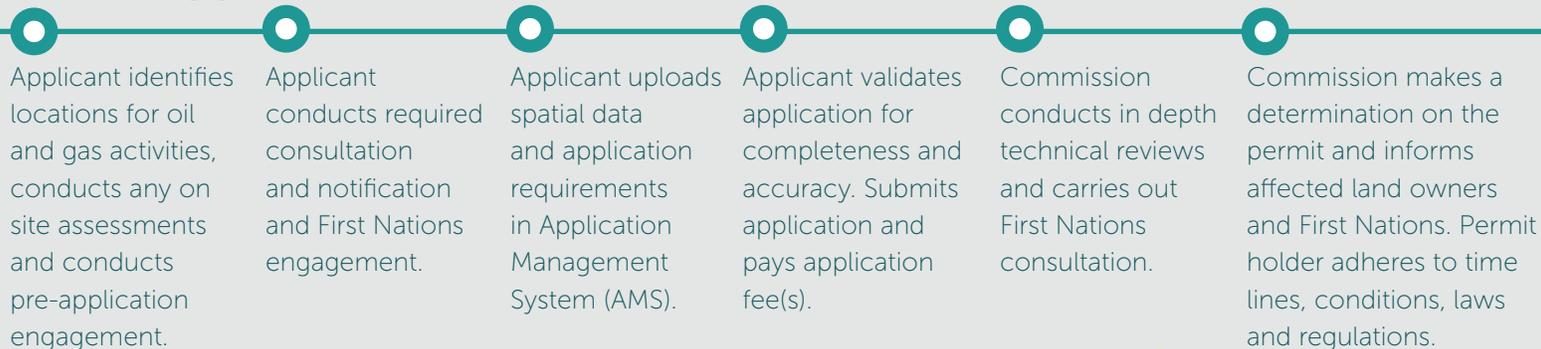
How Do Companies Apply for Oil and Gas Permits?

Companies looking to explore, develop, produce, and market oil and gas resources in British Columbia must apply to the Commission for oil and gas activity permits. The Commission's role in permitting oil and gas activities is defined by the Oil and Gas Activities Act.

Companies must adhere to specific application requirements throughout the entire process. Once pre-application requirements are complete, companies prepare and compile the relevant information for submission to the Commission.

Following application submission, the Commission conducts a comprehensive technical review of the application based on the characteristics, location and circumstances of the activity.

The Application and Review Process



What Happens Post-approval?

If approved, activities must be carried out in accordance with the permit, regulations, applicable laws and time lines and/or conditions attached to the permit. Permits must be in hand before conducting any activity.

Permit holders should maintain ongoing dialogue with the Commission and stakeholders throughout the life cycle of the project. This includes operational and reporting requirements and continued engagement as defined in Commission manuals and guidelines.



For Further Information

Email ogc.communications@bcogc.ca or call 250-794-5200

24 Hour Incident Reporting for Industry 1-800-663-3456

This information is published by the BC Oil and Gas Commission and is available online at www.bcogc.ca

Application Requirements

Oil and gas and associated activities require a permit from the Commission. Operators may apply for a single activity or multiple activities at the same time through the Commission's Application Management System. Therefore, a single application may include more than one activity.

The application system utilizes spatial data to verify the geographic location of a proposed oil and gas activity and land required.

In 2020, the Commission approved:

540 new oil and gas related applications, which included **530** new wells, **288** new road segments, **61** new facilities and **76** new pipeline segments.

Commission Decision Makers



Commission decision makers review all oil and gas activity applications. Dependent on the location and scope of the activity other areas of expertise may be involved.

A thorough review is done by agriculture, forestry, community relations, archaeology, engineering (drilling and production, pipelines and/or facilities), land and habitat, environmental management, First Nations, hydrology, resource stewardship and resource development to name a few.

Applicants then input engineering and/or technical data into the required fields for the specified activity. Additional supporting information may be required depending on the activity and its location including a summary of the results from consultation and pre-engagement with land owners and rights holders and First Nations. In addition, land use, environmental values, archaeology, forestry and agricultural land use information may be needed.

The statutory decision maker gathers the results and recommendations from these reviews and makes an informed decision.

For example: The Resource Development team provide technical expertise in subsurface oil and gas conservation issues, and assess applications so optimal depletion strategies are employed.



The Commission's specific permitting authority is defined in the Oil and Gas Activities Act. In order to effectively function as a single-window regulator for oil and gas in British Columbia, delegation agreements are in place to allow the Commission to make decisions on certain oil and gas uses within the parameters outlined in those agreements. In addition, certain authorizations granted through specific Acts provide the Commission permitting powers under specified enactments.

Permits and authorizations granted by the Commission include:

- Oil and gas activity permits under the Oil and Gas Activities Act, including well, pipeline, facilities, road and geophysical permits.
- Associated oil and gas activity authorizations under the Land Act and Petroleum and Natural Gas Act, including activities such as borrow pits, temporary work spaces and camp sites.
- Authorizations under the Water Sustainability Act, including authorizations for changes in and about a stream, short-term water use and water licences.
- Non-farm use of lands included in the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR), with delegated authority under the Agriculture Land Commission Act.
- Master licences to cut and cutting permits and road use permits under the Forest Act.
- Archaeology-related permissions under the Heritage Conservation Act.
- Permits and approvals for air emissions and effluent discharges under the Environmental Management Act.
- Specific provincial authorizations related to pipelines subject to the National Energy Board Act.