

Consultation and Notification

Why Consultation and Notification?

Companies intending to submit an application for an oil and gas activity are required to complete a formal engagement process with land owners and rights holders who may be affected by the activity.

The intent of this process is to promote communication between the company and those affected before an application is submitted.

What is Consultation?

Consultation is engagement more specific to land owners or rights holders most directly affected by the proposed activity, generally in closest proximity. An Invitation to Consult outlines a description of the project, timelines and instructions on how concerns regarding the project can be relayed to the company or the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission). The invitation also provides opportunity for land owners or rights holders to meet and discuss concerns with the company.

What is Notification?

A letter of notification is engagement with land owners or rights holders who are not within the closest proximity but may still experience impacts as a result of the activity. The notification must provide a description of the project and clear instructions on how concerns regarding the activity can be relayed to the company or the Commission.

Companies must carry out consultation and notification, plan for appropriate timelines and allow information to be received by land owners or rights holders according to timeframes of the different delivery methods.



Land owners or rights holders with concerns about a proposed oil and gas activity may submit a written response to the company within the 30 day review period or send a written submission to the Commission until the time

a decision is made on the application. If an issue remains unresolved, land owners, rights holders or the company may connect with the Commission's Community Relations team.

Talking to Land Owners and Rights Holders

Companies must secure tenure rights through the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation and complete the required consultation and notification with land owners and rights holders before submitting an oil and gas activity application. After a thorough application review, a permit may be issued. The Commission then informs affected land owners. Permit holders must adhere to timelines, conditions, laws and regulations and should maintain ongoing dialogue with the Commission and land owners.



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

How Does Your Input Affect Application Review?

The concerns you send in about a proposed activity, whether through a written response to the company or a written submission to the Commission, are included in a company's application. This input forms an important part of the application review and is considered during the decision process.

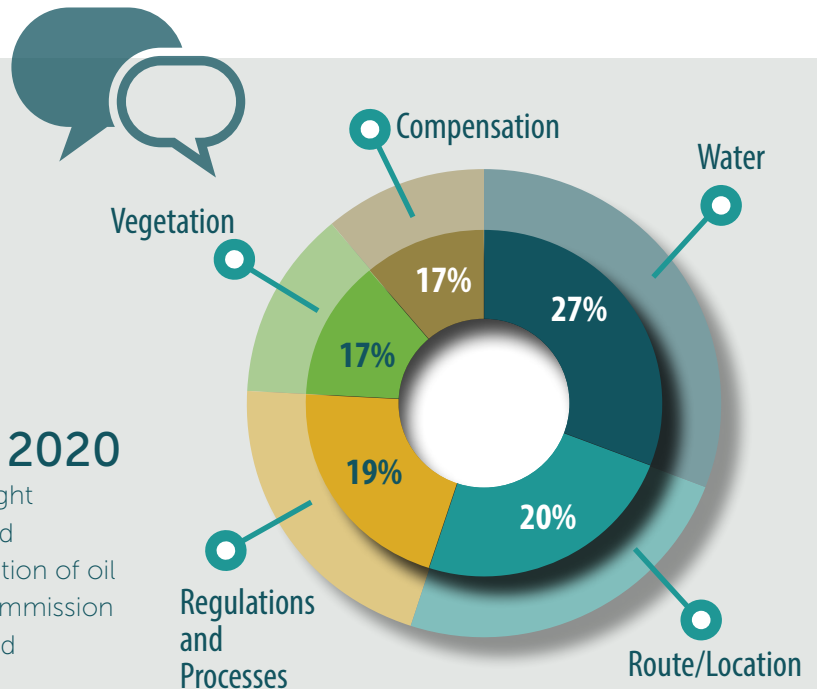
Where necessary, the Commission may refuse to issue a permit, require the applicant to conduct further engagement on unresolved concerns, modify the application, add mitigation measures to proposed activities or attach terms or conditions if a permit is to be granted.

Community Relations

The Commission's Community Relations team is an important resource for rights holders who may be affected by oil and gas activities. The team provides information to land owners on regulatory processes and oil and gas activities, and also acts as a neutral facilitator, resolving issues between land owners and industry regarding oil and gas activities.

Top Community Interests for 2020

The graphic on the right shows the top interests brought forward by the community during the consultation and notification process. They include water, route or location of oil and gas activities, questions about regulations and Commission processes, and the impact of activity on vegetation and compensation.



Did You Know?

✓ Based on land owner and Indigenous feedback, the Commission has reviewed, revised, and released updated Consultation and Notification regulations.

Effective June 1, 2021, **Requirements for Consultation and Notification (RCNR)** will replace the Consultation and Notification regulations.

Key updates involve improved **responsiveness** by **extending time** for service periods and land owner response times.

✓ If for any reason you as a land owner or rights holder need someone to act or respond on your behalf, you will need to provide a 'letter of designation' or a copy of your Power of Attorney.

✓ Emergency Response Planning is a separate requirement designed to support industry in developing a safety framework to protect those working on site, neighbours, property and the environment. View our [Emergency Preparedness fact sheet](#) to learn more.