

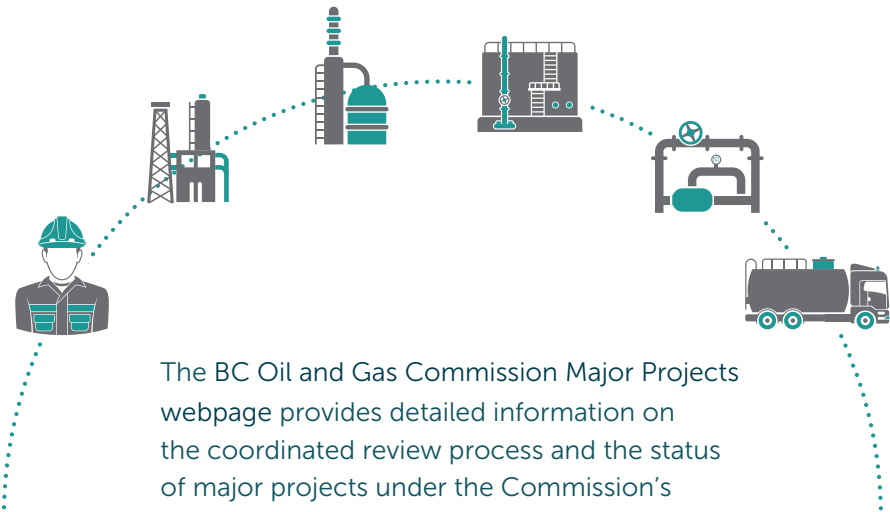
Major Projects

What is a Major Project?

A major project is a large-scale oil or gas project generally requiring approvals under federal and/or provincial environmental assessment legislation.

Generally such projects, which include LNG facilities and related infrastructure, require enhanced review and coordination between the Commission and other agencies.

The Commission is involved in regulatory activities associated with a number of major projects throughout the province.



The BC Oil and Gas Commission Major Projects webpage provides detailed information on the coordinated review process and the status of major projects under the Commission's jurisdiction.

Permitting for Major Projects

The Commission works closely with other regulators and government agencies through all phases of a major project's lifecycle.

The Commission's involvement in oil and gas activities, including major projects, extends from the pre-application phases, to exploration and development, through to construction and operations and ultimately decommissioning.

Various types of regulatory requirements and provincial authorizations are required at different phases of a project, such as design and construction. These can include Investigative Use Permits (IUPs) in the early stages, to pipeline and/or facility permits. Most often projects also require permits or authorizations for roads, water use and ancillary sites.

Factors the Commission takes into account when assessing permit applications for major projects include:

- Protection of public safety.
- Protecting the environment.
- Indigenous rights and title interests, concerns and impacts.
- Details, concerns and/or conditions identified during environmental assessments.

For projects that require provincial environmental assessments, the Commission may only approve activities once an Environmental Assessment Certificate has been issued by the BC Environmental Assessment Office. Other agencies may also be responsible for authorizations outside of the Commission's authorities.

In 2019, there were **46** major project related activity approvals.



For Further Information

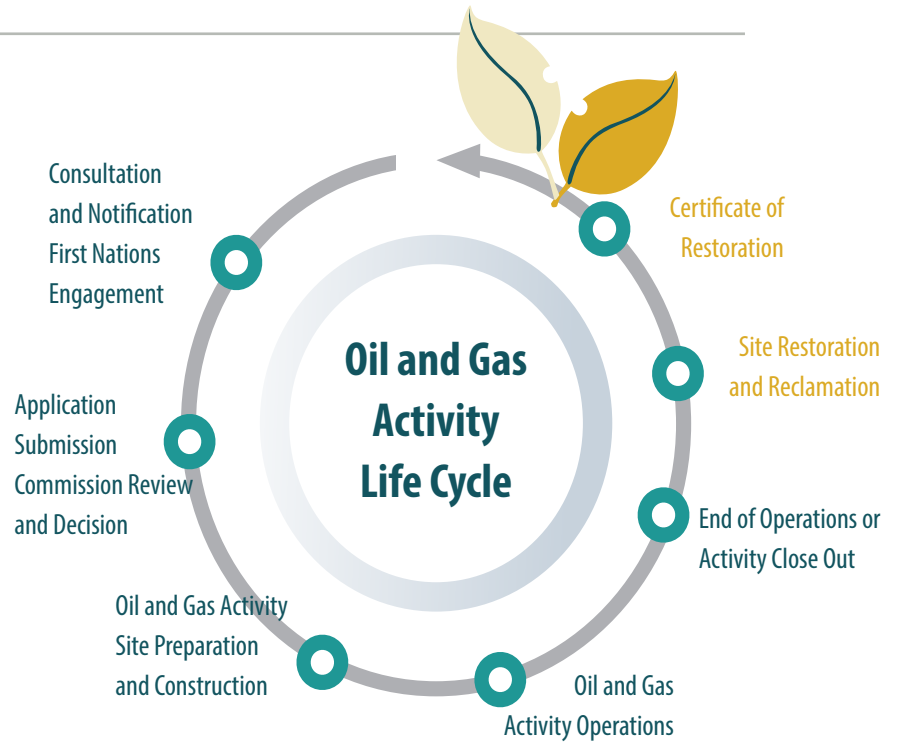
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Permits and Authorizations

There are various types of permits issued by the Commission at different phases of project design and construction, and these also apply to major projects. These include Pipeline Permits, Facility Permits, LNG Facility Permits, Road Permits, IUPs and other authorizations related to water crossings, water use and tree clearing. The Commission oversees the full lifecycle of a pipeline or facility, including compliance and enforcement and any future site remediation once operations have ceased. More specific information on permit types, including regulatory compliance, can be found on the Major Projects Permit Types page on our website.



Major Projects WebMap



The Commission's Major Projects WebMap displays locations for major projects in B.C. regulated by the Commission. By clicking on a project icon or route on the map, summary information and a link to the specific project page are available. The zoom keys can be used to enlarge desired areas of the province.

What is Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)?

LNG is natural gas cooled to -160°C . It is an odourless, colourless, non-toxic and non-corrosive liquid made up mostly of methane, with small quantities of ethane, propane and butane. When cooled to a liquid, natural gas can be stored and transported economically.

Natural gas flows through pipelines to LNG facilities – not LNG itself. As a gas, any leaks would dissipate into the air, not pool on the ground. Once natural gas is cooled at an LNG facility, the LNG is stored in specially built, insulated storage tanks. From there it can be transferred to LNG carriers for transport. When LNG is ready to be used for combustion, it is warmed to return to its gaseous state.

LNG is natural gas in a liquid state

The graphic consists of a teal cloud-like shape on the left, a teal arrow pointing to the right, and a single teal drop of liquid on the right.

The Commission is the primary regulator for LNG facilities and major natural gas pipelines in B.C. LNG projects must undergo provincial and/or federal environmental assessments. Final permits to allow construction and operations are issued by the Commission.

LNG projects are considered major projects due to the scope of the projects. The size and scale of proposed LNG projects in B.C. range from small scale domestic fuel supply to world-class export terminals.