



Changes In and About a Stream Updated Application Form and New Manual

TO: Industry

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 19, 2015

BACKGROUND:

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) has authority for Section 9 of the Water Act, to provide review and determination related to applications for “changes in and about a stream” to support oil and gas activities. The Commission has updated the Section 9 application form and has released a new application manual to guide users through Commission processes and procedures related to changes in and about a stream. The application form and manual are available on the Commission’s [website](#).

Changes in and about a stream (or watercourse) require approval under Section 9 of the Water Act, from the Commission.

Changes in and about a stream are defined in the Water Act as:

- (a) any modification to the nature of a stream including the land, vegetation, natural environment or flow of water within a stream, or
- (b) any activity or construction within the stream channel that has or may have an impact on a stream;

Primary activities are the construction, maintenance and removal of watercourse crossings and crossing structures. Other types of works that comprise changes in and about a stream include stream diversion, stream bank erosion protection and/or stabilization, debris removal, etc.

What is a Stream?

The requirement for approvals for “changes in and about a stream” under Section 9 of the Water Act refers to streams as defined in the Water Act. The term “stream” in the Water Act has a broader meaning than it does in everyday usage. Streams are a “*natural watercourse or source of water supply, whether usually containing water or not, and a lake, river, creek, spring, ravine, swamp or gulch.*” Streams do not have to contain water in all times of the year, and can be ephemeral or intermittent.

For more information on this bulletin, please contact:

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