



## Water Source Well Application Review Process Amended

**TO:** Industry

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 16, 2015

The BC Oil & Gas Commission (the Commission) has modified two aspects of the water-source well application review process, under the authority of *Part 3, Division 1 S.25(1)(b)* of the Oil and Gas Activities Act (OGAA). The new process is outlined in the Commission's documentation entitled "[Supplementary Information for Water Source Wells.](#)"

### AMENDMENTS:

The following two changes are addressed:

1. Water-source well requirements:
  - a. New requirements associated with hydrogeological assessment, data submission, and monitoring have been established for two categories of water-source wells: "shallow" water source wells (< 600 m depth) and "deep" water source wells (> 600 m depth).
2. Permitting requirements:
  - a. Water-source wells greater than 300 m depth, or if located on private land at any depth, require application for a well permit.
  - b. Water source test wells drilled on Crown Land up to 300 m depth require an Investigative Use Permit (IUP) through a Crown Land Application. A well permit is required for each water source test well that will be operated as a water source well.

### BACKGROUND:

A water-source well is defined in the Petroleum and Natural Gas (PNG) Act as "a hole in the ground drilled to obtain water for the purpose of injecting water into an underground formation in connection with the production of petroleum or natural gas". Water-source wells are "wells" under the OGAA. They are subject to the requirements for wells set out in OGAA regulations, and require well permits. Water-source test wells are wells drilled for the purpose of locating suitable water-source wells.

The process modifications will:

- enhance sustainable management of groundwater resources;
- reduce uncertainty in applying for and reviewing applications to source shallow groundwater for water-source wells.

The following Commission documents have been revised to reflect the new process:

- [Well Permit Application Manual](#)
- [Crown Land Application Manual](#)
- [Well Drilling Guideline](#)
- [Well Completion, Maintenance and Abandonment Guideline](#)
- [Well Data Submission Requirements Manual](#)
- [Water Service Wells Summary Information](#)

**If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact:**

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