

The BC Oil and Gas Commission

What is the BC Oil and Gas Commission?

The Commission is the provincial agency with responsibilities for regulating oil and gas activities in British Columbia, including exploration, development, pipeline transportation and reclamation.

What Do We Do?

The Commission regulates oil and gas activities for the benefit of British Columbians. This is achieved by:

- Protecting public safety.
- Respecting those affected by oil and gas activities.
- Conserving the environment.
- Supporting resource development.

Core responsibilities include reviewing and assessing applications for proposed industry activities, consulting with First Nations, cooperating with partner agencies, and ensuring industry complies with provincial legislation and all regulatory requirements.

How Do We Proactively Regulate Oil and Gas Activity?

The Commission has the legislative authority to make decisions on proposed oil and gas activities. While the Commission does not set policy, the diverse expertise and experience of Commission staff provides critical insight at every level of oil and gas development. This knowledge base provides perspective through scientific evidence, guidance, best practices, reports, tools and analysis.

Companies looking to explore, develop, produce, and market oil and gas resources in B.C. must apply to the Commission. The Commission reviews, assesses and makes decisions on these applications. This consolidated single-window authority provides not only a one-stop place for all oil and gas and associated activity requirements, but a consistent application, decision, regulatory and compliance authority. Stakeholders work with one agency; therefore, the Commission serves the public interest by having an all-encompassing review process for oil and gas activities.



Over 200 highly skilled professionals are charged with protecting public and environmental safety while balancing a broad range of environmental, economic and social considerations. They include:

- Engineers
- Hydrologists
- Foresters
- Agrologists
- Geologists
- Inspectors
- Environmental Specialists
- First Nations Relations
- Land Owner Relations
- Community Relations
- Heritage Conservation Officers
- Emergency Response Officers
- Examiners



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 available online at www.bcogc.ca

What is New at the Commission?

- ✓ In an effort to increase transparency for both statutory decision makers, public and industry and to manage the cumulative effects of water use, the Commission developed map-based tools: NorthEast Water Tool (which led to the), NorthWest Water Tool and the Omineca Water Tool.
- ✓ The Commission has two mobile ambient **air quality monitoring units** (CAMEL and RAM) to measure air pollutants and meteorological parameters at specific locations.
- ✓ The Commission and Provincial Government Agencies established the **Natural Resource Sector Aboriginal Liaison Program** to support greater Aboriginal community awareness of oil and gas planning, development, safety, environmental and emergency management, restoration activities, and compliance management.
- ✓ The **Safety Standards Amendment Act** came into force on Nov. 7, 2016 and has resulted in changes to the administration of regulatory authority and processes by the Commission and the BC Safety Authority.
- ✓ The Commission developed an electronic submission process for all oil and gas activity permit applications. The **Application Management System (AMS)** transformed paper processing of multiple applications into a streamlined online process.
- ✓ The Commission is participating in **studies with post-secondary institutions**, such as the UBC and UNBC, to address key aspects of natural gas development including cementing and fracture propagation, assessments of groundwater sampling, impact on water quality and community readiness.
- ✓ **Area-based Analysis** was incorporated into the permitting review process and operators must show how projects minimize disturbance where possible while reducing the footprint of activities and shortening restoration/reclamation time frames on specific resource values.
- ✓ The **Water Sustainability Act** came into effect in 2016 resulting in changes to surface water and groundwater allocation processes.

Quick Facts from the Commission 2016 numbers

24,802 wells
 44,551 kms of pipelines
 107 gas processing plants
 5 liquified natural gas facilities
 1,943 oil and gas related applications
 186 approved major project applications

A few Commission Milestones

The Commission has an array of publications, statistics, information, manuals, guides and maps on its website at www.bcogc.ca for industry and the public to utilize for information on natural gas and oil activities in the province. Here is a snapshot of a few regulatory milestones.

