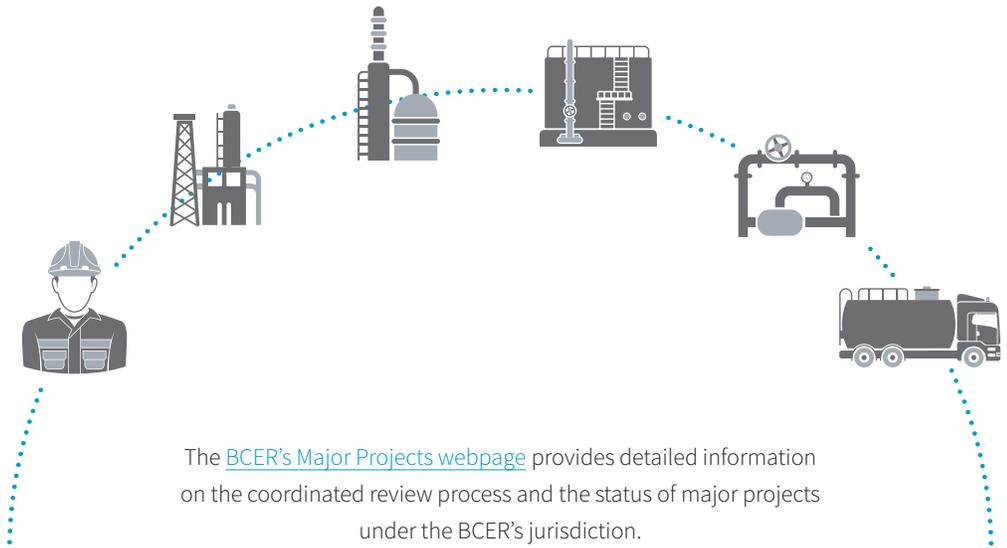


Major Projects

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.

Such projects, which can include Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities and related infrastructure, often require enhanced review and coordination between the BC Energy Regulator (BCER) and other regulatory agencies. BCER is the primary regulator for a number of major projects throughout the province.



Permitting for Major Projects?

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

The BCER'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 BCER takes into account when assessing permit applications for major projects include:

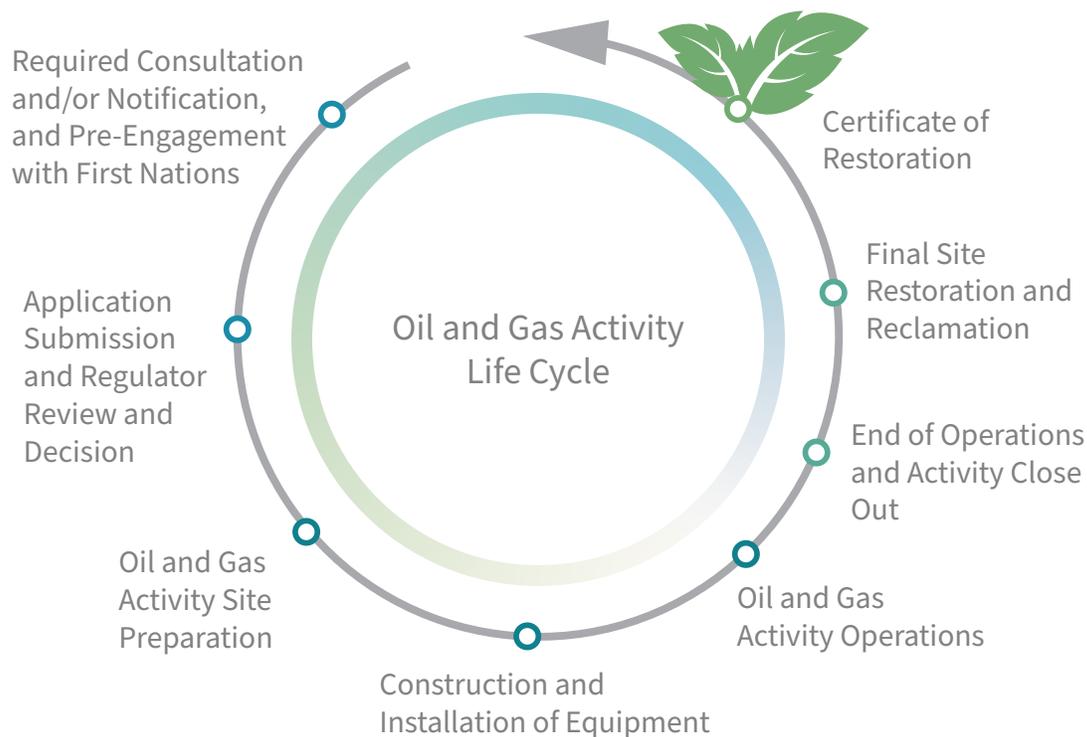
- Protection of public safety.
- Protecting the environment.
- Indigenous rights and title interests, concerns and impacts.
- Details, concerns and/or conditions identified during environmental assessments.

For projects that require provincial environmental assessments, the BCER 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 BCER's authorities.

Permits and Authorizations

There are various types of permits issued by the BCER 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 BCER 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 page on our website.



Major Projects WebMap



The [BCER's Major Projects WebMap](#) lists all major projects and provides summary project information, access to approved project permits, as well as a map displaying the general route or locations of major projects in B.C. regulated by the BCER.

What is Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)?

LNG is natural gas cooled to -160C. 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 BCER is the primary regulator for LNG facilities and major natural gas pipelines in B.C. LNG projects usually undergo provincial and/or federal environmental assessments. Final permits to allow construction and operations are issued by the BCER. The size and scale of proposed LNG projects in B.C. range from small scale domestic fuel supply to world-class export terminals.