



Approvals from Other Jurisdictions for Camps Guidance Document

VERSION 1.0: January 2024

About the Regulator

The BC Energy Regulator (Regulator) is the single-window regulatory agency with responsibilities for regulating oil and gas activities in British Columbia, including exploration, development, pipeline transportation and reclamation.



The Regulator’s core roles include reviewing and assessing applications for industry activity, consulting with First Nations, ensuring industry complies with provincial legislation and cooperating with partner agencies. The public interest is protected by ensuring public safety, protecting the environment, conserving petroleum resources and ensuring equitable participation in production.

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

A resilient energy future where B.C.’s energy resource activities are safe, environmentally leading and socially responsible.

Mission

We regulate the life cycle of energy resource activities in B.C., from site planning to restoration, ensuring activities are undertaken in a manner that:



Protects public safety and the environment



Supports reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and the transition to low-carbon energy



Conserves energy resources



Fosters a sound economy and social well-being



Values

Respect is our commitment to listen, accept and value diverse perspectives.

Integrity is our commitment to the principles of fairness, trust and accountability.

Transparency is our commitment to be open and provide clear information on decisions, operations and actions.

Innovation is our commitment to learn, adapt, act and grow.

Responsiveness is our commitment to listening and timely and meaningful action.

Additional Guidance

As with all Regulator documents, this document does not take the place of applicable legislation. Readers are encouraged to become familiar with the acts and regulations and seek direction from Regulator staff for clarification.

The Regulator publishes both application and operations manuals and guides. The application manual provides guidance to applicants in preparing and applying for permits and the regulatory requirements in the planning and application stages. The operation manual details the reporting, compliance and regulatory obligations of the permit holder. Regulator manuals focus on requirements and processes associated with the Regulator's legislative authorities. Some activities may require additional requirements and approvals from other regulators or create obligations under other statutes. It is the applicant and permit holder's responsibility to know and uphold all legal obligations and responsibilities. For example, Federal Fisheries Act, Transportation Act, Highway Act, Workers Compensation Act and Wildlife Act.

Throughout the document there are references to guides, forms, tables and definitions to assist in creating and submitting all required information. Additional resources include:

- [Glossary and acronym listing](#) on the Regulator website.
- [Documentation and guidelines](#) on the Regulator website.
- [Frequently asked questions](#) on the Regulator website.
- [Advisories, bulletins, reports and directives](#) on the Regulator website.
- [Regulations and Acts](#) listed on the Regulator website.

In addition, this document may reference some application types and forms to be submitted outside of the Application Management System but made available on the Regulator's website. Application types and forms include:

- Heritage Conservation Act, Section 12
- Road use permits
- Water licences
- Master licence to cut
- Certificate of restoration
- Waste discharge permit
- Experimental scheme application
- Permit extension application

Manual Revisions

The Regulator is committed to the continuous improvement of its documentation. Revisions to the documentation are highlighted in this section and are posted to the [Documentation Section](#) of the Regulator’s website. Stakeholders are invited to provide input or feedback on Regulator documentation to ServiceDesk@bc-er.ca or submit feedback using the [feedback form](#).

| Version Number | Posted Date | Effective Date | Chapter Section | Summary of Revision(s) |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---|
| 1.0 | Jan. 5, 2024 | Jan.5, 2024 | Various | No content change is made to this document. Only the format is changed to meet the corporate documentation standard. Replace BCOGC with BCER; OGAA with ERAA; new logos, references and associations |

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Additional authorizations and permits may be required from other jurisdictions to construct and operate a campsite. The requirements included in this document are not an inclusive list; camp applicants are encouraged to contact the applicable jurisdictions to meet all operational requirements.

Regional Health Authority

Applicants must contact the [Regional Health Authority](#) to advise of the camp's location, duration and number of persons. Approval is required from the Regional Health Authority before constructing a camp. Additionally, an approval from the Regional Health Authority is required for food service, drinking water and sewage disposal. Applicants should be familiar with the following legislation:

- [Drinking Water Protection Act.](#)
- [Drinking Water Protection Regulation.](#)
- [Public Health Act.](#)
- [Food Premises Regulation.](#)
- [Industrial Camps Regulation.](#)
- [Sewerage System Regulation.](#)

It is the responsibility of the camp permit holder to provide an adequate, safe supply of potable water. The Regional Health Authority must be contacted about the requirements for supplying safe drinking water. Any surface water used for drinking, food preparation or other domestic purposes must be treated according to the [Drinking Water Protection Regulation](#). Approval for construction and an operating permit are required. Contact the applicable Health Inspector or Health Authority to determine if the planned water supply is from an approved source. All water haulers must have a permit from the Regional Health Authority to haul water to industrial camps.

Additional Requirements for Water at Camps

In addition to the requirements for approval and permitting from the Regional Health Authority, a short-term water use permit under Section 10 of the [Water Sustainability Act](#) is required if water for camp is taken from any surface source other than a well.

A permit to construct and operate an on-site water well and drinking water system is required from the Regional Health Authority under the Drinking Water Protection Regulation. Wells for drinking water purposes must be tested for chemical and bacteriological water quality by an approved lab, and the results must be submitted to the Regional Health Authority before the well is used.

The Public Health Act Transitional Regulation under the Public Health Act applies with respect to protection of all types of water wells; however, a permit is not required. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy houses a groundwater well database and water well data entry portal on its website. Additional information about water wells and groundwater resources is available on the Ministry Of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's Water Stewardship Division website.

Remote wellsites in northeastern B.C.

For wellsite trailers housing one or two workers per trailer at remote sites during drilling operations in Northeastern B.C., the following guidelines apply, as provided by the Health Officers of the Northern Health Authority:

- In Non-Muskeg Areas use a clay-lined, in-ground sump, a minimum of two metres deep, behind each trailer to collect sewage. If the sewage level is more than one metre from the surface, the pit is filled when the trailer is moved off-site. If the sewage level is within one metre of the surface, the sewage must be pumped and hauled to a permitted municipal waste-water treatment facility.
- In Muskeg Areas use a package treatment plant, followed by an absorption field. Use a holding tank. Sewage must be pumped and hauled to a permitted municipal wastewater treatment facility.

British Columbia Building Code

Building plans may be required for approval. Camps must comply with the [British Columbia Building Code](#). Design, layout and fire suppression and detection equipment must comply with the British Columbia Fire Code and the requirements of the [Office of the Fire Commissioner](#).

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

For instance when there is presence of or planned industrial waste, contact The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's [Environmental Protection Division](#) for information and direction about water supply, sewage and refuse disposal, special waste management (e.g., oil, glycol, etc.), fuel storage, spill reporting and camp closure. For more detail, refer to the industrial waste section of the applicable region's website.

The open burning of wood debris, generated by activities including land clearing and forest harvesting, can be conducted in accordance with the [Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation](#). The Ministry of Environment's [Guide to the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation](#) summarizes burning requirements.

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Transportation information for commercial carriers transporting camps into B.C. is found at the [Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Branch](#) website. The site provides weigh-scale information, references and manuals with important guidance for drivers and carriers.

BC Safety Authority

Electrical installations must comply with the B.C. Electrical Safety Regulation, which adopts the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, Safety Standard for Electrical Installations (Canadian Standards Association standard C22.1-09).

Electrical installations for a permanent camp require electrical permits, which may be obtained from [Technical Safety BC](#). For more information about the permit required for a specific installation, the operator should consult with a BC Safety Authority electrical inspector; electrical inspectors carry out the initial inspections for all electrical installations requiring a permit.

WorkSafe BC

The [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#) lists first aid requirements for three industrial hazard classifications. First Aid certificates are required for First Aid Attendants as per WorkSafeBC regulations.

The storage and handling of flammable substances must comply with the [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation Part 5 – Chemical and Biological Substances, Flammable and Combustible Substances](#). Fuel storage and re-fuelling facilities must comply with the provincial [Fire Services Act](#) and its regulations, including provision of berms and security.

Any spill or soil contamination at storage facilities is subject to the [Environmental Management Act](#) and its regulations. Spills must be reported to the province at 1-800-663-3456, as required by the [Spill Reporting Regulation](#). Fuel spills and chemicals and gaseous releases are included under this regulation.

The cleanup of contaminated soil is subject to the [Contaminated Sites Regulation](#). The regional Environmental Protection Division must be notified of cleanup, even in the case of independent remediation (see Contaminated Sites Regulation, Section 57, Notification to a Manager of Independent Remediation).

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS): the storage, handling and use of controlled product storage must comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, [Part 5 – Chemical and Biological Substances](#).