

# Consultation and Notification

## What is Consultation?

Consultation is the exchange of information regarding proposed oil and gas activities between applicants and recipients within the consultation distance. It begins when a recipient receives an Invitation to Consult from an applicant.

## What is Notification?

Notification provides written information regarding proposed oil and gas activities to recipients within the identified notification distance. Where consultation is conducted with recipients, notification is not required.

The consultation and notification processes are similar since both provide a formalized engagement; however, the difference between the two usually involves proximity to proposed oil and gas activities. Consultation recipients are typically closer and as such, the consultation process provides the opportunity for discussion between applicant and recipient.

## Why Consultation and Notification?

Consultation and notification is required as part of the application process and is intended to promote communication and collaborative engagement between proponents, land owners and rights holders prior to application submission.

Submission of oil and gas activity application must include application deliverables specific to consultation and notification based on the planned activity and location of activity.



Source: Commission's Oil and Gas Activity Application Manual: Consultation and Notification Chapter.

Additional sources of information: Consultation and Notification Regulation, Land Owner Guide and the Commission's Land Owner Resource web page.

Companies must carry out the prescribed consultations and notification while budgeting for appropriate time lines and taking into consideration delivery methods.



Recipients with interests in or concerns about a company's proposed oil and gas activity may submit a written response to the company within the 21 day review period and/or to the Commission at

any time prior to a decision on the application. Applicant and recipient(s) may connect with the Commission's Community Relations team if issues remain unresolved.

## Talking to Land Owner and Rights Holders

Companies must secure tenure rights and conduct the required consultation and notification and/or engagement with land owners and/or rights holders prior to submitting an oil and gas activity application. After a thorough application review, a permit may be issued. The Commission then informs affected land owners. Permit holders must adhere to time lines, conditions, laws and regulations and should maintain ongoing dialogue with the Commission and land owners.



### For Further Information

Email [ogc.communications@bcogc.ca](mailto: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](http://www.bcogc.ca)

## How Do We Proactively Regulate?

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.

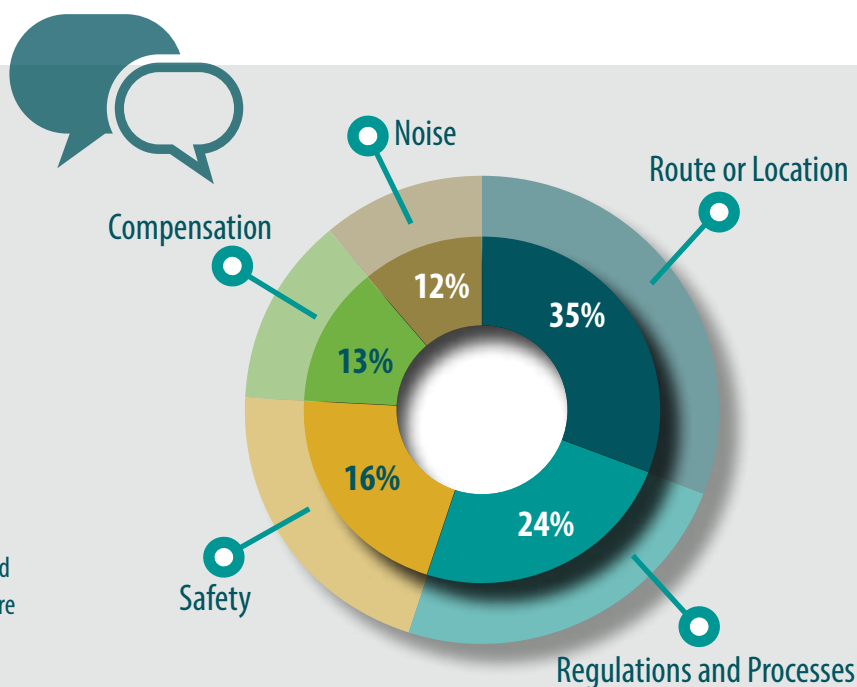
The Commission reviews, assesses and makes decisions on these applications. This consolidated single-window authority provides not only a one-stop place for all oil and gas and associated activity requirements, but a consistent application, decision, regulatory and compliance authority. Stakeholders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

## Community Relations

The Commission's Community Relations team is an important resource to land owners who may be affected by oil and gas activities. It provides information to land owners on regulatory processes and oil and gas activities, and also acts as a neutral facilitator, resolving issues between land owners and industry regarding oil and gas activities.

## Top Community Interests for 2017

The graphic on the right shows the top interests from the community recorded by the Commission. They include route and/or location of oil and gas activities, questions about regulations and Commission processes, concerns regarding the safety of a site where operations are or could easily become a hazard to farm, personnel, livestock or equipment, compensation and noise and flaring issues.



## Did You Know?

- ✓ Commission staff are designated as **Regional Water Managers and Assistant Regional Water Managers**, which provides authority to review water licences and approve, when appropriate.
- ✓ 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 **Water Sustainability Act** came into effect in 2016 resulting in changes to surface water and groundwater allocation processes.
- ✓ **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.