

# Consultation and Notification

## What is Consultation?

Consultation is the engagement between a land owner or rights holder and an applicant proposing a new energy activity. It is specific to those most affected by a proposed activity, generally in closest proximity or within a set consultation distance.

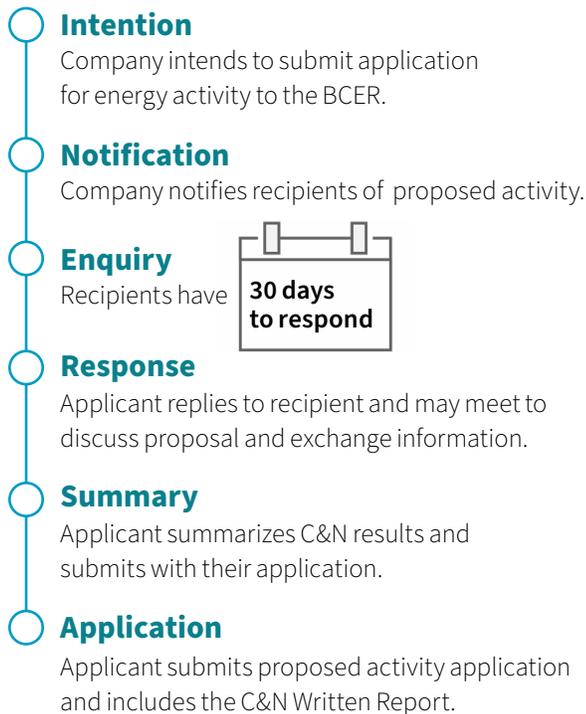
The process begins when a 'recipient' receives an Invitation to Consult from an applicant describing their project and anticipated timeline. The invitation provides an opportunity to exchange information, discuss concerns and establish how the recipient may engage with the applicant or the BCER to maintain an ongoing dialogue if the project proceeds.

## What is Notification?

Notification is also a form of engagement regarding a proposed energy activity. Letters of Notification are provided to land owners or rights holders who are not within close proximity but may still experience impacts as a result of the proposed activity. Notifications must provide a description of the project and have clear instructions on how concerns regarding the project can be brought to the applicant or the BCER.

**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 and Notification (C&N) Process



### Why Is C&N So Important?

These formal engagement processes are intended to promote communication between an applicant and those affected and to capture their concerns and feedback prior to their application submission to the BCER.

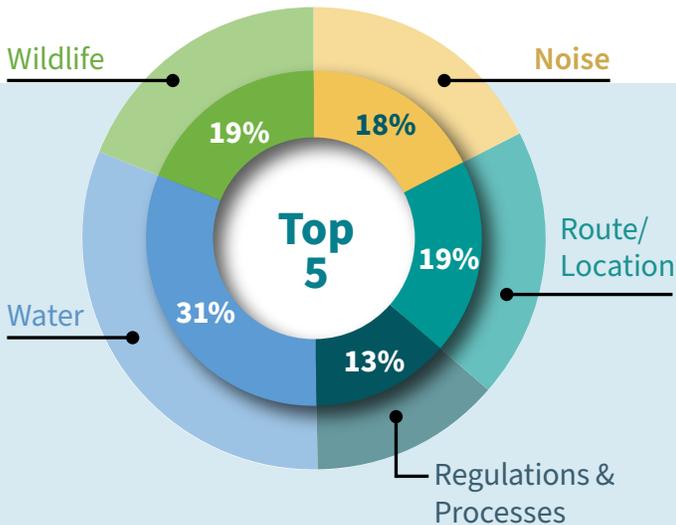
The information collected is valuable in helping inform the BCER when applications are reviewed and considered for decision.



After a thorough application review, the BCER may issue a permit then informs the affected parties. The new permit holder must adhere to timelines, conditions and regulations for the life of their project.

## What is Community Relations?

The BCER's Community Relations team is an important resource for land owners and rights holders. This practical team provides assistance and insight into regulatory processes and energy activities and also acts as a neutral facilitator, resolving issues between interested parties and industry regarding proposed activities or ongoing projects.



## Who Owns the Subsurface Resources?

Energy resources such as petroleum and natural gas are considered to be subsurface rights primarily owned by the Province. While our team provides guidance on many aspects of energy activities, we are not responsible for making decisions on resource tenure. Applicants must enter into an agreement with the [Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low-Carbon Innovation](#) to access subsurface resources before applying to the BCER to start an energy activity.

## Top 5 Community Interests in 2023

This graphic illustrates the top five interests brought forward to the Community Relations team during the consultation and notification process. Of most interest was water use by operators, followed by the route or location of activities, the impact on wildlife, noise levels and questions about regulations and our processes. These are only a few of the topics we help the community with and we encourage those interested to reach out to us with their questions.

Refer to our [‘Consult with Land Owners & Rights Holders’](#) page to learn about many other topics such as water protection or emergency response and safety. Our [Land Owner’s Information Guide](#) is also a helpful resource, outlining what to expect during pre-activity application requirements, through the construction of access roads, well sites, facilities and pipelines to final site restoration.

## Did You Know?

As a land owner or rights holder, if you need someone to act or respond to the BCER on your behalf, you must provide a ‘letter of designation’ or a copy of your Power of Attorney to the individual you choose to assist you. They will need this document to act as your representative in matters related to consultation and notification.

You can join the BCER’s Regional Networking Group (RNG). The RNG is our hub for sharing advice, bulletins and updates on public events regarding energy activities relevant to land owners and affected parties. By joining the RNG, you receive up-to-date information on how these activities are regulated and monitored, and you have the opportunity to provide feedback to the BCER on how activities affect you, creating a collective, multi-way dialogue.

There may be forms of consultation or notification that occur beyond the scope of your C&N participation that are not administered by our Community Relations team. Depending on your proximity to an activity or its potential effects, these discussions may relate to matters such as emergency response planning, best practices for flaring, working at a dormant site or considerations surrounding road construction. Our team is still available to assist you with questions you may have beyond your C&N experience.

