



Amendments to the Drilling and Production Regulation

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) is advising industry that it has recently approved the following amendments to the Drilling and Production Regulation (DPR). Highlights include:

- Alignment of the DPR with the new Water Sustainability Act (WSA) in regards to groundwater; particularly requirements for wells drilled to access usable groundwater. This includes an exemption from certain drilling and operational requirements for wells drilled to access shallow, usable groundwater, to enable landowner access to groundwater, if desired.
- Required regulatory oversight of packers used to segregate production zones, only.
- Enabling certification for well drillers that is equivalent to, but not exclusively, Enform certification.
- Seismicity requirements applicable to injection operations, in addition to fracturing and disposal operations.
- Requirement for testing surface casing vent flows at more points in the life cycle of a well.
- Ban of excessive light in addition to the pre-existing excessive noise ban, resulting from operations.
- Changing required criteria for unconventional oil.
- Reducing spacing requirements between unconventional oil wells.
- Requirement to prepare an Integrity Management Program for the lifecycle of a facility, as currently required for pipelines. This amendment will be effective June 15, 2018.
- Requirement for facility suspension. This amendment will be effective June 15, 2018.
- Added clarification on several DPR requirements.

A full list of amendments to the Drilling and Production Regulation can be found [here](#).

Should you have any questions regarding this Industry Bulletin, please contact:

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