

The dormant site regulation is a proposed regulation which will impose timelines for the restoration of dormant sites.

Objectives

1. Timely clean up
2. Ensure flexibility to achieve cost-efficient restoration
3. Promote communication with land owners, local governments and Indigenous nations with an interest in such sites

What is a dormant site?

Single Well: The operating area of a well that has not met a threshold of activity for five consecutive years.

Multi-well pad: All wells on the pad do not meet the threshold of activity for five consecutive years.

Exceptions: Commission is satisfied well will become productive in a reasonable period of time or those portions of an operating area used to service an active facility or well.

These do not include orphan sites.

Contact Us:



EMAIL

OGC.Communications@bcogc.ca



WEBSITE

bcogc.ca



PHONE

250-794-5200
(Fort St. John)

LAND OWNER

Dormant Sites Information Session



Terms you may have heard



Inactive: A well that is not producing, but has not yet undertaken abandonment activities (plugged and capped).

Abandoned: A well that has been filled with cement (plugged) and its wellhead has been removed and capped.

Orphan: A Commission designation given to wells and associated operating areas when the operator is insolvent or can't be located.

Dormant: Wells and their associated operating areas which for five or more years have not met a certain threshold of activity.

Requirements

Decommission the site

- Removal of surface infrastructure.

Abandonment

- Plug and seal the well.
- Fill the wellbore with cement (plugging).
- Cut and cap the wellhead.
- Replace excavated soil.

Site assessment

- Investigate the environmental quality of the site to confirm the presence or absence of contamination as required for a Certificate of Restoration.
- Provide appropriate documentation of the results of the investigation to the Commission.

Remediation

- The removal, treatment and/or management of contaminated soil, groundwater and surface water and the confirmation that contamination and/or risk of contamination is no longer present.

Reclamation

- Reestablishing the surface to original site conditions or as close as practicable following its disturbance.

Requirements

Reclamation

- **Crown land:** Meet soil and revegetation requirements from the Environmental Management and Protection Regulation.
- **Agricultural Land Reserve:** Meet requirements for restoration set by the Agricultural Land Commission.
- **Private land outside of ALR:** Restoration obligations under the Drilling and Production Regulation continue to apply.
- **All land:** Complete any outstanding permit obligations to the satisfaction of the Commission.



Engagement & Reporting

An objective is to ensure land owners receive notification and an opportunity to provide input when work on dormant sites is proposed on their land. A further objective is to allow for engagement with local governments and local Indigenous nations.