



March 27, 2007

INFORMATION LETTER #OGC 07-08

SUBJECT: 2007 Spring Breakup: Prevention of Environmental Damage

Operators and contractors are reminded of the potential for environmental damage resulting from continuing or untimely operations during breakup conditions.

“Environmental damage includes soil erosion, sedimentation of water courses, rutting and damage to roads and trails, and other damage to land and water.”

Movement of equipment shall be carried out in a manner that does not cause environmental damage. Time requirements for movement of equipment will vary according to site factors, safety requirements and specific site conditions.

Operators are responsible for anticipating and preventing unacceptable damage to environmental resources, including forest, wildlife, fish, water and soil.

Prevention may necessitate ceasing operations.

Due to shallow frost depths and current mild conditions, serious consideration should be given to early cessation of operations which might be expected to cause environmental damage during break-up conditions.

In addition, operators constructing snowfills and ice bridges are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure they are removed in accordance with the conditions outlined in their approval documents. Pipelining, facility construction crews and others carrying out work at the end of the construction season cannot be assigned the liability to removed stream crossings. That responsibility remains with the original operators holding the approval.

For more information on this subject, or to clarify industry requirements, please contact:

Rick Newlove
Director, Corporate and Enforcement
Oil and Gas Commission
Phone: (250) 261-2056
Email: Rick.Newlove@gov.bc.ca

Original signed by:

Ross Curtis
Commissioner