



APPLICATION PROCESS

Introduction

The Oil and gas Commission (OGC) accepts and reviews activity applications on behalf of government for **geophysical surveys, test holes, wells and related access roads and pipelines** located on private and Crown land. Applications for Crown land tenures and water use are also reviewed.

The OGC has been **delegated authority** to issue permits for forest, heritage, land, environment, water and other resources, incidentally affected by oil and gas activities.

Unconventional gas resource evaluation, feasibility, and production plans are reviewed and judged under the provisions of Section 100 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act.

OGC Steps for Review of an Application

Pre-application Requirements

- Corporations must be registered with BC Corporate Registry or incorporated under the laws of Canada to be eligible to conduct business in British Columbia.
- Comprehensive general liability insurance with a limit of \$1,000,000 is required to hold a Crown land surface tenure document.
- A Master Licence to Cut timber on Crown land is required for each forest district where operations will be conducted.
- Public consultation issues are documented and any unresolved issues identified.

For Geophysical Surveys

- Operator must have a valid Geophysical Licence.
- Overlapping pending programs must be identified.
- Reconnaissance report submitted.

For Wells

- A drilling deposit must be submitted as security for the drilling, control, completion, suspension or abandonment of a well or test hole, and to provide for reclamation and restoration of well sites or test hole sites. (Orphan Well Program)



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Initial Application Screening

Applications are assigned an OGC tracking number and reviewed in the order submitted for accuracy and completeness. If the application is rejected for errors or omissions, it does not retain its place in the queue if resubmitted.

Application Classification

Pipeline applications are classified as routine or non-routine. **Well applications** are classified as simple, normal or complex depending on the location and issues. The non routine and complex applications have a longer timeframe for completing the review.

First Nations Consultation

First Nations' information packages submitted as part of the application are reviewed by an OGC Senior Aboriginal Program Specialist to determine which First Nation communities receive packages based on consultation boundary maps. The review also ensures the packages meet the classification criteria of the Consultation Process Agreement (Notification, Standard or Complex). Notification packages are delivered to the appropriate communities, stamped to indicate that it is for information purposes only and no response is required.

Standard and Complex packages are delivered to the appropriate communities for the Review and Response Period:

- 10 working days for Standard applications
- 20 working days for Complex applications

Archaeology Review

The presence or absence of archaeological resources must be confirmed by an archaeological consultant. If an archaeological impact assessment (AIA) is required and has not already been completed, a condition is included on the approval that an AIA will be required prior to construction. If an archaeological site is identified during the AIA, then OGC archaeology staff must approve mitigation measures prior to construction of the project. Clients are subject to periodic audits to verify compliance with regulations and guidelines.

Land Status Check

The well location is plotted and reviewed to determine if there are any conflicting tenures or land use designations. Forest cutting permit and timber marks are assigned.

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Land and Habitat Protection Evaluation

A land and habitat protection evaluation establishes approval conditions for stream crossings under the Water Act, and determines if conflicts exist with current OGC Guidelines and Best Management Practices. It also identifies potential impacts on other agency's interests such as fish and wildlife habitat, Land and Resource Management Plan objectives or other identified land status conflicts. The evaluation also identifies approval conditions for stream crossings and any other relevant conditions to be included in an approval document.

ALR Review

In 2004, the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) delegated authority to the OGC to make decisions allowing non-farm use of agricultural lands for the purposes of oil and gas activities within the Northern Rockies and Peace River Regional Districts if specific conditions are met.

- **Well applications** must include a Pre-disturbance Assessment report identifying existing soils, vegetation, drainage and topography of the surface lease and associated developments prior to construction. This information is used as a baseline for eventual reclamation
- The OGC may impose approval conditions to retain the agricultural capability of the site equivalent to pre-disturbance.

Forestry Review

A review of forest related issues confirms the proponent holds a valid Master Licence to Cut, any required Road Use Permits are issued and any overlapping forest tenures /or major timber licensee's are identified. Visual Quality Objectives, forest health, special management areas, and location of permanent sample plots are also assessed. All relevant information for a timber-cutting permit is subject to approval of the application.

How are Decisions Reached?

Adjudication by Program Managers

The relevant program managers evaluate all information compiled as part of the application review. Additional issues considered by the program managers in making a determination include:

- Whether enhanced consultation is required (i.e. sour wells located near residences)
- Public safety and emergency response planning requirements
- Record of community input
- Commitments by applicant
- Comments from application review team

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Decision on a Well Application Includes:

- Lease and Access Road Construction
- Drilling process
- Site disturbance/removal of timber
- Operational impact, such as traffic and odour

Based on issues identified through the application review, the application will be classed as either Routine or Non-Routine:

For Routine Applications

May be approved with conditions or disallowed based on the need for additional information or assessment work or identification of acceptable mitigation measures.

For Nonroutine Applications

May require resolution of First Nation, public and stakeholder issues prior to adjudication by the Program Managers. Appropriate Dispute Resolution (ADR) may also be requested.

Information

For detailed information on application approval requirements see, the OGC “geophysical”, “Wells and Testholes” and “Pipeline” manuals online at:

<https://www.ogc.gov.bc.ca/geophysical.asp>

<https://www.ogc.gov.bc.ca/wells.asp>

<https://www.ogc.gov.bc.ca/pipelinesapp.asp>

<https://www.ogc.gov.bc.ca/pipelinesapp.asp>

