

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

*Inspecting sites, addressing complaints
and responding to incidents*

Introduction

The OGC is responsible for ensuring that oil and gas industries **comply** with the province's laws and regulations. The OGC works with the industry to ensure that it understands, respects, and meets or exceeds regulations and standards. At the same time, the OGC is responsible for **enforcing** regulations, which serve to conserve resources, minimize impacts on the environment, and address safety issues.

Compliance with operating requirements begins when the activity application is reviewed. For example, the OGC will work with operators to develop best management practices to ensure that lessons learned from elsewhere, advances in science and technology, and community knowledge are considered when operating in B.C. The OGC delivers training, education, and evaluations of industry activity to companies and their representative organizations (e.g. Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers).

In the field, compliance and enforcement inspectors conduct **site inspections**; **respond to incidents**, and **address complaints** from landowners, First Nations, public and other stakeholders.



Site Inspections

The OGC inspects on the ground activities including but not limited to geophysical operations, construction, drilling, operating wells, pipelines, facilities and gas plants, restoration and incidents. Inspections and enforcement (when needed) ensures the continued safe development and operation of oil and gas activities in B.C. Results of inspections are tracked and brought to the attention of the company for action. Inspectors have the authority to order corrective work or to shutdown the operation if it is not complying with the law.

If a company is found to be in: (1) serious non-compliance it must respond with immediate action; (2) major non-compliance, it has 14 days to deal with the situation to the satisfaction of the OGC; and (3) a minor non-compliance must be dealt with in 30 days. If a non-compliance issue is not addressed, the company may be subject to further action, including a complete shutdown of the operation.



*Field Inspectors ensure effective
enforcement of the provincial laws and
regulations that relate to oil and gas
development*

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Complaints & Incidents

When a landowner, citizen, First Nations or company makes a complaint to the OGC, the inspector gathers and confirms the details of the incident or complaint. A search for prior complaints from the complainant is conducted to determine whether the complaint is new or ongoing. If new, the incident or complaint is entered into a database.

Depending on the degree of the incident or complaint an inspector follows-up with a site inspection or a call to the company. The complainant is kept informed about the findings.

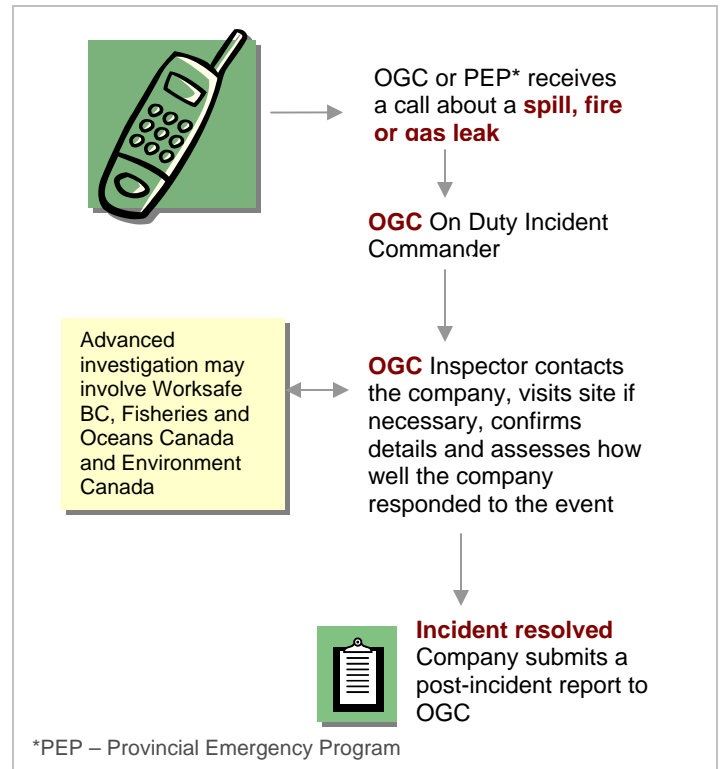
Working with other Agencies

OGC works with agencies in investigating and enforcing provincial requirements, for instance Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Lands (Agricultural Land Commission), WorkSafeBC and Environment Canada to bring an issue to resolution.

Summary

The OGC is committed to working with the public and industry to ensure that fair, workable, and enforceable regulations are in place to ensure safety for all. OGC's inspection and enforcement officers are committed professionals who ensure industry meets or exceeds the regulations in place to ensure safety of all.

Responding to Incidents and Complaints



Public complaints are a priority for the Oil and Gas Commission

If you have general concerns regarding:
noise, smell or spills, or other issues
please contact

OGC 24 Hour Main Switchboard – Fort St. John

Ph: (250) 261-5700

Fax: (250) 261-2084

24 Hour Emergency Response for Industry Clients:

1 800 663-3456