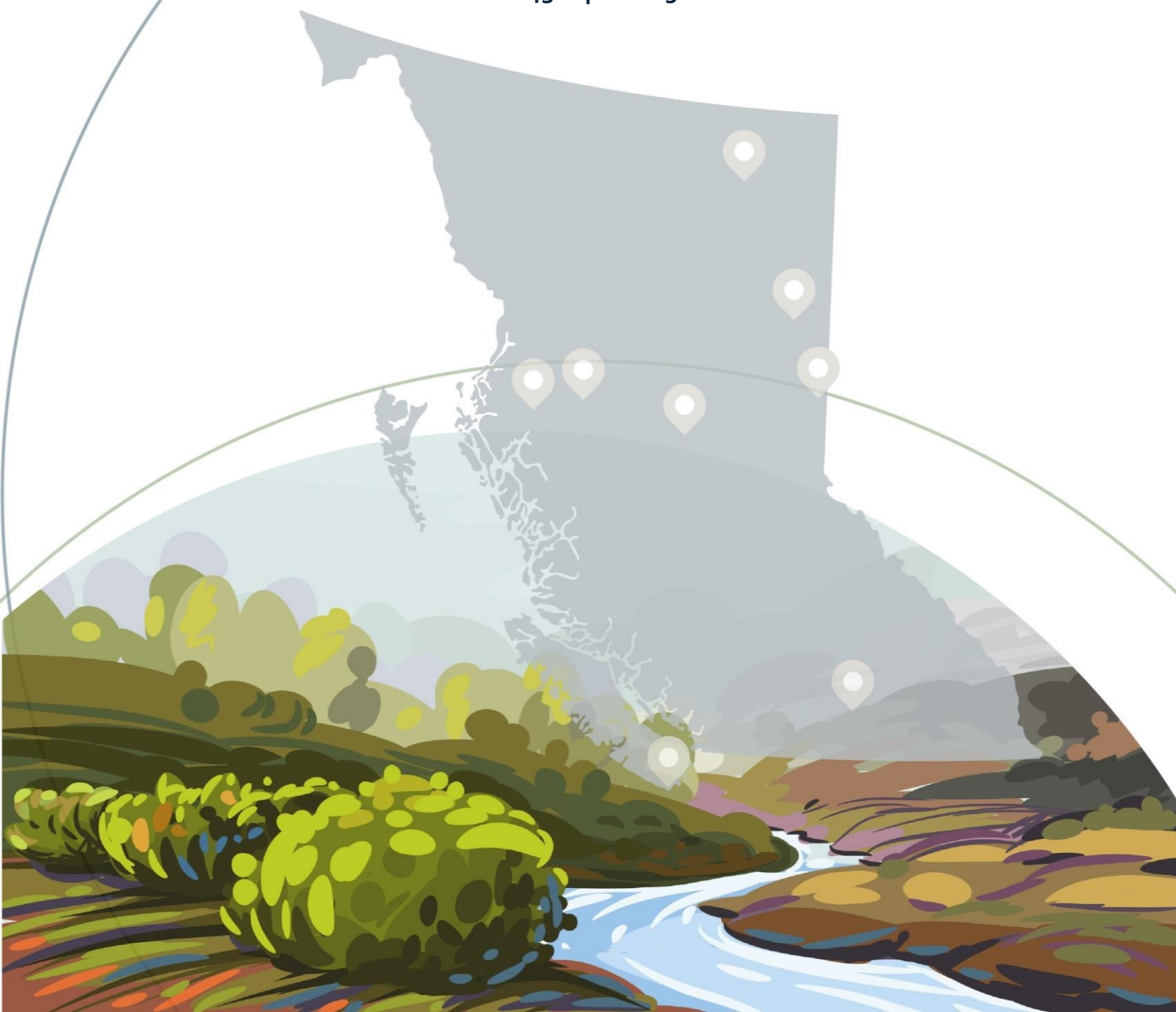


Oil and Gas Activity Operations Manual



BRITISH COLUMBIA ENERGY REGULATOR

VERSION 1.43: April 2025



About the Regulator

The BC Energy Regulator (Regulator) is the single-window regulatory agency with responsibilities for regulating energy resource activities in British Columbia, including exploration, development, pipeline transportation and reclamation.



The Regulator's core roles include reviewing and assessing applications for industry activity, consulting with First Nations, ensuring industry complies with provincial legislation and cooperating with partner agencies. The public interest is protected by ensuring public safety, protecting the environment, conserving petroleum resources and ensuring equitable participation in production.

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

A resilient energy future where B.C.'s energy resource activities are safe, environmentally leading and socially responsible.

Mission

We regulate the life cycle of energy resource activities in B.C., from site planning to restoration, ensuring activities are undertaken in a manner that:



Protects
public safety and the
environment



Supports reconciliation
with Indigenous peoples
and the transition to
low-carbon energy



Conserves
energy
resources



Fosters a sound
economy and social
well-being



Values

Respect is our commitment to listen, accept and value diverse perspectives.

Integrity is our commitment to the principles of fairness, trust and accountability.

Transparency is our commitment to be open and provide clear information on decisions, operations and actions.

Innovation is our commitment to learn, adapt, act and grow.

Responsiveness is our commitment to listening and timely and meaningful action.

Additional Guidance

As with all Regulator documents, this manual does not take the place of applicable legislation. Readers are encouraged to become familiar with the acts and regulations and seek direction from Regulator staff for clarification. Some activities may require additional requirements and approvals from other regulators or create obligations under other statutes. It is the applicant and permit holder's responsibility to know and uphold all legal obligations and responsibilities.

Throughout the manual there are references to guides, forms, tables and definitions to assist in creating and submitting all required information. Additional resources include:

- [Glossary and acronym listing](#) on the Regulator website.
- [Documentation and guidelines](#) on the Regulator website.
- [Frequently asked questions](#) on the Regulator website.
- [Advisories, bulletins, reports and directives](#) on the Regulator website.
- [Regulations and Acts](#) listed on the Regulator website.

Oil and Gas Operations Manual

Written by the Regulator, the Oil and Gas Operations Manual is a collection of operational requirements for oil and gas permit holders. Each oil and gas activity has regulatory and guidance requirements for construction, operation, deactivation and reclamation. This manual is intended for permit holders of oil and gas and associated activities and provides a reference to Regulator requirements with links and suggestions on finding other sources of information.

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Please Note:

This manual is written as a whole and provided to industry in sections to allow permit holders to access activity chapters. It is prudent of the permit holder to review the manual in its entirety and be aware of the content in other sections of the manual.

Manual Revisions

The Regulator is committed to the continuous improvement of its documentation. Revisions to the documentation are highlighted in this section and are posted to the [Energy Professionals](#) section of the Regulator's website. Stakeholders are invited to provide input or feedback on Regulator documentation to Systems@bc-er.ca or submit feedback using the [feedback form](#).

Version Number	Posted Date	Effective Date	Chapter Section	Summary of Revision(s)
1.43	April 17, 2025	May 1, 2025	Various	<p>Updated various sections of the manual to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional information added regarding flare blackened areas, - Minor changes in Section 11 Pipelines - added hydrogen, - Minor changes to Section 12 Facilities for as-builts.

Overview of Oil and Gas Regulations and Permit Management

1. Overview of Oil and Gas Regulations and Permit Management

Companies looking to explore, develop, produce, and market oil and gas resources in British Columbia must apply to the BC Energy Regulator (Regulator) for activity permit(s). The Regulator's role in permitting oil and gas activities is defined by the [Energy Resource Activities Act](#) (ERAA).

The Regulator operates within a legal framework embodied in the collection of acts, regulations, standards, practice requirements and management plans governing the mandate of the Regulator and provides a single-window model for oil and gas and associated activity operating permits.

Operators apply to the Regulator, and the Regulator reviews, assesses and makes decisions on these applications. This consolidated single-window authority provides not only a one-stop place for all oil and gas and associated activity requirements, but a consistent application, decision, regulatory and compliance authority. Stakeholders work with one agency; therefore serving the public interest by having an all-encompassing review process for oil and gas activities. In addition, operators are expected to abide by all applicable local by-laws, provincial and federal legislations.

In its day to day operations, the Regulator is focused on coordinated, responsive and responsible decision-making. Decisions are made while protecting public safety, respecting those affected by oil and gas activities, conserving the environment, and facilitating equitable participation in production.

Please Note:

This manual is written as a whole and provided to industry in sections to allow permit holders to access activity chapters. It is prudent of the permit holder to review the manual in its entirety and be aware of the content in other sections of the manual.

Please Note:

The Oil and Gas Activities Act defines both oil and gas activity and related activities and the Commission adheres to these definitions. The Commission's glossary and acronym listing is an extension of this manual and defines terms used throughout the oil and gas activity. Applicants and permit holders should refer to the glossary to understand the exact definition of terminology as it may differ from other regulatory bodies. Due diligence is required to ensure proper understanding of terms, acronyms and legislation.

1.1 Regulator's Permitting Authorities

The Regulator's specific permitting authority is defined in the Energy Resource Activities Act (ERAA). In order to effectively function as a single-window regulator for oil and gas in British Columbia, delegation agreements are in place to allow the Regulator to make decisions on certain oil and gas uses within the parameters outlined in those agreements. In addition, certain authorizations granted through specific Acts provide the Regulator permitting powers under specified enactments.

Permits and authorizations granted by the Regulator include:

- Oil and gas activity permits under the Energy Resource Activities Act, including well, pipeline, facilities, road and geophysical permits.
- Associated oil and gas activity authorizations under the Petroleum and Natural Gas and Land Act, including activities such as borrow pits, temporary work spaces and camp sites.
- Authorizations under the Water Sustainability Act, including authorizations for changes in and about a stream, short-term water use and water licences.
- Non-farm use of lands included in the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR), under delegated authority under the Agriculture Land Commission Act.
- Master licences to cut and cutting permits under the Forest Act.
- Archaeology-related permissions under the Heritage Conservation Act.
- Specific provincial authorizations related to pipelines subject to the National Energy Board Act.

The Regulator provides regulatory oversight at every stage of oil and gas development, working with a broad range of stakeholders. Regulator staff have the legislative authority to make decisions on proposed oil and gas activities. In addition, the Regulator:

- Tracks permit holder compliance.
- Reviews operational submissions.

- Provides guidance and processes for operators to submit applications and operational requirements.
- Conducts inspections and responds to incidents.
- Takes compliance and enforcement action when needed.

Other Regulatory and Technical Considerations

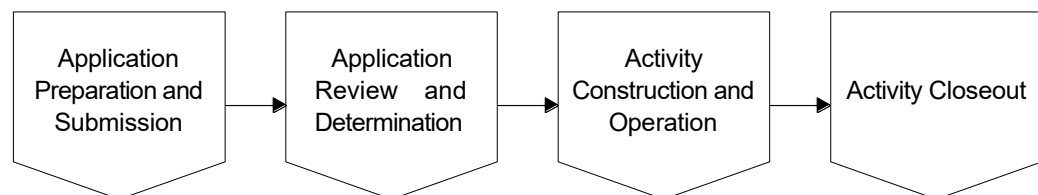
In addition to the regulatory and technical considerations outlined in this manual, applicants and permit holders should be familiar and understand other provincial and federal regulations, local authority requirements, industry recommended practices (IRP), Canadian Standards Association, labour board laws, and workers compensation rules in order to operate in British Columbia.

All submissions made to the Regulator in support of an application or a regulatory requirement that include work relating to the practice of professional engineering or professional geoscience are expected to accord with the Professional Governance Act, [SBC 2018], c. 47 and the Bylaws of Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia (EGBC). This includes any requirements relating to authentication of documents

1.2 Oil and Gas Activity Regulatory Life Cycle

The regulatory life cycle of an oil and gas activity is the requirements and steps involved in permit application preparation, application review and determination, activity construction and operations and activity close-out as shown in Figure 1-A.

Figure 1-A Oil and Gas Regulatory Life Cycle



Companies must adhere to the pre-application and application requirements as outlined in the Regulator's [Oil and Gas Activity Application Manual](#). Once pre-application requirements are complete, companies prepare and compile the relevant information for submission to the

Regulator's Application Management System (AMS). Following application submission, the Regulator conducts a comprehensive technical review of the application based on the characteristics, location and circumstances of the activity.

This manual focuses on the requirements for the construction and operation stages and requirements of the oil and gas and associated activity permits. Activity close out procedures where permitted oil and gas activities are permanently discontinued, equipment is removed and land is restored, are touched on briefly in this manual and in greater scope in the Regulator's Certificate of Restoration Application Manual and Environmental Protection and Management Guideline.

Please Note:

Throughout this manual, the term oil and gas activities often refers to both oil and gas and oil and gas associated activities as defined in the Commission's glossary.

1.3 Permit Management

Companies are issued oil and gas permits from the Regulator to construct and operate oil and gas and associated activities.

Permit Defined

A permit, as defined by the Energy Resource Activities Act means:

- A permit issued under Section 25 and includes any conditions imposed on a permit.

Permit Holder Defined

A permit holder, as defined by the Energy Resource Activities Act means:

- A person who holds a permit.
- A person, if any, who is the holder of a location with respect to that permit.

Permits are only granted to the operator and/or company from the original application. All those working for the permit holder must meet permit requirements.