

File: 292-30/OGC2021-006

June 21, 2021

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL:** 

Dear

Re: Request for Information – Release

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)

I am writing further to your request received by the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission). You requested records related to the Deputy Minister Committee for Natural Resources Task Force regarding Recommendation 25.

Some information has been withheld pursuant to the following section(s): 12 (Cabinet and local public body confidences), 13 (Policy advice or recommendations), 16 (Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations), 17 (Disclosure harmful to the financial or economic interests of a public body), and 22 (Disclosure harmful to personal privacy). A complete copy of FOIPPA is available online at: http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/96165 00

These records will be published on the Commission's website within 72 hours after release. To find out more about the proactive disclosure of requests, please access the Commission's website at: https://www.bcogc.ca/about/freedom-of-information/

Your file is now closed.

Pursuant to section 52 of the FOIPPA, you may ask the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) to review any decision, act, or failure to act with regard to your request under FOIPPA.

Please note that you have 30 business days to file your review with the OIPC. In order to request a review please write to:

Information and Privacy Commissioner PO Box 9038 Stn Prov Govt 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 947 Fort Street Victoria BC V8W 9A4

Phone: 250.387.5629 Fax: 250.387.1696

Email: info@oipc.bc.ca

If you request a review, please provide the OIPC with a copy of your original request, a copy of the Commission's response, and the reasons or grounds upon which you are requesting the review. Further information on the complaint and review process can be found on the OIPC website: <a href="https://www.oipc.bc.ca">https://www.oipc.bc.ca</a>

Please write <u>FOIIntake@bcogc.ca</u>, if you have any questions regarding your request or require any further clarification.

Yours truly,

Dana Keough

BC Oil and Gas Commission

From: Pasztor, Chris EMLI:EX <Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 4:26 PM

To: O'Hanley, James G

Subject: SRB/OGAT
Attachments: Document1.docx

James - as discussed. Couldn't share the original given our system so hopefully this work.

Chris

ISSUE: Surface Rights Board

#### BACKGROUND:

tenure.

#### Surface Rights Board

The Crown owns most of the subsurface resources in British Columbia (B.C.) including petroleum and natural gas (PNG). To develop and produce PNG resources, the Province issues subsurface rights to PNG companies in the form of tenure under the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act* (PNGA). The issuance of PNG tenure can occur under private land such as a farm, which may require entry onto the landowner's property to access the PNG

Before PNG activity can occur on private land to access PNG tenure, a permit for the activity must be issued by the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) under the Oil and Gas Activities Act (OGAA). The PNG company proposing the activity must also obtain right of access to the private land through a surface lease agreement with the landowner (e.g., farmer). If the company and the private landowner cannot reach agreement on access and/or compensation for loss of use, the matter is taken to the Surface Rights Board (SRB) for mitigation and/or arbitration.

The SRB is an independent quasi-judicial administrative tribunal established under the PNGA and has jurisdiction to resolve resource access disputes under the PNGA, Mining Right of Way Act, Mineral Tenure Act, Geothermal Resources Act, and Coal Act. The SRB is accountable to the Attorney General. The SRB has a part-time Chair and may have up to eight additional part-time members. Currently, the SRB has three members. The SRB's funding is provided through the Attorney General's Office. In 2019/20, the SRB's operating budget was \$108,000, which was under budget by approximately \$25,000.

The SRB is supported by the Property Assessment Appeal Board (PAAB), which provides administrative services. The SRB also has a Service Agreement with Service BC in Fort St. John and Dawson Creek to provide farmers and the public with a local contact and assistance in reviewing applications. The volume of inquiries through Service BC is very low. Most clients communicate directly with the SRB through the PAAB office in Vancouver via email or toll-free phone or fax.

#### Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal

When a private landowner does not agree with the issuance of a permit on their land, they can appeal the decision to the Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal (OGAT). The OGAT is an independent quasi-judicial agency that was established under OGAA and hears appeals from decisions of the OGC which include certain orders, declarations, findings of contravention, administrative penalties and permitting decisions in relation to PNG activity.

#### DISCUSSION:

#### SRB

When a landowner and a resource company cannot reach an agreement on right of entry to the landowner's property and/or any associated compensation, either party may apply to the SRB for

mediation and/or arbitration. Once an application is accepted by the SRB, the SRB will first attempt to resolve the matter through mediation and, if that is unsuccessful, through arbitration. If the matters are resolved between the parties, they may request that the resolution be recorded in a consent order from the SRB. However, as these orders are not required, not all resolutions by mutual agreement are recorded in orders. If the parties are not able to resolve their disagreement through mediation, the SRB will issue an arbitration order setting the terms of private land access and compensation.

The SRB's role is only to set the terms of land access and compensation. They do not assess and rule on other aspects of the activity itself such as whether it should occur on that land, its location, safety considerations, mitigation of impacts, etc. These matters are dealt with by the OGC in its permit decisions. Given this, it is SRB's practice to deal with an application to resolve land access/compensation matters only after the permit for the activity has been issued by the OGC. A relatively small percentage of proposed PNG activity on private land results in an application to the SRB and, of those, a significant percentage are resolved by consent of the parties. A summary of SRB decisions is included in Table 1 below.

#### OGAT

Private landowners who are dissatisfied with any aspect of a permit issued by the OGC on their land have a right of appeal to the OGAT. Prior to submitting their permit application to the OGC, a PNG company must consult with the landowner to identify and attempt to resolve any concerns about the proposed activity. The consultations, including any unresolved concerns, must be summarized in a report submitted with the application to the OGAT. The landowner may also make a written submission regarding the application directly to the OGC. The OGC decision-maker is required under OGAA to consider the consultation report and any written submissions in making their decision and, it is these considerations that are the basis of any appeal by the private landowner to the OGAT.

The OGAT can deny or dismiss an appeal, allow it or where the parties to the appeal reach agreement, can record that agreement in a consent decision. The private landowner can also withdraw their appeal at any time. A relatively small percentage of permit decisions are appealed by private landowners and, in most of them, OGAT has determined that the OGC's consideration of concerns raised by private landowners in their permit decisions is reasonable and appropriate. Since 2012, OGAT has only upheld one appeal by a landowner. A summary of OGAT decisions is included in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Summary of SRB and OGAT decisions between 2012 to 2019

		OGAT Appeals				SRB Access / Compensation Orders	
Year	Permits Issued <sup>1</sup>	Total	Denied/ Dismissed/ Withdrawn <sup>2</sup>	Allowed <sup>3</sup>	Consent <sup>4</sup>	No Consent <sup>5</sup>	Consent <sup>6</sup>
2012	250	5	5	0	0	8	0
2013	451	5	2	1	2	10	1
2014	576	2	2	0	0	12	6

Totals	2778	38	34	1	2	91	34
2019	217	37	2	0	0	0	0
2018	281	6	6	0	0	11	4
2017	286	8	8	0	0	19	4
2016	298	2	2	0	0	11	9
2015	419	7	7	0	0	20	10

Does not include amendments

#### SUMMARY:

PNG companies must seek a surface lease agreement with private landowners such as farmers to access PNG tenures under their properties. If the company and the farmer cannot reach agreement on access and/or compensation for loss of use, the SRB can provide mitigation and/or arbitration services. If the private landowner has an issue with any permit issued by the OGC, the farmer may appeal the permit through the services provided by the OGAT. Over the past eight years there have been a relatively small amount of access and/or compensation issues related to PNG companies entering private land to access their tenure and a relatively small number of permits that have been appealed by private landowners.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>OGAT denied or dismissed the appeal based on the information brought forward by the OGC, or the landowner withdrew their appeal.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>OGAT granted the appeal.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Parties resolved their issues under agreement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>No Consent means that the SRB issued an arbitration order setting the terms of private land access and compensation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Consent means that the parties resolved their issues under agreement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>2019 appeal decision is pending.

From: Pasztor, Chris EMLI:EX <Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 8:47 AM

**To:** O'Hanley, James G **Subject:** RE: SRB note

Great!

Thx, Chris

From: O'Hanley, James G

**Sent:** February 10, 2021 7:46 AM **To:** Pasztor, Chris EMLI:EX **Subject:** Re: SRB note

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

I will have it this morning

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 10, 2021, at 7:27 AM, Pasztor, Chris EMLI:EX < Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca > wrote:

Hi James – just checking in on that info for the MO. Let me know if there are any issues with having it to me by end of day.

Thx, Chris

#### **Chris Pasztor**

Executive Director | Tenure and Geoscience Branch
Oil and Gas Division | Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
D. 778.698.3691 S.17 | Chris.pasztor@gov.bc.ca

From: O'Hanley, James G

Sent: February 5, 2021 1:20 PM

To: Pasztor, Chris EMLI:EX < Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: SRB note

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

I am working on it as we speak. I should have something before the 10th.

## James O'Hanley Vice President, Applications

James.O'Hanley@bcogc.ca

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From: Pasztor, Chris EMLI:EX < <a href="mailto:Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca">Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca</a>

Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 12:30 PM

**To:** O'Hanley, James G **Subject:** SRB note

Hi James – the deadline for the note is the 10<sup>th</sup>. Do you think you'll have some stats for me by then?

Chris

#### **Chris Pasztor**

Executive Director | Tenure and Geoscience Branch
Oil and Gas Division | Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
D. 778.698.3691 | S.17 | Chris.pasztor@gov.bc.ca

From: O'Hanley, James G

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 9, 2021 2:46 PM

**To:** Curry, Sean

**Subject:** RE: Private/crown land within the ALR within PRRD

**Attachments:** Montney ALR.pptm

Categories: task force report

See slide 4 in the attached.



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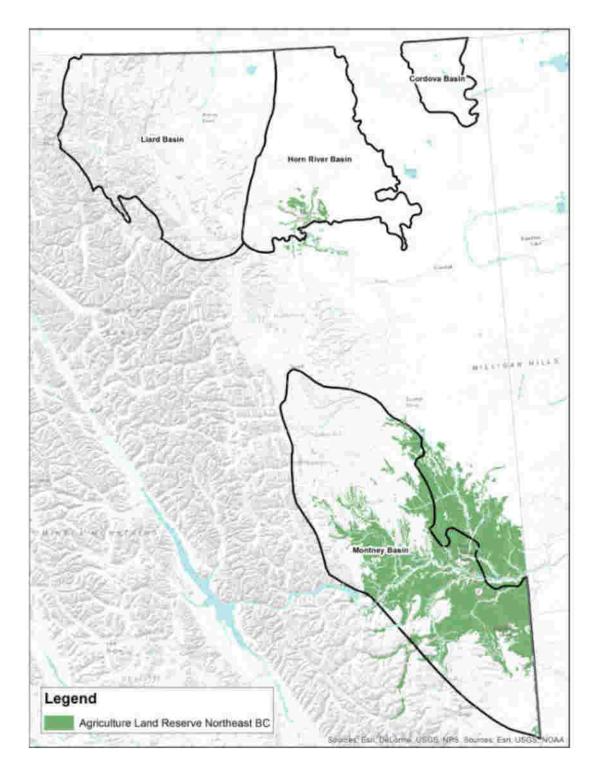
From: Curry, Sean <Sean.Curry@bcogc.ca> Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 11:56 AM

**To:** O'Hanley, James G < James.O'Hanley@bcogc.ca> **Subject:** Private/crown land within the ALR within PRRD

James,

Finally getting to some of the last stuff in the ALR task force report..... You had some very different numbers for the figure below... Can you send them to me? That will help GIS track down, and reproduce the results.

Sean

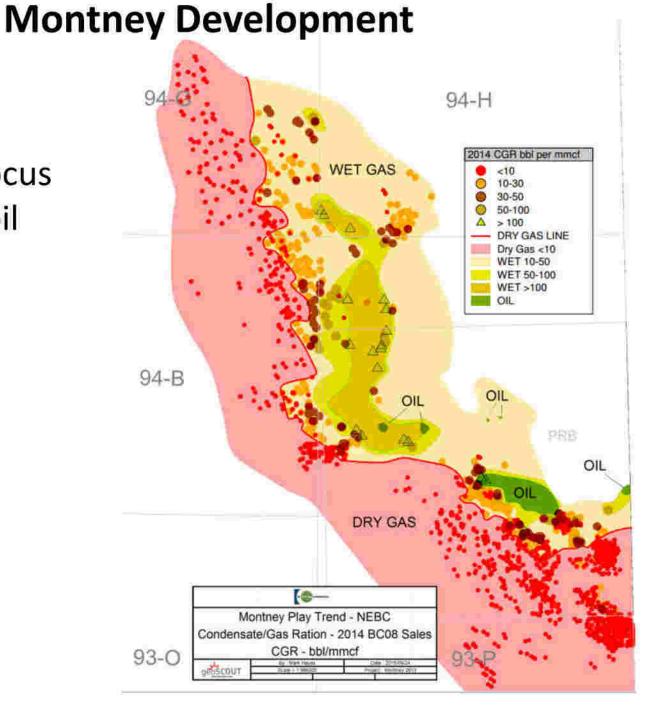


## **ALR IN NORTHEAST BC**

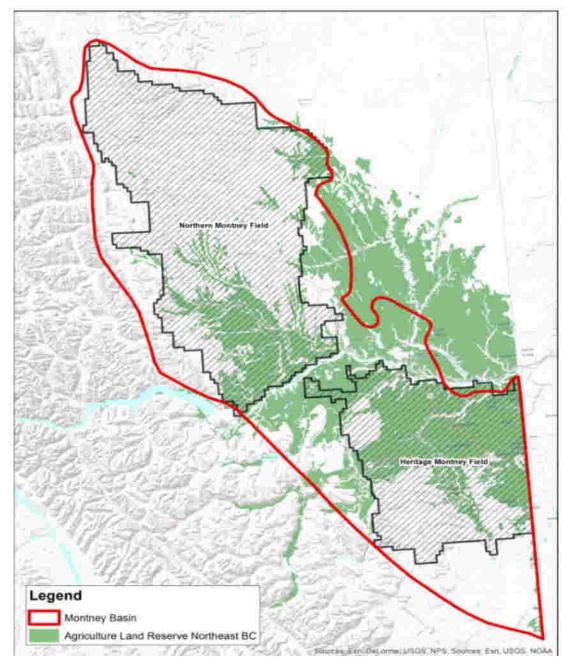
## 2 areas of ALR lands:

- North portion overlays the Horn River Basin
- South portion significantly overlays the Montney fairway.

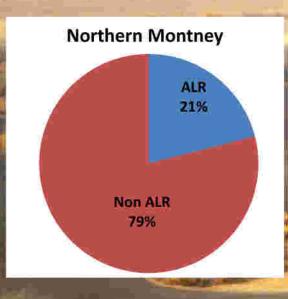
Depressed gas prices driving focus on liquids and oil

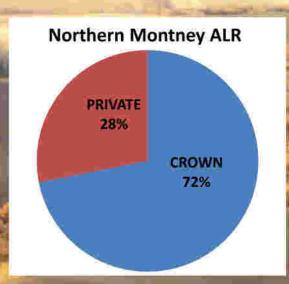


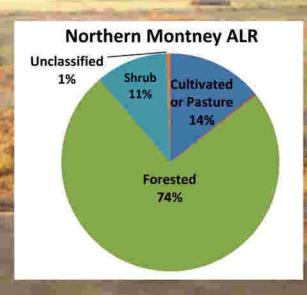
# Montney ALR – Location

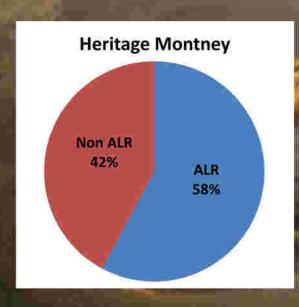


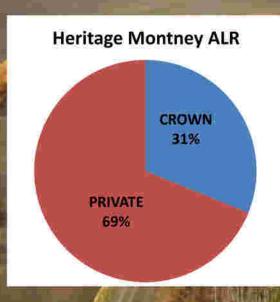
# Agricultural Land Reserve in the Montney

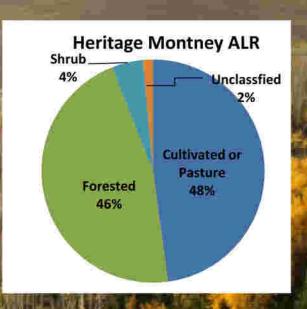












From: Mah-Paulson, May EMLI:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 10:58 AM

To: Cochrane, Marlene EMLI:EX

Cc: O'Hanley, James G

Subject: RE: Ministers Ralston, Popham, ALC; M Mah-Paulson, James O'Hanley

Hi Marlene - I discussed with Jennifer McGuire (ADM, AFF) late yesterday and then with Fazil last night.

Fazil had asked that I touch base with you to indicate that it should be Fazil and Paul Jeakins supporting at this meeting, and to see if it could be rescheduled (Jennifer had indicated there was no urgency to this meeting). Subsequently, Jennifer emailed me last night after discussing with her DM and indicated that she has more info to share, specifically that the two Ministers have been discussing this meeting. Jennifer and I will be touching base at 1 pm.

I'll follow up with Fazil and then you after that as to next steps.

Thanks,

May

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Cochrane, Marlene EMLI:EX Sent: January 28, 2021 9:42 AM

To: Mah-Paulson, May EMLI:EX; O'Hanley, James G OGC:IN

Subject: Ministers Ralston, Popham, ALC; M Mah-Paulson, James O'Hanley

When: February 1, 2021 10:00 AM-10:30 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: MS Teams

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

Click here to join the meeting Learn More | Meeting options

From: O'Hanley, James G

Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 9:18 AM

To: 'Mah-Paulson, May EMLI:EX'
Cc: Curry, Sean; Pasztor, Chris EMLI:EX

Subject: RE: Minister Popham, ALC; M Mah-Paulson, James O'Hanley

Categories: task force report

May, thanks for the update. I am available for a pre-call any time this afternoon, Thursday or Friday.



James O'Hanley Vice President, Applications

Vice President, Applications James O'Hanley@bcogc.ca Fort St John BC Office Address Directory beogc.ca T. 250 794-5261 F. 250-419-4403

s17











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From: Mah-Paulson, May EMLI:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 9:56 AM

To: O'Hanley, James G < James O'Hanley@bcogc.ca>

Cc: Curry, Sean <Sean.Curry@bcogc.ca>; Pasztor, Chris EMLI:EX <Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: Minister Popham, ALC; M Mah-Paulson, James O'Hanley

Hi James - for your info, some background from Jennifer McGuire for the Feb 1 meeting.

May

From: McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX < Jennifer. Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: January 25, 2021 8:28 AM

To: Mah-Paulson, May EMLI:EX < May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca > Subject: RE: Minister Popham, ALC; M Mah-Paulson, James O'Hanley

Hi.

This meeting is for the chair of the ALC to connect with Ministers regarding the Oil and Gas report. Chair Dyson was on the MAC and was directly involved with writing recommendation 25.

Based upon a recent briefing, I understand the ALC concerns as follows:

 Concerns that Oil and gas companies are buying farmland therefore eliminating the need for an agreement with the farmer. It may be helpful to have some information on this concern.

- Concerns were raised about the delegation agreement and how there is assurance that agriculture is protected in the NF
- Concern that OGC does not provide sufficient reports to ensure priority o agriculture.
- Concern that the Surface Rights Board always sides with the Oil and gas company.
- Concern that the FIS does not provide and advocacy role for the farmers.
- Concern about farmers in a state of 'despair' due to pressures from oil and gas.

We should have a call before the Feb 1 mtg.

I'll ask Chris to find us some time.

thanks JLM

From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX < May Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: January 19, 2021 11:10 AM

To: McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX < Jennifer. Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Minister Popham, ALC; M Mah-Paulson, James O'Hanley

Hi Jennifer - do you have any additional details about this joint briefing with Ministers Popham and Ralston?

Thanks,

May

----Original Appointment----

From: Cochrane, Marlene EMPR:EX < Marlene.Cochrane@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: January 19, 2021 11:08 AM

To: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX; O'Hanley, James G OGC:IN

Subject: Minister Popham, ALC; M Mah-Paulson, James O'Hanley

When: February 1, 2021 10:00 AM-10:30 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: MS Teams

### Microsoft Teams meeting

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Click here to join the meeting Learn More | Meeting options

From: Paulson, Ken

Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 11:26 AM

**To:** Jeakins, Paul **Cc:** O'Hanley, James G

**Subject:** FW: Minister Popham, ALC; M Mah-Paulson, James O'Hanley

FYI – looks like a briefing is being set up by MLP for the ALC on the DM Task Force report.

Not sure who exactly is attending yet from the ALC – it may be targeted at the ADM committee (May, Jennifer, James) – but if Kim is attending you should likely attend as well.

We are looking into it. Maybe block off the time slot just in case (10 to 10:30 on Monday, Feb 1).



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From: O'Hanley, James G

Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 8:15 AM

To: Paulson, Ken

Subject: FW: Minister Popham, ALC; M Mah-Paulson, James O'Hanley

Ken, I have been invited to a meeting with Minister Popham and the ALC Chair, along with May and Marlene Cochrane of EMLI to discuss the topics below.



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From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 11:18 AM To: Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX; Curry, Sean

Cc: O'Hanley, James G Subject: DMCNR - Mon, Jan 18

Attachments: DMCNR - Mon, Dec 21; 1.0 DMCNR Agenda Jan18.21.pdf

Hi - we are confirmed for DMCNR on Mon, Jan 18 (see the attached agenda, and materials that we previously provided to DMCNR when we were originally scheduled for Dec 21) to provide the same presentation that was given to ADMCNR on 'Background report on Agriculture and Oil & Gas in NE BC'. Jennifer will present, and we can help answer questions that come up. An invitation to DMCNR should be coming our way later today.

Thanks,

May

May Mah-Paulson, P.Eng.

Assistant Deputy Minister | Oil and Gas Division Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (P) 778.698.9691 s17



## DEPUTY MINISTERS' COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING AGENDA

Jan 18th, 2021 2:00 pm

This will be a virtual MS Teams meeting only. Click here to join the meeting

	Item	Information/D	Outcome	Lead	Time
	Item	ecision	Outcome	Leau	line
1.	Agenda and Minutes and 2021 schedule*	Decision	DMCNR approved DMCNR agenda and 2021 schedule	Meeting Chair	2:00
2.	Cabinet Committee Schedule (will circulate just prior to the call starting)	Information	DMCNR reviewed and confirmed Cabinet Committee schedule	Meeting Chair	2:05
3.	Forward Looking Agenda*	Information	DMCNR reviewed and confirmed of forward-looking agenda for both DMCNR and ADMCNR	Meeting Chair	2:10
4.	Lands and Natural Resource Secretariat***	Information	DM Halls provided update on Secretariat	DM Halls	2:15
			Consent Agenda	4.	
			N/A		
		D	Iscussion Agenda		-1
	Item	Information/ Decision	Outcome	Lead	Time



5.	Background report on Agriculture and Oil & Gas in NE BC*	Information	DMCNR received background report on Agriculture and Oil & Gas in Northeast BC. ADMCNR received similar presentation Dec 10th	AGRI/EMPR	2:25
3.	-		s13		

<sup>\*</sup> Materials attached / \*\* Materials walked in / \*\*\* Verbal, no material

From: Curry, Sean

Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 6:06 PM

**To:** Jeakins, Paul; Paulson, Ken

Cc: O'Hanley, James G

**Subject:** Notes from MBR & MLP briefing today

A summary of points from the call at 10 this am:

- Attending were:
  - o AFF: MLP, Sam Godfrey, Tom Ethier, Jennifer McGuire, David Travia,
  - o EMLI: MBR, Andrew Cuddy, Fazil, May, Chris P, James O, Sean
  - Not sure where Eugene Tseng works....
- · MLP has been hearing ongoing concerns from landowners about impacts of oil and gas activities
- MBR provided the information we produced earlier (copied below) regarding landowner compensation, restoration
  activity underway for dormants and Orphans James and I provided support. Priority sites under the DSR were also
  raised as a potential way to shorten the restoration timeline on some sites

s.13, s.17

•

s.22

James, anything else to add?

MBR provided summarized responses from the information below.

- 1. Does the Orphan fund pay all payments in arrears once a site is declared an orphan?
  - The Orphan fund will pay land owners back pay for missed rental payments up to \$50K max (as per Oil and Gas Activities Act General Regulation, s29). Annual rentals are paid on the anniversary date that was negotiated in the original lease agreement.
- 2. Is there a tabular or set rate for compensation between a landowner and an oil and gas company?
  - There is no standardized calculation for compensation on private land (\$ per acre). Amounts are based on negotiations between the company and land owner.
- 3. How much of the \$50 million in Federal money, awarded in the first installment, was allocated to work on the ALR?
  - Of the 1879 sites that were approved for funding in the first \$50M increment approximately \$15 million (30% +/-) will be spent on sites within the ALR.
  - The ALR breakdown is as follows:
    - 325 sites for decommissioning work
    - o 296 sites for assessment work
    - 122 sites for restoration work



From: Curry, Sean

Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:54 AM

**To:** Paulson, Ken; Jeakins, Paul; O'Hanley, James G

**Subject:** RE: BN's for MBR and MLP

The team finished up the analysis late yesterday about how much of the first \$50 million is on ALR. I have copied the other information from below so it is complete.

Answers to MBR questions:

- 1. Does the Orphan fund pay all payments in arrears once a site is declared an orphan?
  - The Orphan fund will pay land owners back pay for missed rental payments up to \$50K max (as per Oil and Gas Activities Act General Regulation, s29). Annual rentals are paid on the anniversary date that was negotiated in the original lease agreement.
- 2. Is there a tabular or set rate for compensation between a landowner and an oil and gas company?
  - There is no standardized calculation for compensation on private land (\$ per acre). Amounts are based on negotiations between the company and land owner.
- 3. How much of the \$50 million in Federal money, awarded in the first installment, was allocated to work on the ALR?
  - Of the 1879 sites that were approved for funding in the first \$50M increment approximately \$15 million (30% +/-) will be spent on sites within the ALR.
  - The ALR breakdown is as follows:
    - 325 sites for decommissioning work
    - 296 sites for assessment work
    - 122 sites for restoration work



Sean Curry, RPF
Vice President, Operational Policy &
Environment
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From: Curry, Sean

Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 3:25 PM

To: Paulson, Ken; Jeakins, Paul; O'Hanley, James G

Subject: BN's for MBR and MLP

#### Paul/Ken

The meeting at 11 am this am included MBR, and was a pre-brief for the joint MBR / MLP briefing tomorrow. A more relevant note (Cliff 112565) was created for today's MBR briefing incorporating the changes the four of us discussed this

am. The decision note (Ref 193448) was provided to both Ministers for the joint briefing tomorrow, and was used to brief MLP today at 11 by AFF staff.

The AFF process was ahead of the edit schedule we were working on, and the note (193448) didn't include our discussions. A few questions came up that we are answering for MBR, they are below.

- 1. Does the Orphan fund pay all payments in arrears once a site is declared an orphan?
- The Orphan fund will pay land owners back pay for missed rental payments up to \$50K max (as per Oil and Gas Activities Act General Regulation, s29). Annual rentals are paid on the anniversary date that was negotiated in the original lease agreement.
- 2. Is there a tabular or set rate for compensation between a landowner and an oil and gas company?
- There is no standardized calculation for compensation on private land (\$ per acre). Amounts are based on negotiations between the company and land owner.
- 3. How much of the \$50 million in Federal money, awarded in the first installment, was allocated to work on the ALR?
- The number is being worked on... should be ready by tomorrow.

#### Sean



**Sean Curry**, RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

Victoria BC Office Address Directory bcogc.ca T. 250 419-4486 F 250-419-4403 S.17



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# Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, AND Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation DECISION NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 193448 Date: January 7, 202

Title: Deputy Minister (DM) Agriculture and Oil and Gas Task Force Background Report

**Issue**: DM Task Force has requested Minister decision as to whether the Background Report is complete and should be released to the public.

#### **Background:**

In 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) was mandated with revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), and the Minister of AFF established an Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) to engage with stakeholders and the general public to provide Government with advice and guidance to support regulatory and administrative improvement. The IAC provided strategic advice and policy guidance to the minister based on the outcome of a broad engagement process with stakeholders across the province. The result was a final report (Revitalization Report) with 32 Recommendations.

#### Recommendation 25 was to:

Immediately work to address the imbalance between oil and gas development and agriculture in B.C.'s Northeast ALR.

- 1) Form a Deputy Minister-level, multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional Task Force to develop a Northeast ALR strategy; and
- 2) Establish an increased ALR presence to support farmers and ranchers in B.C.'s Northeast ALR.

Further, Recommendation 25 suggests that the DM Task Force develop a strategy to address the significant resource extraction issues impacting the ALR and its farmers and ranchers in B.C.'s Peace River region, including a review of the following issues and take actions as required:

- How to balance surface rights of the farmers/ranchers with sub-surface rights of the extractors;
- How the farmers/ranchers will be given authority to influence negotiations on the farm and location of oil and gas facilities and infrastructure;
- How the comments made to this Task Force by the farmers/ranchers will be accommodated in a balanced process;
- Whether the delegation agreement between the ALC and the B.C. Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) is the correct approach or if there is an alternative approach that would better protect agricultural interests and restore confidence in the regulatory system over the long term;
- Complete a fulsome impact assessment of oil and gas activity within the ALR; and
- Determine how farmers can access ongoing professional, independent support.

In November 2019, a DM Task Force was established comprising the Deputy Minister of AFF, the Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI), the Chief Executive Officer of the ALC, and the Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of the OGC.

In December 2019, the DM Task Force was formed. The DM Task Force accountability, as outlined in its Terms of Reference (ToR, Appendix A) is to examine the findings and recommendations from the Revitalization Report and, where and if appropriate, develop recommendations and initiate actions as

may be necessary in providing government's response to the Report.

The ToR states that the DM Task Force will begin its work by developing a comprehensive fact-based public facing Background Report (Appendix B). The Background Report is a first step, meant to be used as a common information base to guide additional work undertaken by the DM Task Force. Information about the DM Task Force, including its ToR and the commitment to publish the Background Report, is on the Ministry's website. A decision is required on how to publish the Background Report.

#### **First Nations Considerations:**

s16

#### **Discussion**:

The initial internal target date for the Background Report was tentatively set for April 2020. However, COVID-19 impacted the project timeline and project continuity. In November 2020, the Background Report was completed and presented to the Assistant Deputy Minister Committee for Natural Resources (ADMCNR). In December 2020, the DM Task Force reviewed the Background Report and requested a joint briefing for AFF and EMLI Ministers.

The current version of the Background Report objectively describes how oil and gas and agricultural land use have evolved over time in the ALR of NEBC, identifies regional and provincial economic contributions of both sectors and includes the examination of existing policies and regulatory frameworks to identify any gaps that may warrant attention or change. The Background Report is not intended to identify or address the IAC's report finding of the perceived imbalance between the two sectors; rather it is expected to inform and guide the future work of the DMTF in developing recommendations and initiating actions as may be necessary in providing a government response to the IAC's final report.

The Background Report indicates a strong focus on the economics of the industries. While the economic information provides facts supporting both industry sectors, land use information is likely of greater importance to agriculture industry stakeholders. These stakeholders do not generally dispute the economic contribution of oil and gas to the area, but rather express concerns related to land use and related impacts to agriculture. Potential stakeholder concerns related to expectations of a greater depth of analysis on these land use issues could be offset through development of a communication strategy that outlines possible next steps, including the analysis of land use impacts.

#### **Options:**

s13

Contact: David Travia, Executive Director, AFF, 778-974-3764 Contact: Chris Pasztor, Executive Director, EMLI \$17

ED DT ADM JLM A/DM JLM

#### MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND LOW CARBON INNOVATION

#### **BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon

Innovation

**ISSUE:** Agriculture and Oil and Gas in Northeast British Columbia

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In January 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) tasked an Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) to lead a province-wide engagement process to examine revitalization of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) across British Columbia (BC). The IAC travelled to nine communities, met with local governments and more than 170 agriculture stakeholders, and received responses by survey from over 2,300 British Columbians, all of which informed a report that included 32 recommendations and actions. In December 2019, the IAC submitted a final report (entitled "Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission") to the Minister of AFF and Government for consideration.

In the report, Recommendation 25 is specific to the interaction between oil and gas development and agriculture in northeast British Columbia (NEBC). Recommendation 25 states:

Immediately work to address the imbalance between oil and gas development and agriculture in NEBC's ALR:

- Form a Deputy Minister-level, multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional Task Force to develop a northeast ALR Strategy; and
- Establish an increased ALC presence to support farmers and ranchers in BC's northeast ALR.

In February 2020, a Deputy Minister Task Force (DMTF) comprised of the Deputy Minister of AFF, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (Ministry), the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the ALC, and the Commissioner and CEO of the BC Oil and Gas Commission, was established (see attached DMTF Terms of Reference) to take steps to consider Recommendation 25. As a first step, a working group supporting the DMTF developed a comprehensive fact-based background report containing the history and current context of oil and gas and agricultural land use in NEBC, which included an examination of the existing policies and regulatory frameworks associated with both sectors.

The attached final draft of the "Agriculture and Oil and Gas in Northeast British Columbia - Background Report" (Background Report) was completed in December 2020 for DMTF review.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The Background Report objectively describes how oil and gas and agricultural land use have evolved over time in the ALR of NEBC, and includes the examination of existing policies and regulatory frameworks to identify any gaps that may warrant attention or change. It is not intended to identify or address the IAC's report finding of the perceived imbalance between the two sectors; rather it is expected to inform and guide the future work of the DMTF in developing recommendations and initiating actions as may be necessary in providing a government response to the IAC's final report.

The establishment of the DMTF and the completion of the Background Report represent significant progress in government's consideration of a response to Recommendation 25.

#### **SUMMARY:**

In February 2020, a DMTF was established to consider IAC's Recommendation 25. To support the work of the DMTF, a comprehensive fact-based Background Report was developed in December 2020, that contains the history and current context of oil and gas and agricultural land use in NEBC, including an examination of the existing policies and regulatory frameworks associated with both sectors. As per the Terms of Reference for the DMTF, the Background Report is to be a public facing report once finalized, and it will guide additional work as identified by the DMTF, in determining a government response to the IAC's Recommendation 25.

#### **Attachments:**

- 1. Deputy Minister Task Force Terms of Reference
- 2. Agriculture and Oil and Gas in Northeast British Columbia Background Report (final draft)

#### DRAFTED BY: APPROVED BY:

Chris Pasztor, ED, TGB, OGD

May Mah-Paulson, ADM, OGD

Fazil Mihlar, DM

✓

From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 1:51 PM

To: Curry, Sean; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX; O'Hanley, James G

Subject: RE: For today's pre-brief

Hi Sean – the BN that is identified by Cliff 112565 was prepared just for MBR for today's pre-brief. The decision note (Ref 193448) was provided to both Ministers for the joint briefing tomorrow.

May

From: Curry, Sean

Sent: January 11, 2021 12:46 PM

To: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX; O'Hanley, James G OGC:IN

Subject: RE: For today's pre-brief

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

May,

To confirm the attached BN is the one that went to both Ministers...



Sean Curry , RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment

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From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX < May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 12:09 PM

To: Curry, Sean <Sean.Curry@bcogc.ca>; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX <Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca>; O'Hanley, James G

Subject: RE: For today's pre-brief

I sent a note to Jennifer with

They were pre-briefing their Minister at 11:30 this morning, and the BN I saw this morning is the one that went to both MO's.

Are there other changes/edits I should be aware of?

Thanks,

May

From: Curry, Sean < Sean.Curry@bcogc.ca>

Sent: January 11, 2021 11:50 AM

To: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX < May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca >; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX < Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca >;

O'Hanley, James G OGC:IN Subject: RE: For today's pre-brief

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Is this the one that will go to MLP or do we still have the opportunity to make changes on the one sent out earlier...



Sean Curry , RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment

Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

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From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX < May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 10:08 AM

To: Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX < Chris. Pasztor@gov.bc.ca>; O'Hanley, James G; Curry, Sean < Sean. Curry@bcogc.ca>

Subject: For today's pre-brief

Hi - here's the DM approved BN that was prepared for today's briefing.

May

May Mah-Paulson, P.Eng.
Assistant Deputy Minister | Oil and Gas Division

Date: January 4, 2021 CLIFF: 112565

#### MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND LOW CARBON INNOVATION

#### BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon

Innovation

ISSUE: Agriculture and Oil and Gas in Northeast British Columbia

#### BACKGROUND:

In January 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) tasked an Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) to lead a province-wide engagement process to examine revitalization of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) across British Columbia (BC). The IAC travelled to nine communities, met with local governments and more than 170 agriculture stakeholders, and received responses by survey from over 2,300 British Columbians, all of which informed a report that included 32 recommendations and actions. In December 2019, the IAC submitted a final report (entitled "Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission") to the Minister of AFF and Government for consideration.

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Immediately work to address the imbalance between oil and gas development and agriculture in NEBC's ALR:

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- Establish an increased ALC presence to support farmers and ranchers in BC's northeast ALR.

In February 2020, a Deputy Minister Task Force (DMTF) comprised of the Deputy Minister of AFF, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (Ministry), the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the ALC, and the Commissioner and CEO of the BC Oil and Gas Commission, was established (see attached DMTF Terms of Reference) to take steps to consider Recommendation 25. As a first step, a working group supporting the DMTF developed a comprehensive fact-based background report containing the history and current context of oil and gas and agricultural land use in NEBC, which included an examination of the existing policies and regulatory frameworks associated with both sectors.

The attached final draft of the "Agriculture and Oil and Gas in Northeast British Columbia - Background Report" (Background Report) was completed in December 2020 for DMTF review.

#### DISCUSSION:

The Background Report objectively describes how oil and gas and agricultural land use have evolved over time in the ALR of NEBC, and includes the examination of existing policies and regulatory frameworks to identify any gaps that may warrant attention or change. It is not intended to identify or address the IAC's report finding of the perceived imbalance between the two sectors; rather it is expected to inform and guide the future work of the DMTF in developing recommendations and initiating actions as may be necessary in providing a government response to the IAC's final report.

The establishment of the DMTF and the completion of the Background Report represent significant progress in government's consideration of a response to Recommendation 25.

#### SUMMARY:

In February 2020, a DMTF was established to consider IAC's Recommendation 25. To support the work of the DMTF, a comprehensive fact-based Background Report was developed in December 2020, that contains the history and current context of oil and gas and agricultural land use in NEBC, including an examination of the existing policies and regulatory frameworks associated with both sectors. As per the Terms of Reference for the DMTF, the Background Report is to be a public facing report once finalized, and it will guide additional work as identified by the DMTF, in determining a government response to the IAC's Recommendation 25.

#### Attachments:

- Deputy Minister Task Force Terms of Reference
- Agriculture and Oil and Gas in Northeast British Columbia Background Report (final draft)

DRAFTED BY: APPROVED BY:

Chris Pasztor, ED, TGB, OGD

May Mah-Paulson, ADM, OGD

Fazil Mihlar, DM

✓

From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 10:01 AM

To: Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX; O'Hanley, James G; Curry, Sean

Subject: RE: AGRI Materials: January 12 @ 10am

I will try to follow up with Jennifer this morning; this had not come to me formally for my review and I have some questions about some of the information provided in the note.

May

From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX Sent: January 11, 2021 8:53 AM

To: Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX; 'O'Hanley, James G'; Curry, Sean

Subject: FW: AGRI Materials: January 12 @ 10am

FYI.

(I'm not sure why the IBN is attached twice)

May

From: Cochrane, Marlene EMPR:EX < Marlene.Cochrane@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: January 11, 2021 8:39 AM

To: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX < May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Leinweber, Rachelle R EMPR:EX < Rachelle.Leinweber@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: AGRI Materials: January 12 @ 10am

Hi May. Please see the message below from our MO. I will let you send to OGC staff if necessary. Thank you.

Marlene Cochrane Executive Coordinator | Deputy Minister's Office Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation Victoria | British Columbia Phone (778) 698 7254

From: Robb, Amanda EMLI:EX < Amanda.Robb@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: January 8, 2021 5:05 PM

To: Cochrane, Marlene EMPR:EX < Marlene.Cochrane@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: AGRI Materials: January 12 @ 10am

HI Marlene,

Attached are materials from AGRI MO re joint briefing January 12th at 10:00AM

Thanks, Amanda Robb Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable Bruce Ralston

#### Minister's Office: Energy, Mines and Low-Carbon Innovation. Minister responsible for Consular Corps

Room 138 | Parliament Buildings | Victoria | British Columbia | V8W 9E2 Phone: 778-974-6023 | Fax: 250-356-3000 | Email:amanda.robb@gov.bc.ca

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# Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, AND Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation DECISION NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 193448 Date: January 7, 202

Title: Deputy Minister (DM) Agriculture and Oil and Gas Task Force Background Report

Issue: DM Task Force has requested Minister decision as to whether the Background Report is complete and should be released to the public.

#### Background:

In 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) was mandated with revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), and the Minister of AFF established an Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) to engage with stakeholders and the general public to provide Government with advice and guidance to support regulatory and administrative improvement. The IAC provided strategic advice and policy guidance to the minister based on the outcome of a broad engagement process with stakeholders across the province. The result was a final report (Revitalization Report) with 32 Recommendations.

#### Recommendation 25 was to:

Immediately work to address the imbalance between oil and gas development and agriculture in B.C.'s Northeast ALR.

- Form a Deputy Minister-level, multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional Task Force to develop a Northeast ALR strategy; and
- Establish an increased ALR presence to support farmers and ranchers in B.C.'s Northeast ALR.

Further, Recommendation 25 suggests that the DM Task Force develop a strategy to address the significant resource extraction issues impacting the ALR and its farmers and ranchers in B.C.'s Peace River region, including a review of the following issues and take actions as required:

- · How to balance surface rights of the farmers/ranchers with sub-surface rights of the extractors;
- How the farmers/ranchers will be given authority to influence negotiations on the farm and location of oil and gas facilities and infrastructure;
- How the comments made to this Task Force by the farmers/ranchers will be accommodated in a balanced process;
- Whether the delegation agreement between the ALC and the B.C. Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) is the correct approach or if there is an alternative approach that would better protect agricultural interests and restore confidence in the regulatory system over the long term;
- Complete a fulsome impact assessment of oil and gas activity within the ALR; and
- Determine how farmers can access ongoing professional, independent support.

In November 2019, a DM Task Force was established comprising the Deputy Minister of AFF, the Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI), the Chief Executive Officer of the ALC, and the Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of the OGC.

In December 2019, the DM Task Force was formed. The DM Task Force accountability, as outlined in its Terms of Reference (ToR, Appendix A) is to examine the findings and recommendations from the Revitalization Report and, where and if appropriate, develop recommendations and initiate actions as

may be necessary in providing government's response to the Report.

The ToR states that the DM Task Force will begin its work by developing a comprehensive fact-based public facing Background Report (Appendix B). The Background Report is a first step, meant to be used as a common information base to guide additional work undertaken by the DM Task Force. Information about the DM Task Force, including its ToR and the commitment to publish the Background Report, is on the Ministry's website. A decision is required on how to publish the Background Report.

#### **First Nations Considerations:**

s16

#### **Discussion**:

The initial internal target date for the Background Report was tentatively set for April 2020. However, COVID-19 impacted the project timeline and project continuity. In November 2020, the Background Report was completed and presented to the Assistant Deputy Minister Committee for Natural Resources (ADMCNR). In December 2020, the DM Task Force reviewed the Background Report and requested a joint briefing for AFF and EMLI Ministers.

The current version of the Background Report objectively describes how oil and gas and agricultural land use have evolved over time in the ALR of NEBC, identifies regional and provincial economic contributions of both sectors and includes the examination of existing policies and regulatory frameworks to identify any gaps that may warrant attention or change. The Background Report is not intended to identify or address the IAC's report finding of the perceived imbalance between the two sectors; rather it is expected to inform and guide the future work of the DMTF in developing recommendations and initiating actions as may be necessary in providing a government response to the IAC's final report.

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#### **Options:**

s13

Contact: David Travia, Executive Director, AFF, 778-974-3764 Contact: Chris Pasztor, Executive Director, EMLI, \$17

ED DT ADM JLM A/DM JLM

# Terms of Reference Deputy Minister Task Force Agriculture and Oil & Gas in Northeast British Columbia

#### Preamble:

In January 2018, the Minister of Agriculture tasked an Independent Revitalization Committee to revitalize the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) by leading a province-wide engagement process and providing strategic advice through recommendations for consideration by Government. The Revitalization Committee submitted final recommendations for the Minister's consideration including Recommendation 25<sup>1</sup> specific to the interaction of oil and gas development and agricultural land use in Northeast BC (NEBC). From the Revitalization Committee's report:

Immediately work to address the imbalance between oil and gas development and agriculture in BC's Northeast ALR:

- Form a Deputy Minister-level, multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional Task Force to develop a Northeast ALR Strategy; and,
- Establish an increased ALC presence to support farmers and ranchers in BC's Northeast ALR.

#### Committee:

A Deputy Minister/Commissioner level Task Force (Task Force) is established to consider Recommendation 25 from the Revitalization Report. The DM Task Force is comprised of:

- Deputy Minister of Agriculture;
- Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources;
- Chief Executive Officer, Agricultural Land Commission; and
- Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer, BC Oil and Gas Commission.

## Accountability: The Task Force will examine the findings and recommendations from the Revitalization Report and, where and if appropriate, develop recommendations and initiate actions as may be necessary in providing Government's response to the Report.

The Task Force will begin its work by developing a comprehensive and factual public facing report which will provide:

- the history and current context in NEBC with respect to oil and gas and agricultural land use; and
- an examination of the existing policy and regulatory frameworks for both sectors.

The report will guide additional work as identified by the Task Force including:

 Determination of any regulatory or legislative enhancements which may be warranted;

See Appendix 1 for the full recommendation

- Consideration of all available information the Task Force deems appropriate including information from the recent Farmington Landowners Group trials and the Peace River Regional District, local Farmers/Ranchers; and
- Consultation as appropriate and/or as required with Indigenous Communities, landowners, local governments, industry and others.

Support: To support the work of the Task Force, an Executive Committee is formed comprised of:

- Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Oil and Gas Division, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
- Director, Agricultural Land Commission; and
- Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, BC Oil and Gas Commission.

#### Roles: The Task Force will:

- Adopt these Terms of Reference;
- Meet as required to provide direction on analysis, reporting and other work to be done by the Executive Committee;
- Provide the appropriate linkage between Ministries and Cabinet/ELUC;
- Manage any concerns or disputes arising from the work; and
- Ensure the work of the Member Ministries and Commissions is aligned and coordinated.

#### The Executive Committee will:

- Review the recommendations and actions as outlined in the Revitalization
   Committee final report related to oil and gas and agriculture interactions and
   provide the outcome of the review and any further considerations to the Task
   Force, including:
  - Developing a public facing comprehensive report on Agricultural and Oil and Gas land use within the ALR in NEBC;
  - Responding to direction from the Task Force;
  - Identifying challenges and opportunities to be addressed;
  - Undertaking a review of the existing data/information available to assist in informing the Task Force; and
  - Making recommendations on next steps.

Relationships: The Task Force will provide any findings or recommendations arising from their work to the Deputy Minister Committee for Natural Resources (DMCNR) for review and discussion prior to advancing any recommendations to Government. Any such recommendations should be advanced utilizing the existing committee structures provided by the Assistant Deputy Minister Committee on Natural Resources (ADMCNR) and the DMCNR.

Principles:

The Task Force and the Executive Committee will:

- Develop fact based information and background on all matters before the Task Force;
- Provide a balanced and reasoned approach, mindful of divergent views, and supported by staff and subject matter experts; and
- Seek consensus directions and recommendations, or where consensus is not possible, document the reasons for lack of consensus and possible paths forward.

Expenses:

Individual Ministries and Commissions are responsible for their respective travel costs, subject to government travel guidelines and requirements.

### Appendix 1

## From the Revitalization Report Recommendation 25 and Associated Actions: Need for a Deputy-Minister Task Force and Strategy

#### Actions:

- Establish a Deputy Minister- level task force with internal and external agriculture partners
  and stakeholders from the natural resource sector. Direct the Task Force to:
  - Develop a strategy to address the significant resource extraction issues impacting the ALR and its farmers and ranchers in BCs Peace River Region
  - Review, among other considerations, the following issues and take actions as required:
    - How to balance surface rights of the farmer/rancher with sub-surface rights of the extractor
    - How the farmer/rancher will be given authority to influence negotiations on the farm and location of oil and gas facilities and infrastructure.
    - How the comments made to the task force by the farmers/ranchers will be accommodated in the balance process
    - Whether the delegation agreement between the ALC and the BC Oil and Gas
       Commission is the correct approach or if there is an alternative approach that
       would better protect the agricultural interest and restore confidence in the
       regulatory system over the long term
    - Complete a fulsome impact assessment of oil and gas activity with the ALR
    - Determine how farmers can access ongoing professional independent support
- Build a memorandum of understanding and operational agreement between the ALC and the BC Oil and Gas Commission for sharing impact assessments and other information so they can work more effectively together.
- Consider whether/what portion of royalties from oil and gas development in the ALR should be directed to a regional agriculture development fund.

## Need for Increased ALC and Ministry Presence

#### Actions:

 The Committee recommends the Ministry of Agriculture work with other natural resource ministries to ensure the ALC and the Ministry are sufficiently resourced to increase presence and support for the ALR protection and for farmers and ranchers in BC's Northeast ALR.

From: Curry, Sean

**Sent:** Sunday, January 10, 2021 4:55 PM

**To:** Jeakins, Paul; Paulson, Ken; O'Hanley, James G

**Subject:** Latest IN for MBR & MLP briefing

**Attachments:** 193448\_IBN\_Joint MIN AFF EMLI\_ALR OG.docx

Most recent version of IN for Tuesday's briefing.

Sent from my iPhone

## Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, AND Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation DECISION NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 193448 Date: January 7, 202

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- Complete a fulsome impact assessment of oil and gas activity within the ALR; and
- Determine how farmers can access ongoing professional, independent support.

In November 2019, a DM Task Force was established comprising the Deputy Minister of AFF, the Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI), the Chief Executive Officer of the ALC, and the Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of the OGC.

In December 2019, the DM Task Force was formed. The DM Task Force accountability, as outlined in its Terms of Reference (ToR, Appendix A) is to examine the findings and recommendations from the Revitalization Report and, where and if appropriate, develop recommendations and initiate actions as

may be necessary in providing government's response to the Report.

The ToR states that the DM Task Force will begin its work by developing a comprehensive fact-based public facing Background Report (Appendix B). The Background Report is a first step, meant to be used as a common information base to guide additional work undertaken by the DM Task Force. Information about the DM Task Force, including its ToR and the commitment to publish the Background Report, is on the Ministry's website. A decision is required on how to publish the Background Report.

**First Nations Considerations:** 

s16

#### **Discussion**:

The initial internal target date for the Background Report was tentatively set for April 2020. However, COVID-19 impacted the project timeline and project continuity. In November 2020, the Background Report was completed and presented to the Assistant Deputy Minister Committee for Natural Resources (ADMCNR). In December 2020, the DM Task Force reviewed the Background Report and requested a joint briefing for AFF and EMLI Ministers.

The current version of the Background Report objectively describes how oil and gas and agricultural land use have evolved over time in the ALR of NEBC, identifies regional and provincial economic contributions of both sectors and includes the examination of existing policies and regulatory frameworks to identify any gaps that may warrant attention or change. The Background Report is not intended to identify or address the IAC's report finding of the perceived imbalance between the two sectors; rather it is expected to inform and guide the future work of the DMTF in developing recommendations and initiating actions as may be necessary in providing a government response to the IAC's final report.

The Background Report indicates a strong focus on the economics of the industries. While the economic information provides facts supporting both industry sectors, land use information is likely of greater importance to agriculture industry stakeholders. These stakeholders do not generally dispute the economic contribution of oil and gas to the area, but rather express concerns related to land use and related impacts to agriculture. Potential stakeholder concerns related to expectations of a greater depth of analysis on these land use issues could be offset through development of a communication strategy that outlines possible next steps, including the analysis of land use impacts.

#### **Options:**

s13

Contact: Chris Pasztor, Executive Director, EMLI,	
ED ADM DM	

From: Curry, Sean

Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021 4:24 PM

**To:** Jeakins, Paul; O'Hanley, James G; Paulson, Ken **Subject:** RE: Briefing: Paul, Ken, James and Sean

Attachments: 193448 IBN Joint MIN AFF EMPR ALR O&G emli.docx

Categories: task force report

I have attached the draft DN that EMLI and AFF prepared for Tuesday's 10am meeting with MBR and MAP. Will forward final note when received.

A pre-brief meeting is set for Monday Jan 11 at 11.

Attending the meeting on Tuesday will be:

EMLI: Fazil, May, Chris P, OGC: James O, me,

AFF: Tom E, Jennifer M and David Travia

James and I were asked as we contributed to the content of the report.



Sean Curry , RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

Victoria BC
Office Address Directory
bcogc.ca

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-----Original Appointment-----

From: Hohnsbehn, Cathy <Cathy.Hohnsbehn@bcogc.ca> On Behalf Of Jeakins, Paul

Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021 11:48 AM

**To:** Curry, Sean; O'Hanley, James G; Paulson, Ken **Subject:** Briefing: Paul, Ken, James and Sean

When: Monday, January 11, 2021 8:30 AM-9:00 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: Webex Meeting - link and subject below in meeting invite

s.17

Via Webex:

James and Sean are meeting with EMLI and MBR and MLP on Tuesday re the ALR revitalization fact based report. AFF (Agriculture, Food & Fisheries) and EMLI arranged the meeting and James and I are involved as we were instrumental in drafting the report. According to EMLI, it is not essential for Paul to be there. FYI, ALC CEO wasn't invited either

Pages 46-48 s13, s16

From: Curry, Sean

**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 4:20 PM **To:** Paulson, Ken; O'Hanley, James G

**Subject:** Key points in Agriculture and Oil and Gas in NEBC background report

This was pulled together in the event that MBR or MPA ask for some high level points.

Chris P has forwarded to May.

- Agriculture has contributed to the economy of NEBC for the last 100 years
- Oil and Gas development commenced in late 1940"s with the first gas production in 1954
- 29% of the Provincial ALR is in NEBC
- 33% of the Montney Shale gas basin overlaps with the ALR in NEBC
- Approximately 80% of the ALR land in the Montney has been tenured with subsurface oil and gas rights
- Approximately 2.02% of the ALR land in NEBC has an oil and gas "footprint" not including seismic lines
- There are localized areas where activity has raised concerns from landowners
- Farm capital has been increasing since 1996. Net farm income decreased fro 1996 to 2011 and since 2011 has increased significantly
- Farm employment (full time and seasonal) decreased between 2010 and 2015
- Although cyclical, annual employment in the oil and gas sector has been steadily increasing since 2006.
- 86% of gas produced in BC comes from the Montney
- Revenue from tenure sales & royalties has flattened since 2011
- OGC adjudicates oil and gas applications on the ALR under a delegation agreement with the ALC.



Sean Curry , RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

Victoria BC Office Address Directory bcogc.ca T. 250 419-4486 F. 250-419-4403 s.17



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From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 5:45 PM

**To:** Paulson, Ken; O'Hanley, James G; Curry, Sean; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX

**Cc:** Leinweber, Rachelle R EMPR:EX

**Subject:** DMCNR - Mon, Dec 21

Attachments: 4.1 Agriculture Oil and Gas Background Report FINAL DRAFT dec 14 version SC.pdf; 4.2

tor\_dm\_task\_force.pdf; 4.0 DMCNR\_Info\_DM Task Force AFF and Oil and Gas in

NEBC.pdf; 1.0 DMCNR Agenda Dec 21 .20.pdf

Hi – for your info, here are the materials for DMCNR on Monday.

May

#### May Mah-Paulson, P.Eng.

Assistant Deputy Minister | Oil and Gas Division
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
(P) 778.698.9691
s17

## DEPUTY MINISTERS' COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING AGENDA

Dec 21st, 2020 2:00 pm

\_\_\_\_\_

This will be a virtual MS Teams meeting only. Click here to join the meeting

	Standing Committee Business								
	Item	Information/Dec ision	Outcome	Lead	Time				
1.	Agenda and Minutes and 2021 schedule*	Decision	DMCNR approved DMCNR agenda and minutes and reviewed 2021 schedule	Meeting Chair	2:00				
2.	Forward Looking Agenda*	Information	DMCNR reviewed and confirmed of forward-looking agenda for both DMCNR and ADMCNR	Meeting Chair	2:05				
Consent Agenda									
			N/A						
	Discussion Agenda								
	Item	Information/ Decision	Outcome	Lead	Time				
3.	Impacts to Agriculture in the Northeast*	Information	DMCNR received update on the impacts to Agriculture in Northeast BC. ADMCNR received similar presentation Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	AGRI/EMPR	2:20				

4. \$13

<sup>\*</sup> Materials attached / \*\* Materials walked in / \*\*\* Verbal, no material

Pages 52-57 s12, s13 Pages 58-98 s13, s16

## Terms of Reference **Deputy Minister Task Force** Agriculture and Oil & Gas in Northeast British Columbia

#### Preamble:

In January 2018, the Minister of Agriculture tasked an Independent Revitalization Committee to revitalize the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) by leading a province-wide engagement process and providing strategic advice through recommendations for consideration by Government. The Revitalization Committee submitted final recommendations for the Minister's consideration including Recommendation 25<sup>1</sup> specific to the interaction of oil and gas development and agricultural land use in Northeast BC (NEBC). From the Revitalization Committee's report:

Immediately work to address the imbalance between oil and gas development and agriculture in BC's Northeast ALR:

- 1. Form a Deputy Minister-level, multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional Task Force to develop a Northeast ALR Strategy; and,
- 2. Establish an increased ALC presence to support farmers and ranchers in BC's Northeast ALR.

#### Committee:

A Deputy Minister/Commissioner level Task Force (Task Force) is established to consider Recommendation 25 from the Revitalization Report. The DM Task Force is comprised of:

- Deputy Minister of Agriculture;
- Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources;
- Chief Executive Officer, Agricultural Land Commission; and
- Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer, BC Oil and Gas Commission.

Accountability: The Task Force will examine the findings and recommendations from the Revitalization Report and, where and if appropriate, develop recommendations and initiate actions as may be necessary in providing Government's response to the Report.

> The Task Force will begin its work by developing a comprehensive and factual public facing report which will provide:

- the history and current context in NEBC with respect to oil and gas and agricultural land use; and
- an examination of the existing policy and regulatory frameworks for both sectors.

The report will guide additional work as identified by the Task Force including:

Determination of any regulatory or legislative enhancements which may be warranted;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Appendix 1 for the full recommendation

- Consideration of all available information the Task Force deems appropriate including information from the recent Farmington Landowners Group trials and the Peace River Regional District, local Farmers/Ranchers; and
- Consultation as appropriate and/or as required with Indigenous Communities, landowners, local governments, industry and others.

Support:

To support the work of the Task Force, an Executive Committee is formed comprised of:

- Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Oil and Gas Division, Ministry of Energy, Mines and **Petroleum Resources**
- Director, Agricultural Land Commission; and
- Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, BC Oil and Gas Commission.

Roles:

The Task Force will:

- Adopt these Terms of Reference;
- Meet as required to provide direction on analysis, reporting and other work to be done by the Executive Committee;
- Provide the appropriate linkage between Ministries and Cabinet/ELUC;
- Manage any concerns or disputes arising from the work; and
- Ensure the work of the Member Ministries and Commissions is aligned and coordinated.

The Executive Committee will:

- Review the recommendations and actions as outlined in the Revitalization Committee final report related to oil and gas and agriculture interactions and provide the outcome of the review and any further considerations to the Task Force, including:
  - Developing a public facing comprehensive report on Agricultural and Oil and Gas land use within the ALR in NEBC;
  - Responding to direction from the Task Force;
  - Identifying challenges and opportunities to be addressed;
  - Undertaking a review of the existing data/information available to assist in informing the Task Force; and
  - Making recommendations on next steps.

Relationships: The Task Force will provide any findings or recommendations arising from their work to the Deputy Minister Committee for Natural Resources (DMCNR) for review and discussion prior to advancing any recommendations to Government. Any such recommendations should be advanced utilizing the existing committee structures provided by the Assistant Deputy Minister Committee on Natural Resources (ADMCNR) and the DMCNR.

Principles:

The Task Force and the Executive Committee will:

- Develop fact based information and background on all matters before the Task Force;
- Provide a balanced and reasoned approach, mindful of divergent views, and supported by staff and subject matter experts; and
- Seek consensus directions and recommendations, or where consensus is not possible, document the reasons for lack of consensus and possible paths forward.

Expenses:

Individual Ministries and Commissions are responsible for their respective travel costs, subject to government travel guidelines and requirements.

#### Appendix 1

# From the Revitalization Report Recommendation 25 and Associated Actions: Need for a Deputy-Minister Task Force and Strategy

#### Actions:

- 1. Establish a Deputy Minister- level task force with internal and external agriculture partners and stakeholders from the natural resource sector. Direct the Task Force to:
  - Develop a strategy to address the significant resource extraction issues impacting the ALR and its farmers and ranchers in BCs Peace River Region
  - Review, among other considerations, the following issues and take actions as required:
    - How to balance surface rights of the farmer/rancher with sub-surface rights of the extractor
    - How the farmer/rancher will be given authority to influence negotiations on the farm and location of oil and gas facilities and infrastructure.
    - How the comments made to the task force by the farmers/ranchers will be accommodated in the balance process
    - Whether the delegation agreement between the ALC and the BC Oil and Gas Commission is the correct approach or if there is an alternative approach that would better protect the agricultural interest and restore confidence in the regulatory system over the long term
    - o Complete a fulsome impact assessment of oil and gas activity with the ALR
    - o Determine how farmers can access ongoing professional independent support
- 2. Build a memorandum of understanding and operational agreement between the ALC and the BC Oil and Gas Commission for sharing impact assessments and other information so they can work more effectively together.
- 3. Consider whether/what portion of royalties from oil and gas development in the ALR should be directed to a regional agriculture development fund.

### Need for Increased ALC and Ministry Presence

#### Actions:

1. The Committee recommends the Ministry of Agriculture work with other natural resource ministries to ensure the ALC and the Ministry are sufficiently resourced to increase presence and support for the ALR protection and for farmers and ranchers in BC's Northeast ALR.

From: O'Hanley, James G

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:51 AM

To:Curry, Sean; Paulson, KenSubject:RE: ALC/ALR Report Draft

DM meeting is at 8:30 am Pacific.



James O'Hanley
Vice President, Applications
James.OHanley@bcogc.ca

Fort St John BC Office Address Directory bcogc.ca T. 250 794-5261 F. 250-419-4403 s.17



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From: Curry, Sean

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:05 AM

**To:** Paulson, Ken **Cc:** O'Hanley, James G

Subject: Re: ALC/ALR Report Draft

Hi Ken,

I have not. Paul and I and you are on a call from 9:30 to 11 re SFN. Not sure what time the DM meeting is.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 14, 2020, at 9:47 PM, Paulson, Ken < Ken. Paulson@bcogc.ca > wrote:

Have you guys briefed Paul on the ALC Report? I understand there is a DM task force meeting in the morning?

**Ken Paulson**, P.Eng Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca

Victoria BC Office Address Directory bcogc.ca T. 250 419-4404 F 250-419-4403 S.17

From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:20 PM **To:** O'Hanley, James G; Curry, Sean

Cc: Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX; Leinweber, Rachelle R EMPR:EX

**Subject:** RE: ALR report next steps

4:30 my time works; I'm briefing the Minister from 4 to 4:30 and will call in as soon as that's done.

Thanks,

May

From: O'Hanley, James G

Sent: December 15, 2020 1:16 PM

To: Curry, Sean; Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX

Cc: Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX; Leinweber, Rachelle R EMPR:EX

Subject: RE: ALR report next steps

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

I can do 4:30 (5:30 my time) but would prefer earlier if possible.



James O'HanleyFort St John BCT. 250 794-5261Vice President, ApplicationsOffice Address DirectoryF. 250-419-4403James.OHanley@bcogc.cabcogc.cas.17



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From: Curry, Sean < Sean.Curry@bcogc.ca > Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:15 PM

To: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX < May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX <Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca>; O'Hanley, James G <James.OHanley@bcogc.ca>; Leinweber,

Rachelle R EMPR:EX <Rachelle.Leinweber@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: ALR report next steps

After 4:30 today works for me

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 15, 2020, at 1:11 PM, Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX < May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca > wrote:

Hi Sean – thanks, and happy to debrief.

I'm available today between 2 and 2:45 and after 4:30. Or between 1 and 2:30 tomorrow afternoon.

May

From: Curry, Sean < Sean.Curry@bcogc.ca>

Sent: December 15, 2020 11:26 AM

To: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX < May. Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX

<<u>Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca</u>>; O'Hanley, James G <<u>James.OHanley@bcogc.ca</u>>

**Subject:** ALR report next steps

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

May/James,

Do we need a quick call to finalize comments / next steps re the document that was reviewed this am by the DM's?

**Sean Curry**, RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

Victoria BC T. 250 419-4486
Office Address Directory bcogc.ca F. 250-419-4403
s.17

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From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:24 AM

To: O'Hanley, James G

Cc: Curry, Sean; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX

Subject: Fwd: CALL: Fazil, Tom, May, Paul, James, Kim, Jen, Martin, and Monica

FYI.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Collins, Martin J ALC: EX" < Martin. Collins@gov.bc.ca>

Date: December 15, 2020 at 8:20:13 AM PST

To: "Mah-Paulson, May EMPR: EX" <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: "Grout, Kim ALC: EX" < Kim. Grout@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: CALL: Fazil, Tom, May, Paul, James, Kim, Jen, Martin, and Monica

#### May

I have had a quick read of the report and wanted to indicate that I think it is much better - however, my main concern is the airphotos do not show the oil and gas facilities leasehold areas outlined, so it is difficult to see what areas have been leased and alienated from the farmer's use. I suggest that thin red lines be superimposed to identify the facility leasehold areas.

Regards

Martín

From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR: EX < May. Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: December 14, 2020 6:01 PM

To: Mihlar, Fazil EMPR:EX <Fazil.Mihlar@gov.bc.ca>; Ethier, Tom AGRI:EX

<Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>; Jeakins, Paul OGC:IN <Paul.Jeakins@bcogc.ca>; Grout, Kim ALC:EX

<Kim.Grout@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: O'Hanley, James G <James.OHanley@bcogc.ca>; Jang, Monica EMPR:EX

<Monica.Jang@gov.bc.ca>; Collins, Martin J ALC:EX <Martin.Collins@gov.bc.ca>; McGuire,

Jennifer AGRI:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; O'Hanley, James G OGC:IN <James.O'Hanley@BCOGC.ca>; McCann, Meghan EMPR:EX <Meghan.McCann@gov.bc.ca> Subject: RE: CALL: Fazil, Tom, May, Paul, James, Kim, Jen, Martin, and Monica

Hi Fazil, Tom, Paul and Kim,

For the DM Task Force Meeting tomorrow morning:

Proposed Agenda

- 1. Purpose of meeting / Review of agenda
- 2. Proposed next steps in responding to Report Recommendation 25
- a. Draft report approval and publication
- Communication plan timing
  - 1. Task Force Direction / Next Steps

Materials (attached)

- \* "Agriculture and Oil & Gas in Northeast British Columbia Background Report" Final Draft, last updated Dec 14, 2020
  - \* Terms of Reference Deputy Minister Task Force

Thanks,

May

May Mah-Paulson, P.Eng.
Assistant Deputy Minister | Oil and Gas Division Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
(P) 778.698.9691
s17

----Original Appointment----

From: Mihlar, Fazil EMPR: EX < Fazil. Mihlar@gov.bc.ca < mailto: Fazil. Mihlar@gov.bc.ca >>

Sent: December 4, 2020 10:16 AM

To: Mihlar, Fazil EMPR:EX; Jang, Monica EMPR:EX; Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX; Ethier, Tom AGRI:EX; McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX; Jeakins, Paul OGC:IN; O'Hanley, James G OGC:IN;

Grout, Kim ALC: EX; Collins, Martin J ALC: EX

Cc: O'Hanley, James G

Subject: CALL: Fazil, Tom, May, Paul, James, Kim, Jen, Martin, and Monica

When: December 15, 2020 8:30 AM-9:30 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: 1-877-353-9184, Participant: 2914484# (Fazil to Moderate)

DM Task Force on ALR and O&G in NEBC

From: Sent: To: Subject:	Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX <may.mah-paulson@gov.bc.ca> Friday, December 11, 2020 5:49 PM Curry, Sean; O'Hanley, James G; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX RE: ALR report update</may.mah-paulson@gov.bc.ca>						
Hi Sean – thanks for the updates. I would like to get the report to DM's ahead of the Task Force meeting (Tue, Dec 15 at 8:30 am).							
Any chance you could have something back to me by noon on Monday? And that version can flag anything else that is being updated still.							
Thanks, and hope you have a goo	od weekend as well!						
May							
From: Curry, Sean Sent: December 11, 2020 4:46 PM To: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX; O'Hanley, James G; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX Subject: ALR report update							
[EXTERNAL] This email came from known sender.	m an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a						
All, A quick update:	s.13, s.17						
So, more activity on Monday!							
Have a great weekend.							

From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:00 PM

**To:** O'Hanley, James G; Curry, Sean; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX

**Subject:** Materials for Dec 10 ADMCNR

Attachments: 1.0 ADMCNR Agenda - December 10, 2020.pdf; 3.0 ADMCNR\_Info\_DM Task Force Agri

and O and G in NEBC Dec 03, 2020.pdf; 3.1 20201125 Agriculture Oil and Gas

Background Report FINAL DRAFT.pdf

Hi – as discussed, here is the current agenda for ADMCNR this Thursday as well as the materials that were provided to them. AGRI will run through the deck and then we are all there to answer questions and hear feedback.

Thanks,

May

### May Mah-Paulson, P.Eng.

Assistant Deputy Minister | Oil and Gas Division
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
(P) 778.698.9691
s17

Date: December 10, 2020 Time: 1:30pm - 3:55pm

Join Skype Meeting
Join by phone:
Participant s17 Location:

250) 952-9304; Vancouver: +1 (604) 398-9304, Toll-Free: +1 (888) 952-9304,

Peter Robb Chair: Allison Tripp Secretary:

**ADM Committee Members** Invitees:

SharePoint: Link

	Standing Committee Business							
Item	Time	Topic	Presenter					
1.	1:30pm – 1:45pm (15min)	Review Agenda and Action Items  1. ADMCNR Rolling Agenda* 2. DMCNR Rolling Agenda* 3. ADMCNR minutes* 4. Draft DMCNR Minutes 5. Anticipated EA Schedule* 6. MIRR Leading Tables Dashboard	Peter Robb					
	Discussion Agenda							
Item	Time	Topic	Presenter					
2.	1:45pm – 2:45pm (60min)	For Discussion: NRS Principled Approach to Declaration Act*	Jessica Wood Amy Avila Greg Perrins					
3.	2:45pm – 3:05pm (20min)	For Information: Background report on Agriculture and Oil&Gas in NE BC*	Jennifer McGuire Ken Paulson May Mah-Paulson David Travia James O'Hanley Sean Curry Chris Pasztor					
4.	3:05pm – 3:50pm (45min)	For Discussion: New Mandates and prioritization***	All					
5.	3:50pm – 3:55pm (5min)	Wrap-Up***	Peter Robb					

<sup>\*</sup>Material attached \*\*\*Verbal Next meeting scheduled for January 7, 2021

Pages 112-117 s12, s13 Pages 118-155 s13, s16

From: O'Hanley, James G

Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:39 PM

**To:** 'Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX'; Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX; Curry, Sean

**Subject:** RE: AG/PNG Background Report Debrief

Attachments: 20201124 Agriculture Oil and Gas Background Report FINAL (002) with JOH edits Dec 8

2020.docx

I have included a number of comments and edits in the attached.



James O'Hanley
Vice President, Applications
James.OHanley@bcogc.ca

Fort St John BC Office Address Directory bcogc.ca T. 250 794-5261 F 250-419-4403 S.17



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-----Original Appointment-----

From: Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 10:50 PM

**T** D : 01: 514DD 57/ 14 | D | 144 | 514D

To: Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX; Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX; O'Hanley, James G; Curry, Sean

Subject: AG/PNG Background Report Debrief

When: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:00 PM-2:30 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: Skype Meeting

Hi – some time to discuss next steps.

Chris

## Join Skype Meeting

Trouble Joining? Try Skype Web App

## Join by phone

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Local - Vancouver: +1 (604) 398-9304 s17 (BC, Canada) English (United States)

Toll-Free: +1 (888) 952-9304,, s17 (BC, Canada) English (United States)

Local - Kamloops: +1 (250) 554-7244 s17 (BC, Canada) English (United States)
Local - Prince George: +1 (250) 645-9304 (BC, Canada) English (United States)

Local - Nelson: +1 (778) 671-9304 s17 BC, Canada) English (United States)

Pages 157-194 s13, s16

From: McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX < Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 4:20 PM

**To:** Curry, Sean

**Subject:** FW: Draft PPT for ADMCNR on the DM Task Force for Agriculture and Oil and Gas in

NEBC.

Attachments: ADMCNR\_Info\_DM Task Force Agri and O and G in NEBC Dec 02, 2020.pptx

**Categories:** task force report

Hi Sean,

Making sure you have a copy of this draft ppt.

Jennifer

From: Travia, David V AGRI:EX < David. Travia@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: December 2, 2020 2:47 PM

**To:** Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca> **Cc:** McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Draft PPT for ADMCNR on the DM Task Force for Agriculture and Oil and Gas in NEBC.

Hello May,

For your review, please find attached the draft PPT for ADMCNR (scheduled Dec. 10) on the DM Task Force for Agriculture and Oil and Gas in NEBC. We've incorporated the feedback received from Chris Pasztor.

Please let us know if you'd like any changes.

Thank you, David

#### **David Travia**

**Executive Director** 

Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation Branch | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Ph: 778 974-3764

Pages 196-201 s12, s13

From: Curry, Sean

Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2020 10:52 AM

**To:** O'Hanley, James G **Subject:** latest ALR report FYI

Attachments: 20201124 Agriculture Oil and Gas Background Report FINAL.docx

Not sure if Chris P has sent this to you yet.

Chris and I went through the document from Agri and made chages where we felt it was appropriate.

**SEan** 



Sean Curry , RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

Victoria BC Office Address Directory bcogc.ca T. 250 419-4486 F. 250-419-4403 s17



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Pages 203-240 s13, s16

From: O'Hanley, James G

Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 2:57 PM

To: Paulson, Ken; Curry, Sean Subject: RE: Agriculture Report

Got comments on the last draft from the other agencies. I haven't reviewed them in detail yet but will forward to you.



James O'Hanley
Vice President, Applications
James.OHanlev@bcogc.ca

Fort St John BC Office Address Directory beogc.ca T. 250 794-5261 F. 250-419-4403 s17



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From: Paulson, Ken

Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:15 AM

To: Curry, Sean; O'Hanley, James G

Subject: Agriculture Report

How is this progressing?



Ken Paulson , P.Eng Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer Ken Paulson@bcogc.ca

Victoria BC Office Address Directory bcoqc.ca T. 250 419-4404 F 250-419-4403 \$17



From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 11:29 PM

**To:** Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX; Curry, Sean

Cc: O'Hanley, James G

Subject: FOR REVIEW/ACTION: 20201104 Agriculture Oil and Gas Background Report DRAFT

AGRI v1

Attachments: 20201104 Agriculture Oil and Gas Background Report DRAFT AGRI v1.docx

**Categories:** task force report

Hi Chris and Sean,

Thanks again for creating the current draft of the background report. Both Jennifer and I agreed it was consistent with our understanding of what would be a comprehensive and factual background report as set out in the TOR.

Jennifer has now received comments back from her team as well as from the ALC on the draft report. Could you please review and address the comments, and also note which ones can't be addressed and should go to the Executive Committee (ADMs, ALC Director, OGC EVP) for discussion/resolution.

s13, s16

Jennifer and I are briefing our respective DM's this Friday afternoon (3:30 pm). We wanted to provide them the context for this work ahead of scheduling a DM Task Force meeting. Would be good to get your thoughts/input on the comments in the current draft ahead of the meeting if possible.

Jennifer has also secured dates to provide updates (as an info item) to ADMCNR (currently scheduled for Dec 10) and DMCNR (currently scheduled for Dec 21).

I've got some availability on Thursday (1-1:30 pm; 2-3 pm) if you'd like to discuss.

Thanks,

May

From: McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX < Jennifer. Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** November 18, 2020 3:08 PM

To: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX < May. Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: 20201104 Agriculture Oil and Gas Background Report DRAFT AGRI v1

As discussed.

Pages 243-286 s13, s16

From: Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX < Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 1:47 PM

To: Curry, Sean

Cc: O'Hanley, James G

**Subject:** RE: Final draft of ALR report

Thanks Sean. I'll have to look in to the indirect employment to see what I can find.

I'll forward the document to May.

Thanks again,

Chris

From: Curry, Sean

Sent: October 22, 2020 11:01 AM To: Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX Cc: O'Hanley, James G

Subject: Final draft of ALR report

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Chris,

Any chance of getting indirect employment estimates for both the Agriculture and oil and gas sectors to complete the picture?

Sean



Sean Curry, RPF

Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment

Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

Victoria BC Office Address Directory bcogc.ca

F. 250-419-4403 s17

T. 250 419-4486



From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent:Tuesday, October 20, 2020 12:41 PMTo:Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX; Curry, Sean

**Cc:** O'Hanley, James G **Subject:** FW: AG/PNG Report

Attachments: Agriculture Oil and Gas Background Report MEMPR OGC October 19 2020.docx

**Importance:** High

Hi Chris and Sean – thanks for the updated draft, it is looking great!

My edits/comments are on the attached in track changes.

Happy to discuss after James has reviewed as well. I'd like to share a penultimate draft with Jennifer this week.

Thanks again for all your work on this!

May

From: Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX
Sent: October 19, 2020 5:37 PM
To: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX
Subject: AC/DNC Bargart

Subject: AG/PNG Report

Importance: High

Hi May – attached is the AG/PNG report. OGC communications are redoing some figures and the look but other than that it's good to go. We should have a call later in a week so you and James can provide Sean and I some final comments/edits if necessary.

Let me know your preference wrt a call.

Chris

Pages 289-327 s13, s16

From: Stefik, Ron

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 4:11 PM

**To:** Curry, Sean; Yule, Sarah

**Cc:** Gaucher, Michelle; Gerlach, Lisa; Currie, Graham

**Subject:** RE: ALR report

Attachments: Agriculture Oil and Gas Background Report MEMPR OGC October 19 2020\_ron.docx

Good report with interesting information.

Some suggested edits on page 15, 21 & 23, attached.



Ron Stefik EngL Supervisor, Reservoir Engineering Ron.Stefik@bcogc.ca Victoria BC
Office Address Directory
bcogc.ca

T. 250 419-4430 F. 250-419-4403 s17



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From: Curry, Sean

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 9:59 AM

To: Yule, Sarah

Cc: Stefik, Ron; Gaucher, Michelle; Gerlach, Lisa; Currie, Graham

Subject: RE: ALR report

Sara,

Thanks for the changes. A few more figures have popped up from MEMPR over the weekend, could you reformat Figures 10, 11 and 12 to match what you have done for all previous figures? Also, could you redo all of the tables in the appendices?

Thanks.

Sean





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From: Yule, Sarah <<u>Sarah.Yule@BCOGC.ca</u>>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Curry, Sean <<u>Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca</u>>

Cc: Stefik, Ron <Ron.Stefik@bcogc.ca>; Gaucher, Michelle <Michelle.Gaucher@BCOGC.ca>; Gerlach, Lisa

<Lisa.Gerlach@BCOGC.ca>; Currie, Graham <Graham.Currie@bcogc.ca>

Subject: RE: ALR report

Hi Sean,

Please find attached an updated version of the report with new graphics.

Any questions or changes let me know!

Thanks,



Sarah Yule
Communications Coordinator
Sarah.Yule@BCOGC.ca

Fort St John BC
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bcogc.ca

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From: Curry, Sean < Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Yule, Sarah < Sarah.Yule@BCOGC.ca>

Cc: Stefik, Ron <Ron.Stefik@bcogc.ca>; Gaucher, Michelle <Michelle.Gaucher@BCOGC.ca>

Subject: RE: ALR report

Sara,

Lori Denys did Figures 1 & 2 in the document you have. I am looking for all of the charts, tables and figures (not maps) to be done in a similar manner/style. Lori was working with Ron Stefik to get the numbers behind Figure 5. Lets connect via jabber if we need to discuss.

Sean



Sean Curry , RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

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From: Currie, Graham < Graham. Currie@bcogc.ca>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020 1:12 PM **To:** Curry, Sean < Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca > Cc: Yule, Sarah < Sarah.Yule@BCOGC.ca >

Subject: RE: ALR report

Sean – Sarah is working on this – but she wants to know, is the data in the charts/tables the most up to date? And do you just want those tables/charts to look a little better/consistent?

Let Sarah know,

Thanks, Graham



#### **Graham Currie**

Executive Director, Public & Corporate Relations
Graham.Currie@bcogc.ca

Victoria BC
Office Address Directory
bcogc.ca

T. 250 419-4420 F. 250-419-4403 s17



From: Curry, Sean

Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 8:39 AM

**To:** Currie, Graham **Cc:** Denys, Lori M **Subject:** ALR report

Attachments: Agriculture Oil and Gas Background Report MEMPR OGC October 8 2020 FINAL DRAFT.docx

Graham,

Lori D reconfigured Figures 1 & 2... Do you have some staff available to redo all of the figures as noted? Tables as well?

Sean



**Sean Curry**, RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

Victoria BC Office Address Directory bcogc.ca T. 250 419-4486 F 250-419-4403 \$17



Pages 332-368 s13, s16

From: O'Hanley, James G

Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:05 PM

To: 'Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX'

Subject: FW: Ag Report

Attachments: Agriculture Oil and Gas Background Report MEMPR OGC September 20 v3 (002)

(Autosaved) with JOH comments.docx

Chris, see attached. Sent it to the wrong Chris in my original email.



James O'Hanley
Vice President, Applications
James.OHanley@bcogc.ca

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From: O'Hanley, James G

Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 3:41 PM

To: Curry, Sean; 'Robb, Chris AG:EX'; 'May.Mah-Paulsen@gov.bc.ca'

Subject: Ag Report

I have included my comments and edits in the attached.



James O'Hanley
Vice President, Applications
James OHanley@bcogc.ca

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Pages 370-407 s13, s16

From: Paulson, Ken

Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 10:29 AM

To: Curry, Sean

**Subject:** RE: ALR / ALC background report

Attachments: Agriculture Oil and Gas Background Report MEMPR OGC September 20kp.docx

Categories: task force report

Its looking very good. My suggestions attached.



**Ken Paulson**, P.Eng Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer

Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca

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From: Curry, Sean <Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca> Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 2:34 PM To: Paulson, Ken <Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca> Subject: FW: ALR / ALC background report

As discussed. See notes below.

Sean



Sean Curry , RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

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From: Curry, Sean

Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 2:33 PM

To: Pasztor, Chris FLNR:EX (<a href="mailto:Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca">Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca</a>; 'Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX'

<<u>May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca</u>>; O'Hanley, James G <<u>James.OHanley@bcogc.ca</u>> **Cc:** Zens, Krista V <<u>Krista.Zens@bcogc.ca</u>>; Currie, Graham <<u>Graham.Currie@bcogc.ca</u>>

**Subject:** ALR / ALC background report

AII,

I have attached a draft (down to 36 pages) of the factual background report for your consideration. Over to Chris, James and May for the next round of edits. I believe Chris P is coordinating. Some points:

### Sean



Sean Curry , RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

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Pages 410-445 s13, s16

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:	Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX < May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca> Tuesday, September 22, 2020 3:42 PM Curry, Sean; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX O'Hanley, James G; Zens, Krista V; Currie, Graham RE: ALR / ALC background report
Hi – Jennifer and I we	re just discussing, and we would like to brief our respective DM's on this before the election.
	g along the timelines we had established, to get a penultimate draft to myself and James by the after our review, I can share with Jennifer for her review the following week.
Thanks,	
May	
From: Curry, Sean Sent: September 22, 2 To: Currie, Graham OC Cc: Pasztor, Chris EMP Subject: Re: ALR / ALC	GC:IN PR:EX;Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX;O'Hanley, James G;Zens, Krista V OGC:IN
[EXTERNAL] This ema known sender.	il came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a
	is no rush to push this out due to the interregnum
Sent from my iPhone	
On Sep 22, 20	20, at 2:26 PM, Currie, Graham < Graham. Currie@bcogc.ca > wrote:
etc.), plus a co	through the report and just cleaned it up a little at this stage (CP style, typos, consistency, puple of comments for additional data/numbers. Did not address some of the bigger by Sean. All my edits are tracked.
Thanks, Graham	
× Interference by a final statement	

Graham Currie
Executive Director, Public &
Corporate Relations
Graham.Currie@bcogc.ca

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From: Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX < <a href="mailto:Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca">Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca</a>>

Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 7:06 AM

To: Curry, Sean <Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca>; Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>;

O'Hanley, James G < James. OHanley@bcogc.ca>

Cc: Zens, Krista V < <a href="mailto:Krista.Zens@bcogc.ca">Krista V <a h

**Subject:** RE: ALR / ALC background report

Hi Sean – thanks for this. I'll review and follow up with May regarding next steps. s22

Chris

From: Curry, Sean <Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca>

**Sent:** September 20, 2020 2:33 PM

To: Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX < <a href="mailto:Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca">Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca</a>; Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX < <a href="mailto:May.Mah-">May.Mah-</a>

Paulson@gov.bc.ca>; O'Hanley, James G <James.OHanley@bcogc.ca>

Cc: Zens, Krista V OGC:IN < Krista.Zens@bcogc.ca >; Currie, Graham OGC:IN < Graham.Currie@bcogc.ca >

**Subject:** ALR / ALC background report

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

All,

I have attached a draft (down to 36 pages) of the factual background report for your consideration. Over to Chris, James and May for the next round of edits. I believe Chris P is coordinating. Some points: \$13, \$16, \$17

s22

## Sean



**Sean Curry** , RPF Vice President, Oper

Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment

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Pages 449-484 s13, s16

From: O'Hanley, James G

Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 3:57 PM

To: Curry, Sean; Friedrich, Hardy
Subject: RE: ALR fact based report

Attachments: Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report - For ADM review Aug 20 2020

(004) JOH comments Sep 3.docx

My comments/ edits in the attached.



James O'Hanley
Vice President, Applications
James.OHanley@bcogc.ca

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From: Curry, Sean

Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 8:34 AM To: O'Hanley, James G; Friedrich, Hardy Subject: RE: ALR fact based report

Good morning... Just checking in to see when you may be able to have comments in. Can we target end of day today?



Sean Curry , RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment Sean Curry@BCOGC.ca

Victoria BC Office Address Directory bcogc.ca T. 250 419-4486 F. 250-419-4403 s17



From: Curry, Sean

Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 9:54 AM

To: O'Hanley, James G < James. OHanley@bcogc.ca>; Friedrich, Hardy < Hardy. Friedrich@bcogc.ca>

Subject: ALR fact based report

James/Hardy,

Agri has sent us the latest "complete" version of the fact-based report. MEMPR will be coordinating a response including our comments. Please be thorough as if we had the pen... Ideally comments back to me by Tuesday next week.

## Sean



Sean Curry , RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

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Pages 487-563 s13, s16

From: McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX < Jennifer. Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

Thursday, August 27, 2020 9:16 AM Sent:

Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX To:

Curry, Sean; Evers, Charlene AGRI:EX Cc: **Subject:** Background report for review by ADM

**Attachments:** Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report - For ADM review Aug 20,

2020.docx

**Categories:** task force report

Good Morning Chris,

As discussed, attached is the current draft of the report. Looking for EMPR/OGC comments so we can compare versions ...ideally next week.

Pls let me know when you are ready to have a comparison discussion, and Char will book use some time.

Thanks Jennifer

Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag. **Assistant Deputy Minister** Agriculture Science and Policy Division Ministry of Agriculture s17

Ph: 778-698-8521

Pages 565-640 s13, s16

From: Curry, Sean

Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2020 7:56 AM

**To:** O'Hanley, James G

**Cc:** Paulson, Ken; Friedrich, Hardy

**Subject:** Re: Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-Aug 10 2020 OGC

A final version is supposed to be going to the ADM's late yesterday or first thing Monday...

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 22, 2020, at 7:46 AM, O'Hanley, James G wrote:

I accessed data on seeded area, total production and productivity per ha or acre. Seeded area is probably the best indicator of oil and gas impacts on the land base as the other measures would be much more weather dependent. However those other measures fluctuate during the period I looked at but there did not appear to be a positive or negative trend.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 22, 2020, at 7:35 AM, Paulson, Ken wrote:

Is seeded acreage increasing or is it productivity or a combination? Questions Ag should answer. Can you share this with the ADMs and Sean can share with working group......

From: O'Hanley, James G

**Sent:** August 21, 2020 11:38 AM **To:** Curry, Sean; Friedrich, Hardy

Cc: Paulson, Ken

Subject: RE: Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-Aug 10 2020 OGC

Did some more digging on agricultural activity vs oil and gas activity in NE BC. The graph below indicates that while the number of Montney producing wells (a good proxy for overall activity levels) has increased significantly over the last 10 years, the area seeded for the main high value crops in the NE has also increased somewhat, especially over the last 5 years. This might explain the other graph in the report showing an noticeable increase in farm receipts and profitability over the last 5 years. The crop statistics are from Ag Canada and StatsCan and cover all of BC however, for the specific crops I summarized 90 – 95%+ of the provincial harvest comes from NE BC (this is also confirmed in the report) and virtually all

of that would come from the PRRD. The hypothesis that recent upticks in oil and gas activity are impacting agriculture and farming operations does not seem to be reflected in objective data which points to the opposite.

Statistics Canada (STC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) (https://aimis-

**Sources:** <u>simia.agr.gc.ca/rp/index-eng.cfm?action=pR&r=243&lang=EN)</u>

British Columbia's Oil and Gas Reserves and Production Report2018 | BC Oil and Gas

Commission

James O'HanleyFort St John BCT. 250 794-5261Vice President, ApplicationsOffice Address DirectoryF. 250-419-4403James.OHanley@bcogc.cabcogc.ca\$17

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From: O'Hanley, James G

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 2:34 PM

To: Curry, Sean; Friedrich, Hardy

Cc: Paulson, Ken

Subject: RE: Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-Aug 10

2020 OGC

I have included my comments and edits in the attached. I also note that none of my previous comments are reflected in this draft. These comments should be considered in addition to the previous ones.

James O'HanleyFort St John BCT. 250 794-5261Vice President, ApplicationsOffice Address DirectoryF. 250-419-4403James.OHanley@bcogc.cabcogc.ca\$17

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From: Curry, Sean < Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca > Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:43 AM

To: O'Hanley, James G < James. OHanley@bcogc.ca>; Friedrich, Hardy

< Hardy. Friedrich@bcogc.ca>

Cc: Paulson, Ken < Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca >

Subject: Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-Aug 10 2020

OGC

**Importance:** High

Hi,

I have attached a clean copy of the updated fact based background report. It incorporates the heavy edits received from ADMs, edits and comments from the project team, others and additions by the AGRI staff. In some areas it may look different because the text has been re-organized.

We have been asked to review the report in its entirety, and pay special attention to our areas of expertise to ensure the information is accurate and understandable. We are waiting for some updated maps/data but that will be clearly identified in the body of the report.

s13, s16

We have been asked to have comments to Agriculture by end of day Tuesday, so please have your comments to me by end of day Monday so I can compile.

Sean

Pages 644-776 s13, s16

From: Curry, Sean

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 1:33 PM **To:** Paulson, Ken; O'Hanley, James G

**Subject:** RE: Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-June 25v2\_ANorth final

draft for ADM

## James/Ken,

I am reviewing the combined edits from you, and will add in some significant ones from me (these were submitted previously and not included in the documents you reviewed) as well as from SME review. Will get to Agri today and cc James.

#### Sean



Sean Curry , RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

Victoria BC Office Address Directory bcogc.ca T. 250 419-4486 F. 250-419-4403 s17



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From: Paulson, Ken

**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 7:02 PM **To:** O'Hanley, James G; Curry, Sean

Subject: RE: Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-June 25v2 ANorth final draft for ADM

Comments attached. The report is very very rough still. Its intended to be factual but also readable. It lacks a cohesive structure at present.

s22

Fine with sharing - good luck James.





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From: O'Hanley, James G < <u>James.OHanley@bcogc.ca</u>>

Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 11:51 AM

To: Paulson, Ken < Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca >; Curry, Sean < Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca >

Subject: RE: Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-June 25v2\_ANorth final draft for ADM

Ken and Sean, I have included my comments and edits in the attached. Sharing with you before sending it back to the group to ensure I am not saying something different from what we may have already commented on. Please let me know if you have questions or comments.



James O'Hanley
Vice President, Applications
James.OHanley@bcogc.ca

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From: Paulson, Ken <Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 9, 2020 2:01 PM

To: O'Hanley, James G < <u>James.OHanley@bcogc.ca</u>>

Subject: FW: Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-June 25v2 ANorth final draft for ADM

fyi



Ken Paulson , P.Eng Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca

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From: McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX < Jennifer. Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:08 AM

**To:** Paulson, Ken < <a href="mailto:Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca">Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca</a>; Mah-Paulson, May EMPR: EX < <a href="mailto:May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca">May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca</a>> **Subject:** FW: Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-June 25v2\_ANorth final draft for ADM

Hi,

I have completed a review of the report – it looks like there have been a number of improvements made to the doc. The draft report is being circulated to the Working group to seek additional details.

s13, s16

So a work in progress. Please let me know if you feel this is back on track?

Thanks Jennifer

From: Curry, Sean

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:47 PM

**To:** Cushing, Jackie AGRI:EX; North, Anna AGRI:EX

**Cc:** O'Hanley, James G; Welch, Laurie

**Subject:** Consolidated OGC comments on revitalization document

Attachments: Questions for OCG Aug 5 2020 Prioritized Aug 10 - OGC Response.docx; Agriculture Oil

and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-June 25v2\_ANorth final draft for ADM (002)

with compiled OGC comments.docx

#### Jackie/Anna.

I have attached two documents. The first one contains a compilation of OGC comments on the most recent version of the complete document we were asked to comment on. Included are some previous edits we suggested that didn't make it into this most recent version. The second and smaller document is in response to the detailed request sent by Jackie, that highlighted specific sections and had specific questions. I understand also that Jackie is in direct contact with Krista to resolve some GIS questions.

Given the flurry of emails and requests to edit different versions, I would ask that the technical team has the opportunity to see the final draft that will go to ADM's before it does, so we can have one last review. The last thing I want to happen is for the ADM's to bounce the document back to us for major edits.

#### Sean



Sean Curry , RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

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Pages 781-874 s13, s16

From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 9, 2020 2:13 PM

**To:** Paulson, Ken; McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX

**Cc:** O'Hanley, James G

**Subject:** RE: ADM Steering Committee for ALR Report etc.

Hi Ken – thanks for the update; I look forward to working with James on this.

Hi Jennifer – thank you for the updated copy of the ALR report; I will review and get back to you as soon as possible.

May

From: Paulson, Ken Sent: July 9, 2020 1:59 PM

To: McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX; Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX

Cc: O'Hanley, James G

Subject: ADM Steering Committee for ALR Report etc.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

FYI - James O'Hanley has agreed to take my spot on the ADM Steering Committee on the ALR work. James will be a strong addition to the team as he has years of background on this file.

I will continue to monitor as well but the OGC's official rep at the ADM table will be James.

Ken



**Ken Paulson**, P.Eng Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer <u>Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca</u>

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From: North, Anna AGRI:EX <Anna.North@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 7, 2020 12:43 PM

To: Narayan, Karthik AGRI:EX; Sage, Kevin AGRI:EX; Travia, David V AGRI:EX; Collins, Martin J

ALC:EX; Curry, Sean; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX; Cushing, Jackie AGRI:EX

**Subject:** FW: Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-June 25v2\_ANorth final

draft for ADM

**Attachments:** Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-June 25v2\_ANorth final draft

for ADM.docx

**Categories:** task force report

Hello all,

Last Monday our ADM Jennifer McGuire directed AGRI to make revisions to the length and structure and repetition that they found in the report (see general comment summary below and comments in the attached report). She has reviewed the revised version and directed me to work with you on creating a penultimate draft that can go back to ADMs before being passed to the DMs and the contractor for final formatting.

The attached copy contains many of the comments that were sent to us by Jennifer. Please review the overall structure and then focus on your sections to address/mark closed any comments. I'd also ask that you think about the additional data/tables in the appendices and mark any that you would like removed or kept.

Your comments/revisions can be sent to Karthik and Jackie Cushing. Karthik will be focussing on making improvements/adjustments to the data/tables and Jackie Cushing will be incorporating your text edits if any.

s22

Next Tuesday is a WG Report Review meeting an David Travia will lead this meeting with the goal of addressing any questions or concerns and finding the path to agreeing on a penultimate draft. He will also take you through a Project plan so we can ensure we meet the milestones and agree to the forward plan.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out to me or David directly.

Best regards, Anna

From: McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX < Jennifer. Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: July 7, 2020 10:10 AM

**To:** Travia, David V AGRI:EX <David.Travia@gov.bc.ca> **Cc:** North, Anna AGRI:EX <Anna.North@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-June 25v2\_ANorth final draft for ADM

Thank you – I have reviewed the draft and it looks like many amendments have been made, and the path forward looks good. Pls work with the WG to bring the draft to a penultimate state. Once there – it would be great to have one more review...perhaps before it goes to the contractor for polishing.

JLM

From: Travia, David V AGRI:EX < David. Travia@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** July 6, 2020 4:44 PM

To: McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX < Jennifer. Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: North, Anna AGRI:EX < Anna.North@gov.bc.ca >

Subject: FW: Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-June 25v2\_ANorth final draft for ADM

Jennifer,

Please find the latest revisions to the Oil and Gas report attached. Anna has provided a summary below on the status. As discussed, for next steps she will continue with revisions through the working group.

#### David Travia

**Executive Director** 

Corporate Governance, Policy and Legislation Branch | Ministry of Agriculture

Ph: 778 974-3764

From: North, Anna AGRI:EX < Anna.North@gov.bc.ca >

**Sent:** July 6, 2020 11:06 AM

To: Travia, David V AGRI:EX < David. Travia@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-June 25v2\_ANorth final draft for ADM

Hello,

As requested, here is a clean version of the Background Report it is now significantly streamlined and can be sent to Jennifer for her review and direction.

Most of the original comments that were provided in the copy Jennifer sent you are in the document and replies are made. Some may have been deleted through the revision process, however I am certain all have been addressed.

Comments from Jennifer on June 29 in general:

- There needs to be only factual statements and quantified statements in the report
  - o RESOLVED if a few remain will manage removal or verification.
- There is a lot of repetition and it wanders out of scope of the TOR. I.e. FN section is not within scope.
  - o RESOLVED
- All opinion needs to be removed
  - o RESOLVED
- There is a tone of bias in the report mainly by choice of language
  - o RESOLVED will have contractor take final grammar/spelling/tense/bias check
- More data is needed to give the factual picture o the current land use state as well as the economic data for all land use activities.
  - PARTLY RESOLVED added in more data, but need to engage with Stats on Monday or after we get the okay to continue

As far as other areas where more work is needed:

- Reiteration that AGRI's data story requires some fine-tuning and additional information, we can initiate that on Monday or after Jennifer gives the okay to continue.
- 'Oil and gas activities' section needs work this includes taking a critical look at the "pictures" in the document. Need to work through the WG and with AGRI folks on this.
- The formatting, grammar, tense, image size, appendix references will get done by the contractor, so do not focus on that
- All the links in the document and all the acronyms will be reviewed for consistency by the contractor.

•	• Karthik is working on a complete data reference list and organizing all of the data into a "Data compendium". It may be useful to separate the text report from the Appendices as there are so many with large file sizes.							
	2							

From: Paulson, Ken

Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:24 PM

To: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX; Curry, Sean

**Subject:** Draft Report - ALR/ALC Revitalization

Agriculture Oil and Gas Draft Interim Background Report-June 25kp.docx **Attachments:** 

**Categories:** task force report

Thanks to Sean and Chris for the heads up. My comments on the report itself attached. I did not dig into the appendices but will forward the most recent annual report under the delegation agreement that provides considerably clearer data and should be an appendix.

#### Ken



Ken Paulson, P.Eng Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca

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Pages 880-969 s13, s16

From: Narayan, Karthik AGRI:EX <Karthik.Narayan@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:40 AM

To: North, Anna AGRI:EX; Collins, Martin J ALC:EX; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX; Curry, Sean; Sage,

Kevin AGRI:EX

**Subject:** Agenda items for May 12th-WG meeting

Attachments: PRRD\_MapCompilation.docx; LandCoverAgCap\_93P16CloseUp.pdf; NorthAOl.jpg;

SouthAOI.jpg; Agriculture Oil and Gas Background Report - April 14 Draft version.docx

**Categories:** task force report

Hi Folks,

Could we discuss the following items today for inclusion/exclusion/expansion:

- 1. Audits, types of Oil and Gas Activities on ALR
- 2. Certain Agri/OGC tables
- 3. Inclusion of AgCapability data in tabular format (instead of LandCoverAgCap PDF attached)
- 4. Footprint of oil and gas activity
- 5. Expand a bit on OGC enforcement actions
- 6. Ways to present GIS data (OGC-sections, map sheets; AGRI- parcels level); maps to include from the "PRRD\_MapCompilation" word document and OGC Maps (South/North)
- 7. Representation of SLU data and mapping

Sorry about including the attachments. I realize some of the files are large in size. Please let me know of your preference (of sending attachments).

**Thanks** 

Karthik

Pages 971-1055 s13, s16

From: O'Hanley, James G

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 10:37 AM

To: Paulson, Ken
Cc: Johnson, Andy

**Subject:** RE: Meeting with Ministers Ralston and Popham today

The reason we have few if any investigations under the Delegation Agreement is that although we conduct many inspections of activities on ALR land, we rarely see violations of the ALC Act. In most situations where there might be a violation under that Act, we also have the ability to apply a compliance or enforcement action under OGAA which is simpler and more straightforward for us.



James O'Hanley
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From: Paulson, Ken

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 10:33 AM

**To:** O'Hanley, James G **Cc:** Johnson, Andy

Subject: RE: Meeting with Ministers Ralston and Popham today

I guess we do – number from last years report:

# 1. The total number of inspections and investigations conducted by the OGC pursuant to Part IV of the Delegation Agreement - fiscal year 2018-19

Туре	Total
Inspections	1262
Investigations	0
Total	1262



Ken Paulson , P.Eng Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca

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From: Paulson, Ken

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 9:20 AM

**To:** O'Hanley, James G < <u>James.OHanley@bcogc.ca</u>> **Cc:** Johnson, Andy < Andy.Johnson@BCOGC.ca>

Subject: FW: Meeting with Ministers Ralston and Popham today

MOU anticipates this but not certain we formally undertake these?



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Officer
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From: Jeakins, Paul < <a href="mailto:Paul.Jeakins@bcogc.ca">Paul.Jeakins@bcogc.ca</a> Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 9:18 AM

To: Paulson, Ken < <a href="mailto:Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca">Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca</a>; Johnson, Andy < <a href="mailto:Andy.Johnson@BCOGC.ca">Andy.Johnson@BCOGC.ca</a>

Subject: Meeting with Ministers Ralston and Popham today

The delegation agreement from the ALC says that we will conduct inspections and undertake enforcement activities as authorized under section 56(1) of the ALC Act. Can you give me some stats on numbers of inspections etc related to that Act.

Thanks.

From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX <May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 5:43 PM

To: Paulson, Ken
Cc: O'Hanley, James G
Subject: RE: BN Final - ALR

Hi Ken – yes, and Marlene will be forwarding the invite to Paul.

May

From: Paulson, Ken

**Sent:** February 20, 2020 4:40 PM **To:** Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX

**Cc:** O'Hanley, James G **Subject:** RE: BN Final - ALR

Is it ok if Paul accompanies James and yourself for the briefing/meeting?



**Ken Paulson**, P.Eng Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer Ken.Paulson@bcogc.ca

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From: Mah-Paulson, May EMPR:EX < May.Mah-Paulson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 4:25 PM

To: Cochrane, Marlene EMPR:EX < Marlene.Cochrane@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Currie, Graham < Graham. Currie@bcogc.ca >; Paulson, Ken < Ken. Paulson@bcogc.ca >; O'Hanley, James G

<James.OHanley@bcogc.ca>; Piccinino, Ines <Ines.Piccinino@BCOGC.ca>

Subject: FW: BN Final - ALR

Hi Marlene – attached is the OGC BN for the Feb 24 meeting with Ministers Popham and Ralston.

Graham – thanks for coordinating the BN. For your inf	o,

Thanks,

May

#### **BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION**

**DATE**: Feb. 20, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum

Resources

**ISSUE**: Oil and Gas Activity within the Agricultural Land Reserve in Northeast B.C.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) in northeast B.C. is concentrated largely on the surface of the Montney unconventional natural gas basin which encompasses approximately 2.3 million hectares stretching from the Alberta boundary east of Dawson Creek to approximately 100 km northwest of Fort St. John (figure 1). There are small portions of the ALR further north in the Fort Nelson area as well but oil and gas activity in this area is paused due to current market conditions.

Legend
Agricultural Land Reserve
Montney Play Trend
1:1,400,000
0 10 20 00 50 50
Kolometies

Agricultural Land Reserve

Figure 1 – ALC and Montney Intersection

At the end of 2019, the Montney accounted for essentially 100 per cent of new well activity in northeast B.C. and was producing close to 90 per cent of B.C.'s total natural gas production.

Through a delegation agreement under section 26 of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act*, the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) authorizes the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) to make decisions on certain non-farm use applications for oil and gas activities within the ALR in northeast B.C. The agreement was renewed in 2017 and establishes exemptions for certain oil and gas activities as well as strict criteria for use determining which non-farm uses require a decision from the Commission. The Commission provides an annual report to the ALC on the application of the agreement as well as statistical data on the spatial overlap of oil and gas activities on ALR lands in northeast B.C.

As of March 31, 2019 the net footprint of oil and gas activities within the ALR in northeast B.C. was approximately 1.94 per cent divided almost equally between private land and Crown land. This figure includes pipeline rights of way which must be restored to pre-disturbance conditions within two years after construction is completed. Ignoring pipelines, the net footprint of oil and gas activities in northeast B.C. falls to approximately 1.28 per cent. Table 1 provides a summary of the total oil and gas footprint within the ALR as provided to the ALC in April 2019.

Table 1 – Cumulative footprint by oil and gas and ancillary activity type (March 31, 2019)

Activity	Total Area		(ha)		Area (%) <sup>1</sup>			
110011103	Area (ha)	Crown	Private	Crown	Private	Total		
Pipelines	8,777	4,508	4,269	0.34	0.32	0.66		
Wells, facilities	10,682	3,713	6,969	0.28	0.52	0.80		
Roads	3,256	2,308	949	0.17	0.07	0.24		
Ancillary	3,250	1,366	1,884	0.11	0.14	0.25		
<b>Total Affected</b>	25,965	11,895	14,070	0.89	1.05	1.95		
Total ALR	1,333,213	617,930	741,248	45.46	54.54	100.00		

In addition to the overall footprint of oil and gas activity, it is also important to consider the location of that footprint in relation to agricultural values and use of those ALR lands. The most recent update of the Delegation Agreement with the Commission was meant to clarify how oil and gas activities proposed on ALR lands should be planned and authorized in order to minimize impacts on agricultural use of those lands and on the better quality agricultural lands.

The annual report tracks statistics against these dual objectives as outlined in the following tables. They show how the oil and gas activity footprint is distributed more to the ALR lands with lower agricultural capability and over half of that footprint is located in forested or shrub lands that are not cultivated and which may have little or no current agricultural operations occurring on them:

Table 2 – Cumulative footprint by agricultural land capability classification

Land	Total Area (ha)	Tota	ıl Area Affec	Total Area	
Capability	Total Arca (na)	Crown	Private	Total	Affected (%)
Organic (O)	14,426	67	18	85	0.58
1	440	0	2	2	0.45
2	114,463	70	1,582	1,651	1.44
3	397,128	3,003	3,763	6,766	1.70
4	456,339	4,551	4,959	9,510	2.08
5	304,498	3,914	3,497	7,411	2.43
6	15,841	51	108	159	1.00
7	30,078	239	141	380	1.26
Total	1,333,213	11,895	14,070	25,965	1.95

Table 3 – Cumulative footprint by land cover classification

		Total Area					
Activity	Forest	Shrub	Cultivated/ Pasture	Clearing	Rock	No Class	(ha)
Pipelines	4,765	742	3,193	6	0	70	8,777
Wells, facilities	3,613	869	6,018	153	0	30	10,682
Roads	2,041	336	859	2	0	19	3,256
Ancillary	1,689	210	1,304	1	0	46	3,250
Total Affected	12,107	2,157	11,374	162	0	165	25,965
Affected (%)*	1.6	2.5	2.5	10.5	0.0	0.4	99.99

<sup>\*</sup> Represents the proportion of each ALR land cover category affected by oil and gas activity.

In January 2018, the Minister of Agriculture tasked an Independent Revitalization Committee to revitalize the ALR and the ALC by leading a province wide engagement process and providing strategic advice through recommendations for consideration by Government. The Revitalization Committee submitted final recommendations for the Minister of Agriculture's consideration in December 2018 including a recommendation specific to the interaction of oil and gas development and agricultural land use in northeast B.C. (Recommendation 25).

Figure 2 – Excerpt from Report Entitled Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission

#### **RECOMMENDATION 25:**

Immediately work to address the imbalance between oil and gas development and agriculture in BC's Northeast ALR:

- Form a Deputy Minister-level, multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional Task Force to develop a Northeast ALR Strategy; and
- Establish an increased ALC presence to support farmers and ranchers in BC's Northeast ALR.

The ministries of Agriculture (AGRI), and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (EMPR) working in cooperation with the ALC and the Commission have recently formalized a Deputy Minister Task Force (Task Force) in response to the recommendation.

The Task Force is supported by the responsible Assistant Deputy Ministers and their counterparts within the ALC and the Commission. The initial work being undertaken is the preparation of a factual, public facing report which will provide the history and current context in northeast B.C. with respect to oil and gas and agricultural land use and an overview of the existing policy and regulatory frameworks for both sectors. This work is currently underway and is anticipated to be complete by May of this year for review by the Task Force.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Development of the Montney resource has been focused on the Heritage field which lies beneath the communities of Dawson Creek, Fort St. John and Farmington. As such, recent activities have been highly visible to residents within the ALR as well as the bulk of the population in northeast B.C. As activity in this area increased, the Commission noted a corresponding increase in complaints regarding nuisance issues associated with oil and gas development (noise, light, dust, induced seismicity, etc.). In 2018, this prompted the Commission, working with EMPR and the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) to form a working group. The purpose of the Farmington Community Working Group was to work together to address the concerns of local residents regarding oil and gas development. The Farmington Community Working Group continued into the fall of 2019 when it was wound down in favour of a new approach under development within the PRRD and broader one-on-one engagement with land owners and local governments by the Commission.

In addition to the aforementioned, a Farmers' Information Service (FIS) has been developed through a memorandum of understanding between the AGRI, EMPR and the PRRD. The FIS is a new program (up to two years) to support and educate farmers about oil and gas development on their lands to maximize business interests for both parties while minimizing potential conflicts. The FIS is expected to be up and running by spring 2020 and will be cost shared between AGRI, EMPR, PRRD and the Commission as per Table 4 below:

s13, s16

#### **CONCLUSION:**

EMPR, AGRI, the ALC and the Commission are working collaboratively on a number of fronts to address issues arising from the development of the Montney resource within the ALR in northeast B.C. Overall land use for oil and gas activities within the ALR is closely managed and reported on annually through the ALC's delegation agreement with the Commission.

**Prepared by**: James O'Hanley, Vice President, Applications, BC Oil and Gas Commission **Recommended by**: Ken Paulson, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, BC Oil and Gas Commission

From: Currie, Graham

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 5:49 PM

To: Curry, Sean

Subject: RE: DM Task Force Oil and Gas BC's NE ALR website information

Attachments: Final TOR DM Task Force\_v2.docx

Generally looks ok Sean – although in the attached TOR – see a comment and just a few minor edits (tracked) for consideration.

Thanks, Graham



**Graham Currie** 

Executive Director, Public & Corporate Relations

Graham.Currie@bcoqc.ca

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From: Curry, Sean

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 3:36 PM

To: Currie, Graham

Subject: FW: DM Task Force Oil and Gas BC's NE ALR website information

See below... just reading through this



Sean Curry , RPF Vice President, Operational Policy & Environment Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca

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From: North, Anna AGRI:EX < Anna. North@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 9:15 AM

To: Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX < Chris. Harbord@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Narayan, Karthik AGRI:EX <Karthik.Narayan@gov.bc.ca>; Travia, David V AGRI:EX <David.Travia@gov.bc.ca>; Curry,

Sean <Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca>; Collins, Martin J ALC:EX <Martin.Collins@gov.bc.ca>; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX

<Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: DM Task Force Oil and Gas BC's NE ALR website information

Hi Chris,

As discussed here is the website update we are planning to do this week to publish the DM Task Force TOR. Can you also reach out to the GCPE in EMPR to let them know what we are doing? The EMPR, OGC and ALC all know that this is going to be done and they asked if we can connect with their comms folks, I've cc'd them all here so that they are also aware of the documents.

The web link to place the blurb is at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/agricultural-land-reserve/the-agricultural-land-reserve

It would be just above the section on "Revitalization of the Agricultural Land Reserve".

## Please note that there are 2 web pages/web clicks

A. Here's the blurb that could be used on the first page at location above

# **Deputy Minister Oil and Gas Task Force**

Under Minister of Agriculture Lana Popham's mandate commitment to Revitalize the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), the independent advisory committee made a recommendation to form a Deputy Minister Task Force to work to address issues related to oil and gas exploration and agricultural interests in BC's Northeastern regions.

- Read more about the work being done by the Oil & Gas Task Force. (this would be a link to the new page the
  word document attached titled: Deputy Minister Oil and Gas Task Force for webpage final draft.docx)
- B. The new page would have the attached file (Final TOR DM Task Force as a .pdf) link to the TOR as a pdf file.

# Deputy Minister Oil and Gas Task Force - BC's Northeast ALR

As part of Minister of Agriculture Lana Popham's mandate commitment to Revitalize the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), in January 2018 the minister established an independent revitalization advisory committee for revitalizing the ALR and ALC to provide the Province with strategic advice and policy guidance.

The independent advisory committee identified recommendation 25 of the Final Committee Report to examine oil and gas exploration and agricultural interests in BC's Northeast ALR.

From the Revitalization Committee's report:

#### Recommendation 25:

Immediately work to address the imbalance between oil and gas development and agriculture in BC's Northeast ALR:

- Form a Deputy Minister-level, multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional Task Force to develop a Northeast ALR Strategy; and,
- Establish an increased ALC presence to support farmers and ranchers in BC's Northeast ALR.

The Task Force has been established and has approved a Terms of Reference to guide their work:

Read the Terms of Reference from the Deputy Minister Task Force.

Please check back for updates on the work of the Task Force, including the future publication of a factbased background report. Pages 1068-1071 s13, s16

From: Sage, Kevin AGRI:EX <Kevin.Sage@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 7:53 AM

To: Curry, Sean

Cc: Narayan, Karthik AGRI:EX

Subject: RE: ALR/ALC revitalization meeting

Categories: task force report

Hi Sean,

I am wondering if you are able to provide us with the MOUs so we can read through them as well? I looked on the OGC's website but couldn't find a repository for them. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Take Care,

Kevin

From: Curry, Sean <Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca>

Sent: February 14, 2020 3:12 PM

To: Narayan, Karthik AGRI:EX <Karthik.Narayan@gov.bc.ca>; North, Anna AGRI:EX <Anna.North@gov.bc.ca>; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX <Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca>; Collins, Martin J ALC:EX <Martin.Collins@gov.bc.ca>; Sage, Kevin AGRI:EX <Kevin.Sage@gov.bc.ca>; Bartle, Gregory AGRI:EX <Gregory.Bartle@gov.bc.ca>;

Vickers, Lori AGRI:EX <Lori.Vickers@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: ALR/ALC revitalization meeting

Karthik,

Below is some early material for sections 2.1, 2.4, 2.5. More to follow...

Sean

Section 2.1: History of OGC

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) was established in October 1998, becoming the provincial single-window regulatory agency responsible for
regulating oil and gas operations in B.C. This streamlined a process that was cumbersome and involved several different ministries, which was bureaucratic for
stakeholders and industry. The single-window was designed to serve stakeholders effectively and efficiently throughout the lifecycle of activity.

- Early activities within the Commission included bringing together people and processes from different ministries under one strategic framework. New
  departments including the Corporate Services branch, Legislation, Policy and Special Projects. The first Treaty 8 memorandum of understanding between First
  Nations and the Commission was also created in 1999.
- By 2002 the Commission had expanded to 99 employees working in Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, Kamloops and Victoria. New technologies changing the way
  oil and gas was developed emerged as new unconventional plays were being explored. The rise and fall of coal bed methane in the early 2000's, and the
  development of shale gas development utilizing horizontal wells in the Montney basin in 2005.
- 2010 saw a big shift with the introduction of the Oil and Gas Activities Act, which created the regulatory framework still in operation today, which greatly expanded stewardship oversight.
- As the provincial, single-window regulatory agency, responsibilities for regulating oil and gas activities in British Columbia (B.C.), include exploration, development, pipeline transportation and reclamation. The Commission's regulatory role has recently expanded to include refineries, value added gas and liquids manufacturing processes, and aspects of geothermal power.
- The Commission has a legislated mandate under the Oil and Gas Activities Act (OGAA) and its strategic direction is informed by the external operating environment, its vision, mission, and values as well as the Mandate Letter issued by the B.C. Government.
- . The Commission strives to deliver cost-effective, reliable and accountable regulatory service for British Columbians.
- As a responsible and accountable regulator, the Commission is fulfilling its oversight role with respect to petroleum, natural gas, geothermal and liquefied
  natural gas (LNG) development by continually improving its internal capacity to provide expert and timely services to industry, Indigenous groups and the
  numerous stakeholders whose interests are represented by the Commission in the regulatory process.
- The Commission's functions include reviewing and assessing applications for authorizations, consulting with First Nations, engaging stakeholders, ensuring industry complies with provincial legislation and permit conditions, and cooperating with partner agencies.
- The Commission is focused on protecting the public interest by enforcing the law, ensuring public safety, protecting the environment, and conserving natural resources.

#### Section 2.2: OGAA/PNG Act/Delegation agreement

- Working on a summary of key provisions PNG/OGAA/regs relative to this project.
- Under s 26(1)(b) of the ALC Act, the ALC may enter into an agreement with "an agent of the government, a public body or public officer prescribed by
  regulation" This agreement may (under s26 (2)) "may exempt a non-farm use in a specified area within the jurisdiction of the authority from the requirement of
  an application on the condition that the authority conducts audits and reports to the commission as required by the agreement (ie terms in the delegation
  agreement)
- Under the ALR General Regulation, Delegation to authorities s39, The commissioner appointed under the Oil and Gas Activities Act is prescribed as a public officer for the purposes of section 26 (1) (b) of the Agricultural Land Commission Act.
- . Under OGAA s3, the commission is an agent of the government.
- . It is under this framework that the delegation agreement between the ALC and OGC is empowered and executed.

### Section 2.4: Life cycle requirements

- Oil and gas activities have a variety of phases starting with exploration, construction, operations, to decommissioning and restoration, all regulated by the Commission.
- Permit holders are required to properly deactivate and decommission wells, facilities and pipelines, and restore disturbances in accordance with regulatory requirements.
- The final step in restoring a site on non-agriculture land is a Certificate of Restoration (CoR), which confirms a site was restored in accordance with current standards and requirements, and any known contamination issues or hazards were mitigated.
- A permit holder's application for a Certificate of Restoration is a two-stage process. Part I requires the permit holder to complete a professional environmental assessment and, if necessary, address potential contamination issues.

- Part II requires professional assessment of the surface reclamation to ensure site productivity has been adequately restored.
- Most sites require physical site investigation (soil and/or groundwater) to confirm acceptable quality.
- The Certificate of Restoration process is supported by a restoration verification audit conducted by the Commission, which performs site visits, and collects
  and analyzes soil and groundwater samples to verify the site condition.
- · On agriculture land the process is slightly different.
- A preliminary reclamation plan for activity falling within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is submitted at the time of application and outlines how the site will be restored once it is no longer required for the oil and gas activity. It must include land use objectives, soil handling and re-vegetation plans.
- A company must ensure that the soil, topography and vegetation are restored to an equivalent condition and capability and the activity has been
  decommissioned or pipelines have been installed, and submit a report to the Commission
- The report outlines what the company has done and assess its reclamation efforts. These reports are subject to the Commissions compliance and enforcement process.

#### Section 2.5: overview of MoU's

- The BC Oil and Gas Commission has a number of active Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and agreements with other public agencies and ministries.
- These arrangements help to optimize the Commission's role as a single-window regulatory agency, and to strengthen communication and collaboration between the Commission and other agencies.
- The Commission holds Memoranda of Understanding ("MOUs") with organizations including B.C. government ministries as well as federal and provincial
  regulators. These agreements are negotiated by Commission subject-matter experts and outline a mutually agreed upon approach to sharing responsibility,
  information/data, and the regulation of oil and gas and related activities. Each MOU outlines the specific purpose of the agreement, which may include
  intention to cooperate and/or consult on certain issues.
- The Commission currently has over 20 MOUs in effect.
- The Oil and Gas Commission and the Agriculture Land Commission signed a delegation agreement in December 2017, which transfers specified decision
  making authority from the Agriculture Land Commission to the Oil and Gas commission for specific decisions within the Agriculture Land Reserve.



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From: Narayan, Karthik AGRI:EX < Karthik Narayan@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 8:59 AM

To: North, Anna AGRI:EX <<u>Anna.North@gov.bc.ca</u>>; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX <<u>Chris.Pasztor@gov.bc.ca</u>>; Collins, Martin J ALC:EX <<u>Martin.Collins@gov.bc.ca</u>>; Sage, Kevin AGRI:EX <<u>Kevin.Sage@gov.bc.ca</u>>; Curry, Sean <<u>Sean.Curry@BCOGC.ca</u>>; Bartle, Gregory AGRI:EX <<u>Gregory.Bartle@gov.bc.ca</u>>; Vickers, Lori AGRI:EX <<u>Lori.Vickers@gov.bc.ca</u>>;

Subject: RE: ALR/ALC revitalization meeting

Hi Folks,

#### Agenda items For ALC WG:

- 1. Introductions, brief overview of the ALC background report project-Anna
- 2. Review of report content items-who is doing what and timeframes-Karthik
- 3. Questions

Please note that the dates are based on the assumption that some of the data/info might be readily/easily available for certain line items.

Also, keep in mind that the plan is to provide initial versions of the material to the writer- for us to meet the planned initial/final draft deadlines below.

- Planned interim draft report (from Contractor)-April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Review by ADMs/EDs-April 17<sup>th</sup>
- Final background report- May 15<sup>th</sup>

## #2-Review of report content items:

Section	Content	Lead Contact Agency	Lead name	Information due by
	Overall facilitation, discussions	AGRI	Karthik	
1	Setting the Context - History of Agriculture and Oil and Gas  This section will provide an overview of the history of agricultural and oil and gas development in Northeast BC. This may include:			

1.1	The history of agricultural and oil and gas development in NEBC, including First Nations context and early settlement	ALC/?	Martin Collins	18-Feb
		AGRI	Kevin	18-Feb
1.2	Maps (where possible) showing land use locations and statistical data on the growth of each sector over time	EMPR/OGC	Chris Pasztor, Sean Curry	10-Mar
t, se		AGRI	Karthik/ Kevin	10-Mar
1.3	An analysis of the resource value of each sector including historical values	EMPR/OGC	Chris Pasztor, Sean Curry	10-Mar
1.4	Statistical data on growing seasons, soil types and productivity and crops	AGRI	Kevin	18-Feb
2	The Policy and Regulatory Framework  This section will provide a detailed description of how agriculture and oil and gas are managed/regulated. This will include:			
	The history and role of the Ministry of Agriculture	AGRI	Karthik	18-Feb
2.1	The history and role of the Agricultural Land Commission	ALC	Martin Collins	18-Feb
	The history and role of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources	MEMPR	EMPR	18-Feb
	The history and role of the Oil and Gas Commission	EMPR/OGC	Chris Pasztor, Sean Curry	18-Feb

2.2	An overview of the portions of the Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALCA), and subordinate regulations and policies	AGRI	Karthik	10-Mar
	An overview of the portions of the Oil and Gas Activities Act (OGAA) , the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act (PNGA) and subordinate regulations and policies	EMPR/OGC	Chris Pasztor, Sean Curry	10-Mar
2.3	Summary of surface rights and subsurface rights and conflict resolution framework	EMPR/OGC	??	10-Mar
2.4	Description of full lifecycle requirements for activities (agricultural and oil and	AGRI	Karthik	20-Mar
	gas) including ultimate reclamation	OGC	Sean Curry	20-Mar
2.5	Overview of all pertinent MOU's, delegation agreements or other instruments	AGRI	Kevin	25-Feb
2,5	pertaining to the application of the regulatory framework	EMPR/OGC	Chris Pasztor, Sean Curry	25-Feb
3	The Current State in NEBC  This section will provide a detailed description and statistical information on the current state of land use (footprint) by agriculture and oil and gas within NEBC—with particular focus on ALR lands immediately north and south of the Peace River. This will include:			
3.1	Characterization of Agricultural land use in the ALR in the NE: two areas, north/south Peace River (excluding the ALR in the Fort Nelson area):  By agricultural capability all classes; By land cover; By land ownership status (Crown, Private Agricultural Lease); By land use (break down agricultural use by type including forested/non agricultural use)	AGRI/ALC (Lindsay Mcuubre)	Kevin Kevin Kevin Karthik	10-Mar
3.2	For the same areas as above, characterize oil and gas land use:  O By identifying tenured lands; O By identifying activities and associated disturbance footprint as well as nature of disturbance (pipelines and geophysical versus plants and well sites which have longer disturbance lifecycles).	EMPR/OGC	Chris Pasztor, Sean Curry	10-Mar

4	Land uses and decision making  This section will examine the current land use information as well as how the policy and regulatory framework is applied by the participating Ministries and Commissions. This will include:			
4.1	How decisions on non-farm use are made:  o By the ALC; and o By the OGC	AGRI EMPR/OGC	Martin Collins Chris Pasztor,	15-Mar 15-Mar
		AGRI/ALC	Sean Curry Kevin/Martin	15-Mar
4.2	How land use and non-farm use is monitored and reported on	EMPR/OGC	Chris Pasztor, Sean Curry	15-Mar
4.3	How disturbances and footprints for various activities and uses are calculated	AGRI/ALR	Karthik/Martin	25-Mar
		EMPR/OGC	Chris Pasztor, Sean Curry	
		AGRI	Karthik	15-Mar
4.4	Any overall observations or findings based on the aforementioned with respect to adherence to the existing policy and regulatory frameworks	EMPR/OGC	Chris Pasztor, Sean Curry	15-Mar
		AGRI	Karthik	10-Apr
5	Looking Ahead: Based on provincial growth models for oil and gas, this section will project the future footprint of oil and gas activities within the study areas set out in Section 3. Agriculture will include considerations of future state of agriculture in the region.	EMPR/OGC	Chris Pasztor, Sean Curry	10-Apr
6	Summary of findings	AGRI	Karthik/ Kevin	08-May

This section will be a summation of the report information and analysis as well as general description of the current state and application of the regulatory framework. It will also identify areas for improvement of the existing framework (if any) as well as areas for additional study if appropriate.			
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Thanks and please let me know if you have any questions.

Cheers

Karthik

----Original Appointment---From: Narayan, Karthik AGRI:EX

Sent: January 30, 2020 12:04 PM

To: Narayan, Karthik AGRI:EX; North, Anna AGRI:EX; Pasztor, Chris EMPR:EX; Collins, Martin J ALC:EX; Sage, Kevin AGRI:EX; Sean. Curry@BCOGC.ca; Bartle,

Gregory AGRI:EX; Vickers, Lori AGRI:EX Subject: ALR/ALC revitalization meeting

When: February 11, 2020 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: Skype Meeting

Hi folks,

For non-AGRI members, I work with Anna North and will be leading the development of the background document related to interaction of oil and gas development and agricultural land use in Northeast BC (Recommendation #25 in the ALR/ALC revitalization report).

I have setup the next ALR/ALC revitalization meeting for February 11th at 11 am.

Could you please provide any agenda topics for discussion?

Thanks

Karthik