

Application for Special Data Well

VERSION 1.1: November 2023

About the Regulator

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



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

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

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

Mission

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



Protects
public safety and the
environment



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



Conserves
energy
resources



Fosters a sound
economy and social
well-being



Values

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Guidance

As with all Regulator documents, this document does not take the place of applicable legislation. Readers are encouraged to become familiar with the acts and regulations and seek direction from Regulator staff for clarification.

The Regulator publishes both application and operations manuals and guides. The application manual provides guidance to applicants in preparing and applying for permits and the regulatory requirements in the planning and application stages. The operation manual details the reporting, compliance and regulatory obligations of the permit holder. Regulator manuals focus on requirements and processes associated with the Regulator's legislative authorities. Some activities may require additional requirements and approvals from other regulators or create obligations under other statutes. It is the applicant and permit holder's responsibility to know and uphold all legal obligations and responsibilities. For example, Federal Fisheries Act, Transportation Act, Highway Act, Workers Compensation Act and Wildlife Act.

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

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

In addition, this document may reference some application types and forms to be submitted outside of the Application Management System but made available on the Regulator's website. Application types and forms include:

- Heritage Conservation Act, Section 12
- Road use permits
- Water licences
- Master licence to cut
- Certificate of restoration
- Waste discharge permit
- Experimental scheme application
- Permit extension application

Manual Revisions

The Regulator is committed to the continuous improvement of its documentation. Revisions to the documentation are highlighted in this section and are posted to the [Documentation Section](#) of the Regulator's website.

Stakeholders are invited to provide input or feedback on Regulator documentation to ServiceDesk@bc-er.ca or submit feedback using the [feedback form](#).

Version Number	Posted Date	Effective Date	Chapter Section	Summary of Revision(s)
1.0			Various	No content change is made to this document. Only the format is changed to meet the corporate documentation standard.
1.1	Nov.29, 2023	Nov.29, 2023	Various	Replace BCOGC with BCER; OGAA with ERAA; new logos, references and associations

Application for Special data Wells

Background

The special data well designation was introduced to recognize operators for obtaining specified, high value well data by providing extended confidentiality. The Drilling and Production Regulation, Section 2 (6), states:

An official may designate a well or a portion of a well as a special data well if the well permit holder submits to the Regulator

- (a) A report respecting monitoring of hydraulic fracturing operations in the well, or
- (b) Both of the following:
 - (i) At least 9 metres of full diameter core from the well or 20 rotary sidewall cores from the well;
 - (ii) At least 3 specialty petro-physical logs, run over an interval of not less than 200 metres, that correspond to the interval from which the cores referred to in subparagraph (i) are collected.

Section 17 (1) of the Energy Resource Activities General Regulation states:

Subject to subsections (2) to (9) of this section and sections 18 to 20, 22 and 23, the Regulator must release well reports and well data, recorded with or submitted to the Regulator, from confidential status:

- (e) 18 months after the date of release of the drilling rig for a well or portion of a well classified as a special data well under the Drilling and Production Regulation.

When to Make This Application

To extend confidentiality of well data and reports: If an operator has captured the requisite data to fulfil the requirements of Section 2(6) of the Drilling and Production Regulation, an application can be submitted to have the well designated as a special data well. If successful, data from the well is held confidential for a period of 18 months from rig release date.

An application for a special data well must be submitted prior to the release of well data from confidential status. There is no specified application form.

Applications can be submitted in hard copy to the attention of:

Supervisor, Energy Geoscience
2950 Jutland Rd
Victoria, B.C. V8T 5K2

Or as an e-mail attachment to:

[.ResourceConservation@bc-er.ca](mailto:ResourceConservation@bc-er.ca)

Considerations

The applicant should ensure that all well data has been submitted as required by the Drilling and Production Regulation prior to application for special data well designation. For well log data, the specified submission date is within 30 days after the date on which a log was run.

It is recognized that certain core analyses may not be completed prior to application. In that case, the application should list all core analyses that are planned. Core analyses should be completed without unreasonable delay with submission of the results of the analyses occurring within 30 days after completion as specified by the Drilling and Production Regulation.

Specialty petrophysical logs are considered to be those not routinely run in an open hole logging program and can include but are not limited to: imaging or fracture identification logs, elemental capture spectroscopy, sonic scanner, dipole sonic, spectral gamma ray, nuclear magnetic resonance and wireline formation testing devices (for example, MDT).

If microseismic is submitted as qualifying data for a special data well then the submitted information should include the following:

- 1) An XYZ or ascii file that includes all processed events,
- 2) A hard copy report which contains:
 - i. Acquisition parameters.
 - ii. A map and transverse view of data points.
 - iii. An indication of the confidence, signal to noise ratio, and/or magnitude of the microseismic events.