

Wind Project Investigative Use Licence Applications: Assessment and Prioritization Considerations

Renewable energy projects, including wind projects, are now part of the BC Energy Regulator's (BCER) mandate and the BCER is responsible for receiving and adjudicating applications, including applications for investigative use licences for the purpose of conducting investigative work. Certain wind project applications submitted to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) are in the process of being transferred to the BCER for decision.

The BCER has developed [interim guidance](#) outlining its application requirements for investigative use licences and to assist wind proponents with navigating its systems. The requirements are intended to ensure complete applications are submitted to allow for efficient and effective decision-making.

Applications will be assessed based on the legislative framework, including, but not limited to, the [Land Act](#), the [Energy Resource Activities Act](#), the [Renewable Energy Projects \(Streamlined Permitting\) Act](#) and the associated regulations. Where there is more than one project proposed for the same area of land, the BCER may prioritize the following applications:

- 1) Applicants who have submitted complete applications, including adherence to Application Management System (AMS) requirements for those applications submitted after July 1, 2025, including completion of meaningful pre-engagement with First Nations.
- 2) Applicants who have executed an Electricity Purchase Agreement (EPA) with BC Hydro or FortisBC or who demonstrate advanced negotiations towards an EPA are underway.
- 3) Applicants who demonstrate a readiness to mobilize quickly.
- 4) Applicants who have appropriately scoped and refined their project to minimize the area of land required.

This list is not exhaustive and other considerations may be relevant to particular applications. The BCER notes investigative use licences are not intended for exclusive use. Requests for overlapping licences may be considered where compatible use can be established.