

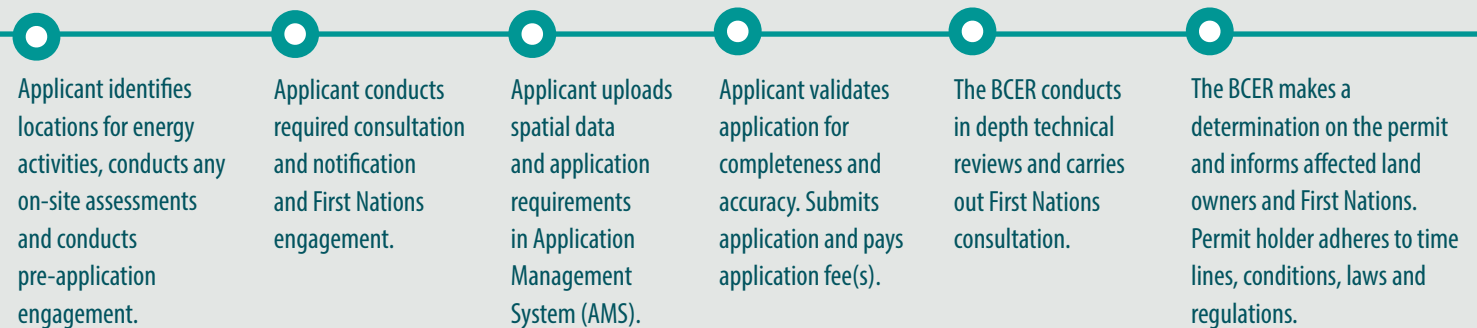
Application and Review Process

How Do Companies Apply for Energy Resource Activity Permits?

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

Companies must adhere to specific regulatory requirements throughout the entire application process. Once pre-application requirements are complete, companies prepare the relevant information for submission to the BCER. A comprehensive technical review of the application is conducted by BCER staff based on the characteristics, location and circumstances of the proposed activity.

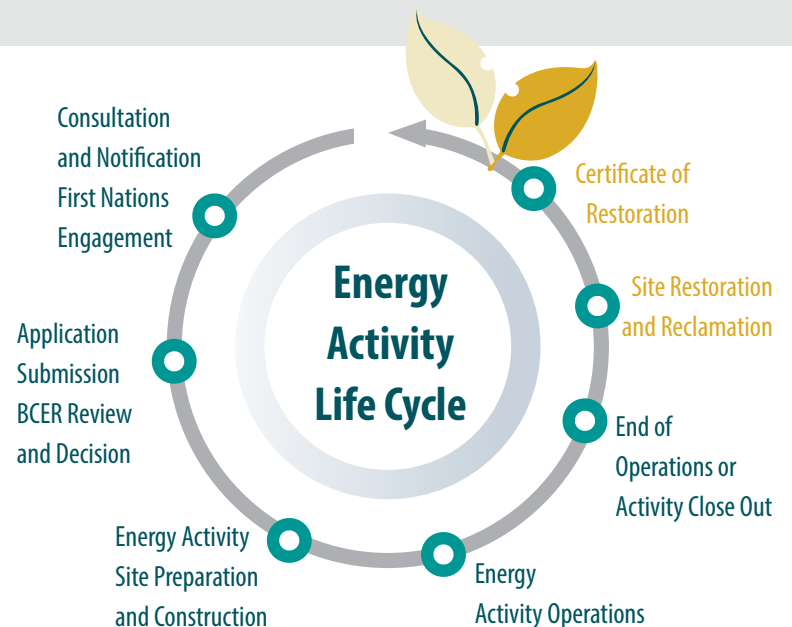
The Application and Review Process



What Happens Post-approval?

If approved, activities must be carried out in accordance with the permit, regulations, applicable laws and time lines and/or conditions attached to the permit. Companies must have all permits in hand before commencing with their activity.

Permit holders should maintain ongoing dialogue with the BCER and any affected parties throughout the life cycle of their project. This includes operational and reporting requirements as defined in the BCER's supporting manuals and guidelines.



Public Concerns and Complaints

Report concerns such as odours, spills or noise.

1-250-794-5200 (24-hour public number) or 1-877-500-BCER (2237) (24-hour toll free).

Incident Reporting for Industry

1-800-663-3456 (24-hour emergency number). Report oil and gas related incidents.

Application Requirements

Energy resource activities and associated operations require a permit from the BCER. Operators may apply for a single activity or multiple activities at the same time through the BCER's Application Management System. Therefore, a single application may include more than one activity.

The application system utilizes spatial data to verify the geographic location of a proposed energy resource activity and the land required.

In 2018, the BCER approved:

776 new oil and gas related applications, which included **901** new wells, **260** new road segments, **100** new facilities and **133** new pipeline segments.

BCER Decision Makers

BCER decision makers review all energy resource activity applications. Dependent on the location and scope of the activity other areas of expertise may be involved.

A thorough review is done by agriculture, forestry, community relations, archaeology, engineering (drilling and production, pipelines and/or facilities), land and habitat, environmental management, First Nations, hydrology, resource stewardship and resource development to name a few.

The statutory decision maker gathers the results and recommendations from these reviews and makes an informed decision.

Applicants then input engineering and/or technical data into the required fields for the specified activity. Additional supporting information may be required depending on the activity and its location including a summary of the results from consultation and pre-engagement with First Nations, land owners and other interested parties. In addition, land use, environmental values, archaeology, forestry and agricultural land use information may be needed.



For example: The Resource Development team provide technical expertise in subsurface oil and gas conservation issues, and assess applications so optimal depletion strategies are employed.



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

Permits and authorizations granted by the BCER can include:

- Energy resource activity permits under ERAA, including well, pipeline, facilities, road and geophysical permits.
- Associated energy activity authorizations under the Land Act and Petroleum and Natural Gas Act, including activities such as borrow pits, temporary work spaces and camp sites.
- Authorizations under the Water Sustainability Act, including authorizations for changes in and about a stream, short-term water use and water licences.
- Non-farm use of lands included in the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR), with delegated authority under the Agricultural Land Commission Act.
- Master licences to cut, cutting permits and road use permits under the Forest Act.
- Archaeology-related permissions under the Heritage Conservation Act.
- Permits and approvals for air emissions and effluent discharges under the Environmental Management Act.
- Specific provincial authorizations related to pipelines subject to the Canadian Energy Regulator Act.