



Unused Equipment Definition and Removal

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

Updated May 2019
Please refer to [INDB 2019-08](#)

Recent amendments to the Drilling & Production Regulation (DPR) include a new definition for the term “unused equipment” referenced in section 15(3) and the new section 78(6) of the DPR:

“unused equipment” means equipment, at an oil and gas activity site, that:

- a. is related to a decommissioned activity;*
- b. is dismantled or partially dismantled to render the equipment inadequate for use;*
- c. is in a derelict condition; or*
- d. has been inactive for 10 years or longer.*

These sections require the permit holder ensure the activity site is free of garbage, debris and unused equipment.

The DPR updates clarify an expectation that wellsite and/or facility and supporting equipment will be removed when inactive for extended periods or when no longer necessary or suitable for production. In addition to above-ground production equipment, the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) interprets unused equipment to include buried components such as pilings, foundations, tanks, rig anchors and pump-jack pads.

When unused equipment is removed from a well or facility, any components extending into the ground should be removed, cut, capped and/or buried below ground level so current and future safety and environmental hazards are eliminated.

The Commission understands that permit holders may have a significant number of sites affected by this regulatory change and suggests the best practice of developing and committing to a plan that identifies, prioritizes and sets timelines for removal of unused equipment. Plans may be submitted to C&E@bcogc.ca to inform the Commission of compliance efforts in relation to unused equipment currently at well and/or facility sites.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact:

James Gladysz
Technical Leader, Pipeline and Facilities
BC Oil and Gas Commission
James.Gladysz@bcogc.ca
250-980-6079

Jacques Corstanje, RPF
Director, Compliance and Enforcement
BC Oil and Gas Commission
Jacques.Corstanje@bcogc.ca
250-794-5322