



## Precautions for Potential Flooding in the Peace River Region

**TO:** Industry Clients

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

In regard to recent heavy rainfall and flooding events in northeast British Columbia, the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) requests that all operators forward the requested information to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) as noted in Part 1 of this information bulletin. Operators are also requested to monitor infrastructure and assets throughout the rainfall event as outlined in Part 2.

### Part 1

The recent flooding events in the northeast have resulted in instances of erosion and/or damage to oil and gas facilities and infrastructure. In some cases, oil and gas operators may have constructed emergency works to protect facilities or infrastructure. During a flood emergency, Section 44 of the Water Regulation has provisions to allow:

- a) The construction or placement of erosion protection works or flood protection, and
- b) The clearing of an obstruction from a bridge or culvert by the Crown in right of British Columbia, or its agents, or by a municipality during flood event when there exists a potential danger to life or property.

The Water Regulation also stipulates a person making a change “in and about a stream” during a flood emergency must report that change within 72 hours. However, it is recognized this is impractical due to the potential for another flood event the weekend of July 8th to 10th and the need to maintain priority for urgent repairs. By July 31, 2011 all oil and gas operators that undertook emergency works “in and about a stream” are requested to provide a map to the FLNRO (address on next page) with locations and a brief description of emergency flood related works, as well as any associated plans, photos or reports from qualified professionals that may have been used.

Please note provisions a) and b) above only apply during a flood emergency event, and where there is imminent danger to life, property and/or infrastructure. Once the emergency is over and longer term remediation works are being considered, formal applications to FrontCounter BC for notification or approval under Section 9 of the Water Act will apply.

If you have any questions, please contact Robert Piccini 250-565-6441 or Lyle Larsen 250-565-6437 at the FLNRO.

**Send Information to:**

Norm Bilodeau, RPF  
Director of Resource Management  
Assistant Regional Water Manager  
Omineca Region  
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
325-1011 4th Avenue  
Prince George, B.C. V2L 3H9

**Part 2**

In anticipation of significant rainfall in the Peace River region the weekend of July 8-10 and the potential flood risk, the Commission requests operators to monitor infrastructure and assets in flood prone areas:

- Pipeline right-of-way, pipe structural integrity and/or exposure, undermining, impacts to risers, emergency shut downs (ESDs) or isolation valves.
- Structural damage to roads and bridges, including culverts, sink holes, erosion to bridge approaches and access/egress through Emergency Planning Zones.
- Drilling lease locations: access and/or egress, berm integrity, etc.
- Camp locations: sewage lagoons and/or water storage.
- Sumps and water storage ponds.

Please note any incidents that meet the standard spill or incident notification requirements must be reported to the Commission through the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) at 1-800-663-3456.

The Commission will provide updates as needed. Additional sources for information are available at:

- [DriveBC](#)
- [Environment Canada](#)
- [River Forcast Centre](#)

**If you have any questions regarding this Information Bulletin, please contact:**

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BC Oil and Gas Commission  
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