Emergency Management Requirements Updated, Consolidated

TO: Industry
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) has consolidated provincial oil and gas emergency management requirements into a single Emergency Management Regulation (EMR). The new EMR is available for reference online and on the Commision's website, and will take effect on Oct. 1, 2014.

Provincial oil and gas legislation has included emergency management requirements for more than 25 years.

In 2010 the Oil and Gas Commission Act, the Pipeline Act and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act were consolidated into the Oil and Gas Activities Act (OGAA). OGAA introduced the requirement for companies to have a corporate emergency-management program and to include environmental considerations in emergency planning, preparation and response.

Engagement took place during the development of the EMR with industry, First Nations, and stakeholders. A manual to assist in applying the requirements of the EMR is being developed and will be available on the Commission's website by the end of September. Industry may contact the Commission for advice in the meantime.

This new regulation now encompasses the emergency management requirements that were previously in the Drilling and Production Regulation and the Consultation and Notification Regulation. It also covers emergency management requirements around pipelines that were in the Pipeline and Liquefied Natural Gas Regulation. They are consolidated into this new regulation and also become effective on Oct. 1, 2014.

Note that emergency management requirements for liquefied natural gas facilities are now covered under the Liquefied Natural Gas Facility Regulation.

The new regulation will allow for seamless emergency management coverage of all oil and gas activities within British Columbia.

For further information on the new Emergency Management Regulation, please contact:

Lance Ollenberger
Deputy Commissioner
BC Oil and Gas Commission
Lance.Ollenberger@bcogc.ca
250-793-1293