



Greater Efficiency for Road Permitting on Crown Land

TO: Industry & Land Agents

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 11, 2015

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) will grant authority to occupy Crown land for all oil and gas road permits using Section 138(1) of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act. A separate Section 14 Land Act authorization is no longer required. This change will increase efficiency and reduce administrative burden by incorporating all authorities to build oil and gas roads on Crown land under a consolidated oil and gas regulatory framework.

BACKGROUND:

With the enactment of the Oil and Gas Activities Act (OGAA) in October 2010, the Commission began to authorize all roads under Section 14 of the Land Act. On June 3, 2013 the Oil and Gas Road Regulation (OGRR) came into effect. This Regulation describes how roads are to be constructed, maintained and deactivated. In addition, these activities were prescribed as meeting the definition of an “oil and gas activity” under OGAA.

Until today’s changes, the Commission had issued:

- One authorization under the Land Act to enable an operator to occupy Crown land; and,
- One permit under the Oil and Gas Activities Act to regulate the construction, maintenance and deactivation of roads used for oil and gas activities.

Each of these activities had separate application forms, processes, fees and information systems/information technology requirements.

Issuing one consolidated permit will streamline operations. Industry will continue to apply as before, but with less duplicative documentation requirements. The change will not impact non-OGAA roads.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact:

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