



Area-based Analysis Required in Application Process

TO: Industry

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 14, 2015

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) developed Area-based Analysis (ABA) to identify and minimize the cumulative impact of oil and gas activity on select environmental and cultural values. ABA was first introduced in the application review process in January 2015.

Effective September 14, 2015 additional information regarding ABA will be required in the permit application process. The revised oil and gas activity application will prompt industry to indicate if ABA has been considered in the planning process, and will require a mitigation strategy where ABA risks are identified. Application forms and manuals will be revised to reflect ABA prior to the effective date.

Proponents can determine the ABA Status of their project by downloading shapefiles for each ABA Value from the [Area-based Analysis section](#) of the Commission's website. By using these [datasets](#), a proponent can determine if their proposed activity triggers either a "Normal", "Enhanced Management", or "Regulatory Policy" ABA Status. The Commission strives to see no new disturbance in "Enhanced Management" or "Regulatory Policy" areas. Should an incursion be considered unavoidable, proponents are advised to provide a Mitigation Strategy with their application justifying the incursion and outlining the measures that will be taken to reduce the impact. Guidance for minimizing footprints and drafting mitigation strategies is outlined in the guidance document [Supplementary Information for Area-based Analysis](#).

ABA Status changes over time so applicants are advised to download available datasets regularly to ensure they have current information. Applicants should use these datasets in their constraints mapping and operations planning in the same way they would consider Parks and Protected Areas, Ungulate Winter Ranges, and Wildlife Habitat Areas.

The Commission utilizes ABA in reviewing applications and has the authority to request changes to an application to reduce any cumulative impacts, apply permit conditions or refuse an application if the impact is too high.

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

Sean Curry, Director
Resource Development
Resource Stewardship and Major Projects Division
Sean.Curry@bcogc.ca
250-419-4486