



INDUSTRY BULLETIN

2015-28

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Water Regulation Changes Strengthen Oversight

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

Changes to the provincial Water Regulation mean work in and around streams done by oil and gas operators is now regulated under Oil and Gas Activities Act (OGAA) permits. The duplicated process of operators needing a separate Section 9 permit under the Water Act as well as a permit under OGAA is no longer required. B.C.'s forest and mining industries have been successfully using this approach for many years.

This change applies to works in and around streams related to any oil and gas activity permit. Examples include road construction and maintenance, culvert cleaning or replacement, pipeline construction and maintenance. Changes to BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) documentation and processes will be made to reflect this change in coming weeks.

OGAA protects resource values like water, fish and riparian vegetation. Stream work undergoes comprehensive environmental reviews by the Commission, and OGAA and the Environmental Management and Protection Regulation (EMPR) provide a strong regulatory framework with a greater range of compliance and enforcement abilities. Tools include offences, orders, administrative penalties, requirements to mitigate impacts and the ability to stop work or suspend a permit if serious harm from non-compliance continues.

For more information on this industry bulletin, or to provide comment, please contact:

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