

**For Immediate Release  
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## **INFORMATION BULLETIN**

### **2008 ARCHAEOLOGY AUDIT PROGRAM FINAL REPORT RELEASED**

**FORT ST. JOHN** – The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) released results today of the first Archaeology Audit Program (AAP) conducted to gauge effectiveness of archaeological management systems used by oil and gas companies operating in B.C.

Report findings indicate participating oil and gas companies met or exceeded Commission expectations regarding archaeology management systems. The report also includes examples of good management practices and recommendations for improving archaeology management systems by increasing emphasis on preserving cultural resources. Future audits will review established management systems to determine if recommendations are incorporated.

Twenty six oil and gas companies were randomly selected for office documentation review and corresponding field audit (interviews, field investigations and documentation review).

In 2004, the Commission introduced a shift towards a performance-based approach to archaeological management systems, placing responsibility and accountability on oil and gas companies for complying with policy and legislation such as the *Heritage Conservation Act (HCA)*.

The Commission is an independent, single-window regulator of oil and gas activities within the Province of British Columbia. The Commission has regulatory responsibility for industry activity from the exploration and development phases, through to facilities operation and decommissioning. It is charged with balancing a broad range of environmental, economic and social considerations. Among its more specific objectives are public safety, conservation of petroleum resources, fostering a healthy environment, and equitable participation in production.

The Archaeology Audit Program final report is available on the Commission website at: [www.ogc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.ogc.gov.bc.ca).

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