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Subject: BC Oil and Gas Commission - Camp inspections and Consultation and Notification Regulation update

Good morning – there are two pieces of information I'd like to share with you today.

- 1- Acting on delegation from the Provincial Health Office, the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) will begin inspecting oil and gas camps to ensure companies have the proper COVID-19 health and safety protocols in place. Industry Bulletin 2020-24 is linked [here](#) for additional information.
- 2- The Commission has recently completed an in-depth review of the current Consultation and Notification Regulation. Many edits were needed to make this regulation easier to understand, and changes were warranted to reflect stakeholders' feedback. Due to the many changes, it made sense to replace it with a new re-organized regulation with a new name. It will be called the "Requirements for Consultation and Notification Regulation" and will come into effect in early 2021. While most policy will remain the same, the bigger changes are described below:
 - Increase response timelines for those who receive notices or invitations to consult from 21 to 30 days, and start counting days from date of service.
 - Require that invitations to consult contain information about the nature and extent of possible impacts and include light, in addition to information about noise, dust, odours and vehicle traffic.
 - Remove the definition of major amendment. This will remove a limit on the Commission's authority to require a permit holder to provide notifications or invitations to consult on an amendment application and avoid 'nuisance' notifications on amendments that people are often not interested in.
 - Update the definition of rights holder to include OGAA permit holders and the geothermal tenure holders.
 - Local authority will no longer be notified if the oil and gas activity is proposed within an official community plan (OCP) area. Companies are required to follow municipal zoning bylaws and any policies falling under the OCP. No consultation with municipalities for a pressure regulating station on an applicant's own land.
 - Require additional consultation and notification if an application is revised to include a new well (even water source or water injection wells), pipeline or facility; or if the proposed capacity of a facility increases over a certain threshold.
 - Consultation distances have been reduced for compressors, and for those proposals - such as an LNG facility, petroleum refinery or gas processing plant - that have been approved through an environmental assessment under the BC Environmental Assessment Act.

If you have any questions about Industry Bulletin 2020-24 or the updated regulation, please be in touch.

Regards,

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