

Regulatory Bulletin for the Oil & Gas Industry in Western Canada

September 2019



INTEGRATED
SUSTAINABILITY

WATER | WASTE | ENERGY

FEDERAL

Coming into Force – Amendments to the *Fisheries Act*

On 21 June 2019, Bill C-68 received Royal Assent and became law. On 28 August 2019, the fish and fish habitat protection provisions came into effect and changes were reflected on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) [Projects Near Water](#) website. The updated website contains new information related to the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Provisions, as well as guidance for the updated regulatory process to ensure compliance with the new *Fisheries Act*.

For projects that are currently under review, or to better understand how the new *Fisheries Act* (the *Act*) may impact previously approved projects, the DFO has provided [Guidance and Transitional Provisions of Bill C-68](#). It should be noted that “Letters of Advice” issued prior to 28 August 2019, may not adequately protect fish and fish habitat in accordance with the amended *Act*. It is the responsibility of the holders of “Letters of Advice”, to verify if additional measures should be implemented in order to remain compliant with the *Act*.

We would be pleased to speak with you to provide guidance on the new process and offer our expertise to determine how your projects may be impacted. Should you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our Aquatic Biologist – Robert Best at Robert.Best@integratedsustainability.ca or (403) 618-9314.

ALBERTA

Review of Alberta Energy Regulator

As part of the commitment to conduct a full review of the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), the Provincial Government is seeking input from the public and stakeholders to identify changes and enhancements to the AER's operations. The purpose of the review is to ensure the province's resources are being developed in an [efficient and environmentally responsible manner](#). The review will include:

- In-person stakeholder workshops with industry, municipal and professional associations, government departments and Indigenous groups
- Collaboration with governance and regulatory experts
- Establishing a website for interested parties to provide feedback

Albertans can provide feedback by visiting the [Government of Alberta's](#) (GOA) website between 06 September 2019 and 14 October 2019. It is the Government's intention to release a report once the review is complete. Furthermore, [Order in Council 156/2019](#) has appointed new interim board members, made up of public servants and individuals with oil and gas expertise, to the AER board of directors.

Well Application Available in OneStop

On 05 September 2019, the AER announced that [Well Licence Applications](#) will be available through the OneStop tool. Information sessions were held to review the changes in OneStop, including automation of application submissions, low-risk well licences, multi-well licence application submissions, and simplified well classification system. A video presentation of the material covered in the sessions will be posted on the AER's website after 26 September 2019.



MEG Energy Surmont Project Approved

The [MEG Energy Surmont Project](#) is a multi-phased development consisting of 80 km² of land for steam-assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) bitumen recovery from the McMurray formation. Earlier this month the Government of Alberta gave MEG Energy the “[green-light](#)” to move forward with the next stages of development, including application for environmental licences and local development permits. The project will be located in the Athabasca region and is estimated to produce about 120,000 barrels (bbls) of bitumen per day. Efforts from the Provincial Government to move the project forward will include canceling the provincial carbon tax, lowering the corporate tax rate and passing *Royalty Guarantee Act*.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Updates to Application Management System (AMS)

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) releases regular updates to the Application Management System (AMS) to improve workflow and functionality. Effective 23 September 2019, systematic changes to the following applications came into effect: Short Term Water Use (STWU) Applications, Changes in and About a Stream (CIAS) Applications, Pipeline Applications, and, Well Applications. For details regarding the changes made, please refer to the [AMS September 2019 Release Guide](#) or [Oil and Gas Activity Application Manual](#), which will be updated to reflect these changes.

Effective Management Change Processes

On 10 September 2019, the BC OGC released a [Safety Advisory \(2019-03\)](#) recommending all permit holders ensure effective implementation of Management of Change (MOC) processes. This process was prompted from a high energy rupture of a separator water discharge line that injured one worker on 9 November 2018. The BC OGC has recommended that changes that should be addressed by an MOC program include, but are not limited to:

- Changes to process chemicals
- Equipment
- Maintenance practices and organization
- Operating limits
- Procedures

Did You Know?

Integrated Sustainability is pleased to welcome back Tanya Cairns to the team. Tanya will be returning from her maternity leave as the Regulatory Manager on 15 October 2019. Upon her arrival, Tanya will be the main point of contact for all Regulatory focused inquiries. Tanya can be reach at Tanya.Cairns@IntegratedSustainability.ca or (403) 617-5743.



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Contact Us

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