



First Nation Engagement – General Resources

Ministry of Environment, Permits, and Public Engagement

All permitted activities under the *Environmental Management Act*, must meet requirements of the [Public Notification Regulation](#).

On June 9, 2016, government amended the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) with respect to large composting facilities. The amendments provide site specific oversight and address concerns regarding public notification.

In addition to meeting the requirements of the OMRR, all composting facilities that meet the following criteria will now also require a permit issued pursuant to the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA):

- process food waste or biosolids, and
- have the design capacity to produce 5,000 tonnes or greater of compost per year.

Facilities requiring a permit are required to comply with the Public Notification Regulation. Proponents are also encouraged to share information on their operation as early as possible with First Nations.

At minimum proponents must:

- Give notice to federal government agencies, provincial government agencies, municipalities, regional districts and chairpersons of waste management planning committees;
- Post Environmental Protection Notice on site;
- Publish in the British Columbia Gazette;
- Post Environmental Protection Notice in Post Offices serving the area;
- Publish in local newspaper(s);
- Respond to comments/concerns they receive; and
- Provide the ministry with:
 - a report of Public Consultation activities; and,
 - a report of First Nations information sharing activities.

Additional details of what is required in the notification can be found at:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/waste-discharge-authorization/consultation.pdf>

How do I know which First Nations to engage with?

Proponents will need to be aware of the First Nations who assert aboriginal interests or who have treaty rights in the proponent's area of operation. The province has a mapping tool ([Consultive Areas Database](#) (CAD) Public Map service) that proponents may use to identify the First Nations within an area and how they may be contacted.

Is it expected that the First Nation information sharing is completed by the August 8th, 2016 deadline?

Since some parties may be new to the First Nations information sharing process, it is recognized that this may not be completed by the August 8th application deadline. Proponents are encouraged to initiate the sharing of information with First Nations as early as possible and before the August 8th deadline.

How should First Nations be engaged?

Proactive and sincere efforts made by the proponent to share information with First Nations will help build positive working relationships between First Nations and proponents in areas where proponents operate.

The First Nations Consultative Areas Database (CAD) provides preliminary contact information for First Nations who may have aboriginal interests identified within the area of the compost operations.

What types of information should be shared?

- Share information on the compost facility.
- Include details of the operation (what the operation is, where it is located, how long it has been in operation, the technology applied, the monitoring undertaken etc).
- Offer to meet and/or provide more information and answer any questions or concerns.
- Provide the ministry with a detailed record of the information sharing, concerns/questions and the response to those concerns/questions.

The ministry has several guidance documents to support proponents in the engagement process. These resources can be found on our website at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations>

Engaging First Nations: Proponent Resources

- [Building Relationships with First Nations: Respecting Rights and Doing Good Business](#)
Provides practical advice and strategies to help businesses develop strong working relationships with First Nations.
- [Guide to Involving Proponents When Consulting First Nations](#)
Assists the business sector with a better understanding of the range of proponent's roles in First Nations consultation.
- [Proponent: First Nations Engagement Communication Log](#)(Excel)
A useful tool for proponents to track First Nations engagement communications.
- [Updated Procedures for Meeting Legal Obligations When Consulting First Nations](#)
Describes the Province's approach to consulting and accommodating First Nations where a proposed decision or activity by the Province may affect claimed or proven Aboriginal rights (including title) or treaty rights. Proponents wanting more detailed information on the consultation process may consider reviewing this document in conjunction with the Guide to Involving Proponents When Consulting First Nations.
- [First Nations Consultative Areas Database \(CAD\)](#)
The First Nations Consultative Areas Database (CAD) provides preliminary contact information for First Nations who may have Aboriginal Interests identified within the area queried. These contacts are based on knowledge currently available to the Province.
 - [DataBC Catalogue Entry - Public Map Application](#)
 - [Launch Public Application](#)
- [iMap BC](#)
Use the new version of iMapBC to view thousands of map datasets hosted in the BC Geographic Warehouse. You can view the data in an interactive mapping environment: to put together map layers of interest; to upload your own map data; and to produce maps that can be printed or emailed to others. The latest version improves performance, the user interface and interactivity between geographic data and associated attributes.
 - [DataBC Catalogue Entry](#)
 - [Information & Reference Guides](#)
 - [Launch Application](#)

Ministry of Environment Web Resources

- [Composting Facility Permit Application Process](#)
Provides links and resources to the Order In Council, Compost Facility Guideline and various fact sheets proponents may need to understand and successfully complete the permitting process.
- [Public Notification Regulation](#)
The regulation outlines the minimum standards that must be met to fulfill the permitting application requirements.
- [Waste Discharge Authorizations](#)
The web site provides information on when a Ministry of Environment authorization is required, how to apply for an authorization and other general requirements. Composting facility permit information can be found on the link above.