

INFORMATION LETTER

UPSTREAM DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

UDD-16-01

SUBJECT: Petroleum and Natural Gas Permit Consultation Paper

The Ministry recently completed a review of the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act (PNG Act)* that resulted in amendments to the *PNG Act* being passed as part of Bill 12, *Natural Gas Development Statutes Amendment Act, 2014*.

One goal of the amendments was to modernize the *PNG Act*, which was achieved in part by replacing some petroleum and natural gas tenure permit provisions with power for the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations respecting permits. Permits are a form of tenure under the *PNG Act* that grants the right to explore for natural gas and oil. Once the amendments are brought into force, new powers to create regulations will allow government to modernize the permit rules to better align with current exploration and development techniques.

The Ministry has developed a consultation paper to facilitate engagement on potential changes to the rules for petroleum and natural gas permits. Through a series of questions in the paper, we invite your comments regarding key policy areas. The Ministry will review all submissions received and evaluate comments in relation to the Ministry's objectives for British Columbia's natural gas and oil sector.

The consultation paper can be accessed online at:

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-gas-oil/petroleum-natural-gas-tenure/publications

Comments are requested by May 31, 2016. Please send comments by email to PNG.PolicyComments@gov.bc.ca or by fax to 250-953-3770.

If you are responding on behalf of a company or an organization, we request that you coordinate your responses internally so that only one response is submitted per company or organization.

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Upstream Development Division

April 2016

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