



INFORMATION LETTER

Upstream Development Division

UDD-14-04

SUBJECT: Amendments Proposed to the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act*

Bill 12, the *Natural Gas Development Statutes Amendment Act, 2014* has been introduced in the legislature. Bill 12 proposes to amend the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act*, the *Oil and Gas Activities Act* and the *Strata Property Act*.

The amendments proposed to the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act* in this bill will streamline the administration of natural gas and oil subsurface rights in British Columbia by instating a more consistent approach to all three tenure types – permits, leases and drilling licences. Fines will be updated so they align with penalties in other jurisdictions. Changes will also permit the Province to modernize tenure practices, and remove duplication with tenure-related laws. Collectively, these changes will help to ensure that British Columbia continues to offer a fair, stable and competitive tenure system for natural gas and oil.

You can find details of Bill 12 here: http://www.leg.bc.ca/40th2nd/1st_read/index.htm. The changes proposed in Bill 12 are not yet law; they have been put forward for review and debate in the Provincial legislature. Bills must pass three readings in the legislature and receive royal assent prior to coming into force.

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