

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

**Policy for Extensions under Section 3(5.1) of the Petroleum and
Natural Gas Drilling Licence Regulation**

Approved by: Inés Piccinino
Assistant Deputy Minister
Upstream Development Division
August 2017



Ministry of
Energy, Mines and
Petroleum Resources

Summary of Revisions

Effective date	Section	Description
August 2017	All	Ministry name change.

This guide explains the factors the Director of Petroleum Lands (Director) will consider in determining whether to extend a drilling licence for a prescribed delay under section 3(5.1) of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Drilling Licence Regulation (DL Regulation). It is important to read the [Guide to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Drilling Licence Regulation](#) for additional information on the criteria and application requirements for this extension.

- Is the environmental or socioeconomic study, public hearing, or planning or consultation process one that has been initiated or legislated by a government agency?
- Has the application to the Director been made within a reasonable timeframe that allows for diligent consideration of the licensee's request but not so early that the delay could be resolved in time to drill the well prior to the expiry of the drilling licence?
- How has the study, hearing or process specifically contributed to a delay in drilling?
- Was the permit (well authorization) approved prior to the study, hearing or process taking effect and, if so, why did drilling not commence at that time?
- Are there factors other than the study, hearing or process that may have caused a delay in drilling?
- To what degree has the licensee taken steps toward exploration on the drilling licence?
- Would an extension of the drilling licence likely result in the expedient drilling of the earning well and conversion of the drilling licence to a lease once the delay has been resolved?
- Would an extension of the drilling licence likely result in more expedient development of the area than reversion of the rights to the Crown?
- Would an extension of the drilling licence allow for the drilling to be done in a manner that is consistent with the goals of the study, hearing or process?
- Has a one-year extension with penalty already been granted under section 3(5) of the DL Regulation and, if not, would an extension under this section be more suitable?
- Have any prior extensions under section 3(5.1) been granted and, if so, why was drilling not commenced during the previous extension term(s)?

More Information

Online: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/topic.page?id=FDD786D315334DC1A006FDADD1E35920>

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