



## Questions and Answers about the Discussion Paper on the Tenure Provisions of the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act*

*What is the purpose of the discussion paper?*

The Ministry of Energy and Mines (Ministry) is undertaking a review of the tenure provisions of the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act* (PNG Act) and its regulations, which provide the statutory framework for the administration of rights to Crown-owned subsurface petroleum and natural gas resources.

To facilitate a coordinated and wide-reaching review of British Columbia's petroleum and natural gas subsurface tenure system, the Ministry has developed a discussion paper describing the three tenure types: permits, drilling licences and leases. Through a series of questions in the discussion paper, we invite your comments regarding what changes to the PNG Act and regulations would help to improve British Columbia's petroleum and natural gas subsurface tenure system. Additional comments outside the scope of the questions will also be considered by the Ministry so long as they are relevant to the PNG tenure system.

*How can I submit my comments on the discussion paper?*

The questions at the back of the discussion paper can be used to guide your response. However, it is not a requirement. Submissions may range from a letter to a substantial document with relevant data or evidence included.

If you are using the questions to organize your response, the question pages can be printed and filled out manually, as you will not be able to type directly into the PDF document.

Responses can be scanned and emailed to [PNG.PolicyComments@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PNG.PolicyComments@gov.bc.ca) or faxed to 250-952-0331.

*What is the timeframe for providing comments to the discussion paper?*

Comments on the discussion paper will be accepted for 30 days after the date that the paper is posted to the Ministry's website. The submission deadline is October 17, 2011.

*How will my comments on the discussion paper be used?*

Comments received in response to the discussion paper will be used to help inform the proposal for future amendments to the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act* and regulations. The Ministry will be reviewing all the comments received and will be compiling a list of suggested changes to the petroleum and natural gas tenure system in B.C. The Ministry will assess any proposed changes in relation to how they help meet the provincial government's direction and the Ministry's objectives for B.C.'s energy sector.

Please note your submission is a public document and will become a government record, subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA).

*What if I have comments about surface activities (e.g. well drilling, road building)?*

Well drilling and surface activities associated with the recovery of petroleum and natural gas resources are permitted and regulated by the Oil and Gas Commission under a separate act, the *Oil and Gas Activities Act*.

The Oil and Gas Commission is the regulatory authority for the natural gas and oil industry in the province. The Oil and Gas Commission has regulatory oversight responsibility for industry activity, from the exploration and development phases, through to facilities operation and decommissioning.

Information about the Oil and Gas Commission can be found on their website, at:

<http://www.bcogc.ca/>

Questions about surface activities can be directed to the Oil and Gas Commission through the following website:

<http://www.bcogc.ca/contact.aspx>

*What are the next steps in the petroleum and natural gas tenure review?*

The deadline for comments in response to the discussion paper will be October 17, 2011. The Ministry will be compiling a list of suggested changes to the petroleum and natural gas tenure system. The Ministry will conduct analysis on the suggested changes to assess whether they will help meet the provincial government's direction and the Ministry's objectives for the B.C. energy sector. Suggested changes to the petroleum and natural gas tenure system may be accommodated by a change to the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act*, one of its regulations or a change in Ministry policy that does not require any change to the Act or its regulations.

*Who can I contact about the discussion paper?*

To discuss the content of the discussion paper, please contact Cordelia Tryon via email to [Cordelia.Tryon@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Cordelia.Tryon@gov.bc.ca) or phone at 250-387-7549.