



NRPP is part of government's commitment to reduce red tape for British Columbians by streamlining and simplifying processes to make it easier and faster to access services.

■ Meeting the expectations of B.C.'s natural resource communities and citizens

The natural resource sector (NRS) is a key driver of economic activity and employment in the Province of British Columbia. Over 156,000 jobs in B.C. are directly related to resource extraction and manufacturing in the areas of agriculture, forestry, mining, and oil and gas. The NRS generates over \$2.9 billion in direct annual revenue to the province.

Despite this level of activity, the natural resource sector currently experiences lost opportunities for economic growth and job creation, as well as risks to natural resource values. In particular, obtaining an activity authorization may be delayed due to unpredictable process and fragmented provincial government systems and legislation. There is an opportunity to improve the activity authorization process, leading to a better investment climate and more durable resource management decisions.

■ What is the Natural Resource Permitting Project?

The Natural Resource Permitting Project (NRPP) is part of government's commitment to reduce red tape for British Columbians. It is a multi-year project that brings together technology, information, legislation, people, and business processes across the natural resource sector to improve the way decisions are made.

NRPP will support more timely, durable, consistent and predictable decisions about natural resource activity on the land base. It will also make it easier and faster to access information and services.

■ Simplifying and integrating the authorization process

Through the Natural Resource Sector Online Services, clients will apply for and get the timely authorizations they need – from a hunting licence to a licence to cut trees. It will also give clients the ability to explore the province for resource development opportunities.

NRS decision-makers will be able to link all supporting documentation to one common record saving time, money and resources

■ Here's How

One registration and one login for simplified access

A client in Kamloops currently uses more than a dozen different passwords on separate websites to do business online with the provincial government. Now, that same user will be able to register once, be assigned a single client identifier, and thereafter be recognized with each subsequent transaction.

A single client ID gives the public, proponents and provincial government decision makers better access to information. It eliminates the time, effort and frustration associated with duplicate registration across multiple government ministries.

Digital document management saves time

A mining company was required to submit tens of thousands of pages in hard copy to complete its mining application. With more streamlined management of documents, clients will be able to submit supporting documents electronically, eliminating the need for hard copies. NRS decision-makers will be able to link all supporting documentation to one common record saving time, money and resources. The new document management system will be applied to Notice of Work applications in Summer 2016.

■ Looking Ahead

NRPP will be delivered in phases, beginning with the foundational capabilities highlighted here.

Full benefits include:

- ▶ Verified map data and information accessible by the public, First Nations, businesses, and proponents.
- ▶ Natural resource projects that are tracked over the project lifecycle - from regulatory approval, construction, operation, compliance and enforcement to post-project obligations.
- ▶ Stewardship values and tools are incorporated into authorization decision making, as well as ongoing project management, and compliance and enforcement processes.
- ▶ Government, citizens, and proponents are better equipped to predict application approval times.

■ Why this Matters

Through the Natural Resource Permitting Project, the provincial government is making a significant investment in helping to balance economic development with protecting the natural resources many businesses rely on.