

**Forest Service Road Discontinuance and OGAA Road Permit Issuance
for Oil and Gas Activities
- Guidance -
for the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR)
and the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission)**

The following guidance is a process by which FLNR and the Commission can address forest service roads (FSRs) that are no longer required for forest or other purposes but are still required for oil and gas industrial purposes. The process would determine whether:

- there are oil and gas clients requiring current or future access on an FSR that has been identified by FLNR as no longer required for forest or other purposes;
- FLNR should refrain or can proceed with closing, discontinuing and deactivation of the FSR.

If the Commission or FLNR identifies there are oil and gas clients requiring use of the FSR which could preclude deactivation, the Commission would take on responsibility for administering the road through the Oil and Gas Activities Act (OGAA) by issuing Road Permits to the Oil and Gas clients for continued use of the road, and FLNR would close and discontinue the road as an FSR.

FLNR Resource District responsibilities:

- Confirm that there are no future requirements for the FSR for forest or other purposes excepting potentially oil and gas clients and advise the Commission that the road is no longer required and the intent to close and discontinue as a FSR.
- Consult with the Commission to determine whether there are oil and gas clients with an interest in the road particularly if there are Road Use Permits which have been issued by the Commission.
- Proceed with deactivation only if the Commission confirms that there are no requirements identified for the road for oil and gas clients.
- Close and discontinue the FSR if:
 - no forest or other purpose is identified for the FSR; and
 - the Commission has confirmed they will be administering the road through OGAA and issuance of Road Permits.
- Advise the Commission of plans for FLNR road closure such that transfer of jurisdiction to the Commission can occur and coordinate timing to coincide with Commission issuance of an OGAA Road Permit.
- Prior to FLNR FSR road closure and discontinuance, confirm with the Commission that OGAA Road Permit has been issued to the Oil and Gas client, such that there is no gap in tenure on the road.
- Provide the Commission with information relevant to the road such as bridge and major culvert records and inspection reports or with regard to any known hazards.

Commission Responsibilities:

- Determine whether there is any current or future requirement for oil and gas interests in the FSR which would preclude FLNR from deactivating the road.
- Inform FLNR of any known Road Use Permit holders or other oil and gas client interests in the FSR which would preclude it from being deactivated;
- Coordinate transfer of responsibility with FLNR so the Commission can take responsibility for administration through issuance of OGAA Road Permits.

- Where oil and gas clients have a Road Use Permit or a known interest in use of the FSR, inform the oil and gas clients that the FSR is to be closed and discontinued and that if they have a need for the road, that they must submit an OGAA Road Permit application; Commission will issue Road Permits to oil and gas clients and advise FLNR.
- Advise FLNR either:
 - there are no oil and gas clients with an interest in the FSR; or
 - there are oil and gas clients with an interest in the road which have applied and been issued OGAA Road Permits.
- The Commission must issue OGAA Road Permit to the Oil and Gas client prior to FLNR FSR road closure and discontinuance, such that there is no gap in tenure on the road.
- The Commission would provide the Oil and Gas client known information, provided to the Commission by FLNR, relevant to the road such as bridge and major culvert records and inspection reports or with regard to any known hazards.