

agenda



FEB 11 2010



Ms. Karen Goodings
Chair
Peace River Regional District
Box 810
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8

Dear Ms. Goodings:

Thank you for your letter of January 15, 2010 in which the Peace River Regional District Board requests that more time be allowed in the consultation phase on the regulations under the *Oil and Gas Activities Act* (OGAA).

I understand that you have been advised by Mr. Paul Jeakins, Deputy Commissioner, Regulatory Affairs and Stewardship Division, BC Oil and Gas Commission (OGC), that an extension to February 12, 2010 has been provided for input into the OGC Board Regulations.

The consultation draft of the Environmental Protection and Management Regulation (EPM Regulation) was posted on the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources' (Ministry) OGAA website on November 6, 2009, with an invitation for comments to be submitted by December 4, 2009. Additionally, the consultation draft was sent directly to the Northeast Energy and Mines Advisory Committee and the Custodians of the Peace for distribution to their membership. I am pleased to inform you that the response was greater than anticipated and the input significant, which resulted in meetings and conference calls with stakeholders to ensure their input was received and incorporated into the EPM Regulation.

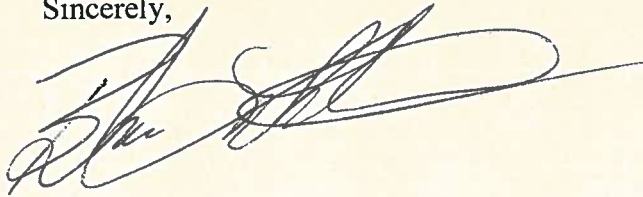
The Ministry will not be preparing another consultation draft of the EPM Regulation, as it is now in the confidential advice to Cabinet process. However, a consolidated response document on the EPM Regulation is being prepared, and the Ministry anticipates it will be available on the OGAA website at www.empr.gov.bc.ca/OG/OILANDGAS/OGAA, by February 22, 2010.

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The Ministry continues to work in partnership with other ministries and the OGC on the development of the regulations, including consultation with industry, First Nations, local municipalities and other stakeholders, for implementation in Spring 2010. The Ministry and the OGC anticipate continued review and consultation on the OGAA and regulations in the first year of implementation to ensure a smooth transition for all involved.

Thank you, again, for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blair Lekstrom', written over a horizontal line.

Blair Lekstrom
Minister

pc: Mr. Paul Jeakins
Deputy Commissioner
Regulatory Affairs and Stewardship Division
BC Oil and Gas Commission

February 25, 2010