

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

APPLICATIONS FOR WELL SUSPENSION OR ABANDONMENT GUIDELINES AND INTERPRETATION NOTES

What are guidelines and interpretation notes?

Guidelines and interpretation notes are documents that clarify the Regulator's expectations for companies. They can also be a way to improve everybody's understanding of the way oil and gas resources are regulated in the Northwest Territories.

Interpretation notes explain the Regulator's views on the legal requirements for different activities.

Guidelines explain how companies can meet the legal requirements for their activities.

Who issues guidelines and interpretation notes?

The Regulator issues guidelines and interpretation notes. Section 18 of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* gives the Regulator the authority to do so.

What are the objectives of the *Applications for Well Suspension and Abandonment Guidelines and Interpretation Notes* (guidelines)?

The objectives of the Guidelines are to:

- Increase applicants' knowledge of the application process and the required contents of application packages;
- Promote the submission of appropriate application packages to increase the efficiency of the application process;
- Enhance certainty and predictability in regulatory decisions; and
- Promote accessibility and transparency in oil and gas regulation.

Why do the guidelines focus on applications for well suspension or abandonment?

The guidelines focus on applications for well suspension or abandonment because:

- The Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) expects to receive over 70 applications for well abandonment by 2025.
- The applications OROGO receives for well suspension or abandonment often lack key information, which results in a longer overall processing time.
- OROGO would like the application requirements to be as clear as possible so applicants submit complete applications and OROGO can process them more efficiently.

How were the guidelines developed?

The guidelines were developed by the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO).

What topics are covered in the guidelines?

The guidelines provide information on:

- The approvals required to suspend or abandon a well;
- Pre-application meetings;
- The required contents of an application for an Operations Authorization or a Well Approval;
- OROGO guidelines that can assist in preparing an application for an Operations Authorization;
- OROGO's service standards for processing applications for Operations Authorizations and Well Approvals; and
- How to change an existing Operations Authorization or Well Approval.

Where can I get more information on the guidelines?

OROGO's website has a copy of the guidelines at www.oro.go.gov.nt.ca

OROGO staff can also answer questions about the guidelines. Call Peter Lennie-Misgeld at 867-767-9097 or email him at Peter-Lennie_Misgeld@gov.nt.ca for more information. Peter can also arrange presentations on the guidelines for your organization.

Who is providing feedback on the guidelines?

Everyone is welcome to provide feedback on the guidelines.

OROGO has directly contacted Aboriginal governments and organizations, companies operating in the NWT, other regulators, industry groups, the territorial and federal governments and environmental non-governmental organizations for their feedback. OROGO has also advertised in NWT newspapers to reach the general public.

How do I provide feedback on the guidelines?

Please provide your feedback on the guidelines by writing to orogo@gov.nt.ca. You will receive a response confirming that OROGO has received your feedback.

What is the deadline for providing feedback?

The deadline for providing feedback is **October 30, 2020**.

What will be done with the feedback received?

The feedback received will be summarized and made public, along with OROGO's responses. This summary document will be available in February 2021.

When will the guidelines be issued?

OROGO expects to issue the guidelines in February 2021.