

Connectivity Project Permitting Coordination



Webinar hosted by Northern Development Initiative Trust – January 14, 2021

Expedited Permitting

- Connectivity is a high priority for economic recovery in BC.
- Program timelines are very tight - projects must be completed by October 31, 2021.
- To support you there is a new a one-window approach for provincial permitting and a single point of contact.
- FLNR Omineca region has experience with other priority projects: major mines, pipelines, Site C
- Our goal: cut in half the time usually required for permitting.

Bundling Permits in Other Projects



One-window Permitting Team



- Coordinate bundling and scheduling of all provincial applications.
- Direct it to the right staff in other ministries and regions.
- Ensure priority handling of all applications.
- Coordinate First Nations consultation.
- Goal: timely decisions

What we need from you



Our goal is to help expedite your permits. Here's how you can help:

- Provide a single point of contact for applications.
- Ensure you use digital submissions, document exchange and signing.
- Bundle applications for a project to ensure coordinated consultation, review and decision-making.
- Provide copies of all letters/motions of support.
- Ask questions up front so we don't lose time.

Bundling



- Bundling of applications for a project is key to ensure coordinated consultation, review and decision making
- Proponents should engage with the FLNR permitting team to ensure all required authorizations are bundled to the optimum extent
- We want to avoid having to backtrack due to missing key permitting elements of a project
- Caution – Excessive bundling can stall a project if one permit becomes problematic – Appropriate balance required

First Nations Engagement and Consultation



- Connectivity to Indigenous communities is a priority of this project and considerable engagement has occurred. Government still has a legal duty to consult
- Streamlined consultation should be doable for some projects but the impacts to Rights needs to be considered and in some cases government has agreements that specify timelines
- Further information available in the proponent guide:
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations/involving_proponents_guide_when_consulting_with_first_nations.pdf

First Nations Engagement and Consultation



Proponents should provide an engagement record including:

- Summary of engagement activities with timelines and outcomes
- Communications log including input received and responses to First Nations questions, and concerns
- Summary of First Nations interests and potential impacts from the project
- Summary of avoidance, mitigation, modification actions taken to address First Nations interests

Scheduling



- Coordinated scheduling of projects by proponent and between proponents will be critical to meeting timelines
- Timelines cannot be met if many applications are received late in the available timeline
- Proponents should engage the permitting team on scheduling issues, timing windows, etc.
- The permitting team will ensure optimum effort is made for timely coordinated permitting

How Long to get a Permit?



- With coordinated, bundled and priority handling, permits can be issued within a 60 calendar day timeframe
- Normal benchmark is 140 calendar days
- This is extremely dependant on receiving complete, quality, applications on a schedule that doesn't plug the system
- Agreements with First Nations or significant impact to Rights can also impact timelines
- Proponent staff, consultants and contractors should be familiar with application and implementation requirements

FLNR Applications

- Lands, Water, Forests Permit Applications
 - Crown Land: <https://portal.nrs.gov.bc.ca/web/client/-/crown-land-tenure-application>
 - Water: <https://portal.nrs.gov.bc.ca/web/client/-/change-approval-for-work-in-and-about-a-stream>
 - Forest: <http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/apps/app54.html>
- BCeID recommended as it allows to save and track applications via unique tracking number
 - BCeID account application: <https://www.bceid.ca/>
- Payment options: Online in Virtual Front Counter, by phone, cheque or in person at Front Counter BC
- **Be sure to submit to the FrontCounter BC Prince George office**

MoTI Applications



Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MoTI) permits need to be on this H0020 form, Provincial Public Highway Permit Application:

<https://www.th.gov.bc.ca/permits/H0020.pdf>

- Signed by an authorized rep
- It is helpful if maps are included.
- Digital signatures and seals are permitted.
- If Engineering drawings are included, they are to be signed and sealed.
- Submit to FrontCounter BC
 - Completed forms to: FrontCounterBC.PG@gov.bc.ca
 - Cc to: Frank.Spears@gov.bc.ca Daniel.Stanyer@gov.bc.ca Ryan.Evanoff@gov.bc.ca

Ministry Contacts

Project Coordinator for Permitting: Frank.Spears@gov.bc.ca (250) 645-9355

- One window contact for project proponents for permitting
- Coordinate distributing questions & request to program area team members
- Tracking and coordinating permit bundles through key milestones from application intake to issuance of permits

FrontCounter BC Contact: Daniel.Stanyer@gov.bc.ca (250) 645-9337

- Contact for application specific inquiries
- Virtual FrontCounter BC advice
- Help clients get applications submitted for Lands, Water & Forests
- Work with Proponents for application quality and completeness
- Bundling individual authorizations in to complete project packages
- Work with internal program areas to set up First Nations consultation and referrals

MoTI Contact: Ryan.Evanoff@gov.bc.ca (778) 974-2634

- Contact for application specific inquiries for MoTI applications

Interagency & Management Lead: Dave.Francis@gov.bc.ca (778) 693-3208

- Link to FLNR and other agency executive
- Link for proponent executive as needed

We don't want to end up here!



And if all else fails, please call !



- The Province is committed to expediting permits. That is why we have put this experienced team in place.
- We have a cross-Ministry table dedicated to this work. If you have any issues, please get in touch with:
 - Howard.Randell@gov.bc.ca (250) 415-6867 Executive Director, Network BC
 - Jane.Burnes@gov.bc.ca (250) 889-1054 Lead, Permitting Table
 - Dave.Francis@gov.bc.ca (778) 693-3208 FLNR Interagency & Management Lead



Questions - Discussion