

Public Statement from Chief Judy Desjarlais
June 30, 2023

New Pre-Application Engagement Process for Oil & Gas Activities

Blueberry River First Nations (Blueberry) Chief and Council and the Blueberry Lands Department are happy to report that an important action as a result of the Blueberry Implementation Agreement is now taking place.

The January 2023 Blueberry River First Nations Implementation Agreement required the development of a new consultation process with Blueberry on oil and gas activities. Blueberry and the BC Energy Regulator (BCER) have collaborated on the new BRFN/BCER consultation process, including new information requirements and pre-application engagement expectations.

Now, pre-application engagement with Blueberry is needed to obtain Blueberry's views on proposed development early in the planning phase, before the application stage. This includes identifying acceptable locations for oil and gas activities, ensuring these activities are consistent with land use plans that identify areas for protection, and the conditions under which new development may occur.

Pre-application engagement meetings between proponents and Blueberry should be scheduled with the Blueberry Lands Department well before applications are prepared. Applicants will then be required to submit a [Pre-engagement Record spreadsheet](#) to the BCER, outlining the process used to engage Blueberry, including descriptions of any support, objections or concerns raised by Blueberry during the engagement and how the application addresses them. Blueberry Leadership and Lands Department expects to receive a draft of the Pre-Engagement Record for review and comment before it is submitted to BCER, with Blueberry's comments, objections or concerns included, prior to submission.

After pre-application engagement meetings between proponents and Blueberry, proponents will then need to fill out a [BCER BRFN Implementation Agreement Form](#), reflecting important information about their application, including steps taken to minimise and consolidate new disturbance and ensure compliance with new plans that will establish areas for protection. To assist proponents in navigating the new pre-application engagement process, BCER and Blueberry have developed the [BCER BRFN Guidance Document](#) for the [BCER BRFN Implementation Agreement Form](#). It is advised that all proponents refer to this document throughout the process.



P: 250.630.2800 A: Blueberry Reserve Road, Buick, BC V0C 2R0

The new BRFN/BCER consultation process aims to create an efficient and easy-to-use system, which condenses large amounts of information into easily reviewable formats without compromising meaningful engagement and in-depth understanding of all proposed activities.

All forms, spreadsheets and Guidance Documents required for pre-application engagement with Blueberry can be found on the [BCER website](#).

More info on the pre-application engagement with Blueberry can also be found on the new [Pre-Application Engagement page](#) of Blueberry's website.

Thank you, Ujoh Assaane'elah, Naa'nu'sche,

Chief Judy Desjarlais, Blueberry River First Nations

Media inquiries: media@blueberryfn.ca