



October 17, 2008

INFORMATION LETTER # OGC 08-20

**Subject: Submission Requirements for Multi-Well Pads and Well-to-Well Spacing**

**To: Industry Clients**

**Effective: Immediately**

**Background:**

**Regarding the OGAA Implementation:** All necessary regulations, documents and background information on OGAA can be found at [www.ogc.gov.bc.ca/OGAA/](http://www.ogc.gov.bc.ca/OGAA/)  
For any questions pertaining to the status of this document, please contact the Commission representative listed below.

In December of 2006, the Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) released the “Oil and Gas Commission Planning and Construction Guide”. The guide defined specifications for wellbores on multi-well pads containing close well spacing.

Due to the increasing number of applications for wellbores on multi-well pads containing close well spacing (defined as 25 metres or less), the Commission is streamlining the application process and recommending specific operational requirements.

**Requirement:**

The following requirements will now guide applications submissions and regulatory processes while the new Oil and Gas Commission Planning and Construction Guide is being updated.

1. If the well-to-well spacing is less than 25 metres and the applicant has a Multi-well Pad Concurrent Operations Plan in place, then Commission requirements will have been satisfied and the application can then be deemed ‘routine’.
2. The Multi-Well Pad Concurrent Operations Plan must be available upon request of the Commission.
3. If a Multi-well Pad Concurrent Operations Plan is not in place, the application will be deemed “non-routine” and rationale regarding the proposed safe operating procedures for the life of the well must be indicated.

The Commission further notes that the Multi-well Pad Concurrent Operations Plan is an overview that must be applied to each site in accordance with specific characteristics. It is important to have specific processes mapped addressing operational safety, fire risks and emergency coordination and may consist of, but is not limited to:

- Specify the minimum wellhead separation distance being used;
- Address regulatory requirements related to operational spacing, fire control requirements and risk assessments;

.../2

- Procedures: safe well drilling and service operating, including emergency procedures;
- Drilling or workover operations: consideration of adjacent wellbores for such things as injection pressures, collision avoidance;
- Communication and coordination with other operators if well(s) owned by different companies;
- Chain of command and responsibilities for the site addressed in specific processes; and,
- Physical and fire safety protection of in-place wellheads, facilities, etc. when working on adjacent well(s).

**If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact:**

**Don Buckland, P. Eng**  
Sr. Drilling Engineer  
Drilling and Production Department  
Engineering Division  
Oil and Gas Commission  
Phone: (250) 261-5761  
Fax: (250) 261-2050  
[Don.Buckland@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Don.Buckland@gov.bc.ca)

***Original signed by:***

Alex Ferguson  
Commissioner  
BC Oil and Gas Commission