



September 24, 2009

INFORMATION LETTER # OGC 09-26

Subject: Consultation on Proposed Assessment Protocols for Integrity Management Program Evaluation

To: Industry Clients

Effective Date: Immediate

Background:

All permit holders operating pipeline systems within the Province of British Columbia are required to have Integrity Management Programs (IMPs) designed to ensure the continued safe and environmentally responsible operation of their pipelines and facilities. This requirement was first introduced in the 1999 edition of CSA Z662 – Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems (CSA Z662).

In 2006, the Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) adopted the requirements of Annex N of CSA Z662 making it a mandatory part of the standard.

The Commission is implementing a program for the assessment of IMPs. This program will rely on mandatory self-assessment by all permit holders followed by risk based confirmatory assessments or audits performed by the Commission or its agents.

The Commission is seeking comment on the draft of the self assessment template entitled *Assessment Protocols for the Evaluation of Integrity Management Programs for Pipeline Systems* (Protocols). The draft Protocols are available from our website at www.ogc.gov.bc.ca.

The Commission intends that once the Protocols are finalized, all permit holders operating pipeline systems under the jurisdiction of the Commission will be required to complete and submit the self assessment portions. These will be reviewed by the Commission and included in our compliance activity planning for scheduling of inspections, meetings and audits.

The Commission invites comments on the draft Protocols and this Notice. Written comments will be accepted from the date of posting of this Notice until December 15, 2009.

Comments must be submitted in written format to:

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Original signed by:

Alex Ferguson

Commissioner

BC Oil and Gas Commission