



Pipeline Companies to Join BC One Call

The Oil and Gas Commission requires Membership in BC One Call

All pipeline companies regulated by the BC Oil and Gas Commission will have to become members of BC One Call when the new Oil and Gas Activities Act comes into force this fall. Section 7 of the new Pipeline Regulation requires companies to have "damage prevention programs" and to be members of BC One Call.

Pipeline companies are being given one year to comply with this requirement but the Commission expects that most companies will seek membership well before the deadline.

"BC One Call is a key element in our safety strategy at the Commission," said Commissioner Alex Ferguson. "It makes it easy for anyone planning a ground disturbance to find out where pipes, cables or other facilities are buried and plays a significant role in Damage Prevention."

Mandatory membership in BC One Call is expected to increase awareness of buried pipelines and reduce the frequency of accidental pipeline strikes. These new requirements in British Columbia mirror requirements being proposed by the National Energy Board for pipelines across Canada.

Commission Mandates Pipeline Damage Prevention Programs

Damage Prevention Programs for pipelines will be mandatory in British Columbia with the implementation of B.C.'s new Pipeline Regulation under the Oil and Gas Activities Act. These programs will ensure that anyone working or living near pipelines regulated by the Commission in B.C. understands the necessary steps when undertaking any activities that could potentially damage a pipeline.

The Commission is taking a unique approach to the development of guidance and standards for Damage Prevention Programs. Ken Paulson, the Commission's Chief Engineer explains:

"In June 2010, we entered into a contract with the BC Common Ground Alliance to develop the framework for damage prevention programs that will accommodate pipelines and possibly all underground infrastructure. "It is our hope that the work done here in B.C. may eventually frame a national standard on Damage Prevention."

If you would like to become a member or get involved in this process you are encouraged to contact the BC Common Ground Alliance office at 604-568-2700 or 1-800-995-8823 or visit their website at www.commongroundbc.ca.



Web site www.bconecall.bc.ca

Telephone # 1-800-474-6886

Fax # 604-451-0344



WE'RE OPEN

24 hours a day!

7 days a week!

365 days a year!

Toll Free

1-800-474-6886

Cellular

***6886**

Vancouver Area

604-257-1940

www.bconecall.bc.ca



Safety Advisory 2010

Safety Advisory 2010-01 was issued February 2, 2010 and contained the following advice:

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission reminds all pipeline operators they are responsible for identifying the location of buried facilities when the possibility of damage or disturbance exists.

As per subsection 12(1) of the British Columbia Pipeline Regulation, all pipelines under the authority of the Commission must be operated and maintained in accordance with CSA Z662 - Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems (Z662).

Did You Know...?

Companies operating pipelines with pressures greater than 700kPa are required by the Commission to locate their pipelines upon request, free of charge.

Pipeline companies regulated by the Commission will come out to the location of a proposed ground disturbance and meet with the person undertaking the activity to ensure they understand the procedures that must be followed when working near their pipeline. This may include the placement of surface markings indicating the approximate location of the pipeline or other activities such as observing the hand exposure of the pipeline conducted by the person undertaking the activity.

The required actions for pipeline companies to take when ground disturbances are carried out in the vicinity of their facilities are found in clause 10.3.11 of Z662. Companies are required to provide visual markings of the location of their pipelines at construction sites whenever they are requested to or when they become aware of construction activity near their pipeline.

Additional requirements exist regarding communications and markings within Z662 and companies are advised to ensure their procedures are compliant.

Did You Know...?

The Safety Standards Act (SSA) provides companies operating distribution mains with 3 options in response to requests for underground pipe locations:

- (i) providing a plan or listing of facility locations by measurement from an ascertainable point on the surface;
- (ii) surface staking;
- (iii) surface marking.

If the excavator can not find the underground pipe by hand digging or it is not located as described by the utility upon notification by the excavator, the SSA requires the gas company to "immediately assist in locating and exposing the installation for the excavator".

Lee Shanks
Communications Manager
Corporate Affairs Division
BC Oil and Gas Commission
250-261-5773
Lee.Shanks@gov.bc.ca

For oil and gas incidents and emergencies,
please contact the Commission at:
1-800-663-3456 (24 hours)
www.ogc.gov.bc.ca



Toll Free
1-800-474-6886

Cellular
*6886

Vancouver Area
604-257-1940

www.bconecall.bc.ca



WE'RE OPEN
24 hours a day!
7 days a week!
365 days a year!