

Notice of invitation to comment on proposed field assessments conducted under Heritage Inspection Permits

Where Section 14 Heritage Inspection Permit applications do not identify all specific areas where field work will take place (*e.g.*, “blanket permits”), the permittee is required to provide a notice of intent prior to conducting field work, including preliminary field reconnaissances (PFRs). This notice is sent to parties with a legal interest (usually First Nations identified in the application whose area of interest overlaps with the proposed study area) and the Archaeology Branch.

To provide parties with sufficient opportunity to comment on specific study locations, permit holders must give interested parties a comment review period of at least 30 calendar days from the date of notification prior to commencing fieldwork. Where First Nations have responded with concerns regarding aboriginal interests, the study may not proceed until the Archaeology Branch has conducted an investigation.

The notice must minimally contain:

- Development description
- Archaeological study type
- Proposed fieldwork start date
- Sufficient information to easily identify the proposed inspection area
- The following statement –

Should you have information, comments or concerns about the proposed archaeological fieldwork described above, please contact our office (***contact information***) on or before (***date***). If you have concerns about an impacts on Aboriginal Interests (asserted or established aboriginal or treaty rights) resulting from this activity, and your preference is to discuss this with the Province, please contact (***Project Officer contact information***) at the Archaeology Branch, citing (***Permit Number***)

- A general location map (1:20,000 TRIM or 1:50,000 NTS base mapping) showing the proposed study area, nearby landmarks and/or archaeological sites
- A midrange map (1:15,000 to 1:5,000 mapping scale) showing the exact location of the proposed study area where available
- Study area shapefiles
- Any other information that may be required as a condition of permit (e.g., study area shape files specially formatted for submission to the Tsilhqot'in National Government Portal)

This notification process comes into effect on the date of this bulletin, except as outlined below.

Exceptions

For the following circumstances, the notice of work does not need to address potential impacts on Aboriginal Interests and can be for periods shorter than 30 days:

1. Where First Nations have indicated that they have no concerns regarding the impact of archaeological field work on Aboriginal Interests through an industry or independent consultation process. Discussion of the consultation process must be included in the permit application and verification of the First Nation response must accompany the notification to the Archaeology Branch.
2. Oil and Gas Sector - The consultation process for OGC-regulated projects in NEBC meets the requirement for First Nation consultation regarding archaeological studies. A notice of work does not need to address potential aboriginal rights' infringement and can be for periods shorter than 30 days.
3. Other exceptions to a 30-day notification period may be addressed either during the permit application process or during the term of the permit, both with the agreement of the Archaeology Branch.