

# Oil and Gas Management Fact Sheet

This fact sheet describes the services and responsibilities of the Oil and Gas Management Branch of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources (EMR).



## Contact Information

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## Services and Responsibilities

The Oil and Gas Management Branch manages the development of the petroleum industry in Yukon. The branch is responsible for managing Yukon's oil and gas resources and regulating oil and gas activity. In carrying out its responsibilities, the branch is engaged in the following activities:

- developing and implementing the common oil and gas regime, including the legislation, regulation, policies and processes;
- issuing and managing oil and gas rights;
- administering royalty revenues, and disbursing Crown royalties to First Nations;
- issuing licenses and regulating activity;
- supporting benefit agreement negotiations;
- performing resource assessments and disseminating geological and resource related information;
- promoting industry interest and investment in Yukon oil and gas; and
- supporting and coordinating capacity building, education programs, and oil and gas training.

## Legislation

The following legislation applies to oil and gas activity in the Yukon:

- *Yukon Oil and Gas Act*;
- *Yukon Oil and Gas Disposition Regulations*; and
- *Yukon Oil and Gas Transfer Regulations*.

The following regulations are being developed:

- *Yukon Oil and Gas License Administration Regulations*;
- *Yukon Oil and Gas Geoscience Exploration Regulations*;
- *Yukon Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations*; and
- *Yukon Oil and Gas Royalty Regulations*.

# Q&As - Oil and Gas Management Branch

## ***Where can I find oil and gas management information?***

The Oil and Gas Management office is located at 211 Main Street, Suite 300 in the Shopper's Plaza Building.

## ***How is natural gas formed?***

Oil and gas is formed from the remains of tiny marine animals and plants that lived 50 million years ago. Over long periods of time and under immense pressure and temperature, these once living tissues turned into crude oil and natural gas.



YG Photograph

## ***What type of formation do you look for to find reserves?***

Sedimentary rock, such as sandstone and limestone, can contain oil and/or gas if the right conditions are met. These conditions include the presence of:

- an organic source rock which generates the oil and/or gas;
- reservoir rock with interconnected pore spaces which hold the petroleum; and
- a “trap” or non-porous cap rock which prevents the oil and/or gas from escaping to another formation (or to the surface).

The Yukon has eight oil and gas basins.

## ***How deep are wells usually drilled in the Yukon?***

Significant hydrocarbon discoveries have been made at depths ranging from 600 to 5000 metres.

## ***Who owns the oil and gas in the Yukon?***

The Government of Yukon (Commissioner) owns subsurface oil and gas in the Yukon. The only major exception is category “A” land for which First Nations have

## ***How do oil and gas companies get licensed in the Yukon?***

Under the *Yukon Oil and Gas Act* (YOGA), all activity related to oil and gas exploration or development must be licensed. This allows the government to review the proposed operations to ensure that they will occur in a safe manner. In addition, an environmental screening is required for each project licensed under YOGA. Depending on the scope of the project, the screening may involve public consultation.



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## ***Where can I get information about Yukon geology as it relates to oil and gas?***

Maps, resource assessments and other publications about oil and gas in the Yukon are available through the Oil and Gas Management Branch and its Web site, [yukonoilandgas.com](http://yukonoilandgas.com).

Bedrock geology can be viewed through the interactive Web page of the Yukon Geological Survey Interactive Map Gallery at <http://www.mapsyukon.gov.yk.ca/geoscience/bedrockgeology/viewer.htm>.