

Draft Regulations

Draft Regulation

Mining Act
(chapter M-13.1)

Petroleum, natural gas and underground reservoirs — Amendment

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with sections 10 and 11 of the Regulations Act (chapter R-18.1), that the Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting petroleum, natural gas and underground reservoirs, appearing below, may be made by the Government on the expiry of 45 days following this publication.

The draft Regulation amends the Regulation respecting petroleum, natural gas and underground reservoirs (chapter M-13.1, r. 1) in order to prescribe new terms and conditions for testing the extraction of petroleum or natural gas carried out under a licence to explore for petroleum, natural gas and underground reservoirs.

The draft Regulation will have an impact on enterprises holding a licence to explore for petroleum, natural gas and underground reservoirs because they will need to provide the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources with more information regarding their test period. Those additional requirements do not, however, constitute a significant burden. It has no impact on the public and other enterprises.

Further information on the draft Regulation may be obtained by contacting Roger Ménard, Direction générale des hydrocarbures et des biocombustibles, Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles, 5700, 4^e Avenue Ouest, bureau A-422, Québec (Québec) G1H 6R1; telephone: 418 627-6385, extension 8319; toll free: 1 800 363-7233, extension 8319; fax: 418 644-1445; email: roger.menard@mern.gouv.qc.ca.

Any person wishing to comment on the draft Regulation is requested to submit written comments within the 45-day period to Luce Asselin, Associate Deputy Minister for Energy, Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles, 5700, 4^e Avenue Ouest, bureau A-407, Québec (Québec) G1H 6R1.

PIERRE ARCAND,
*Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
and Minister responsible for the Northern Plan*

Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting petroleum, natural gas and underground reservoirs

Mining Act
(chapter M-13.1, s. 306)

1. The Regulation respecting petroleum, natural gas and underground reservoirs (chapter M-13.1, r. 1) is amended in section 71

(1) by replacing the first paragraph and the part preceding subparagraph 1 of the second paragraph by the following:

“**71.** The test period referred to in section 174 of the Act must take place within a period not exceeding 240 consecutive days when extracting petroleum and natural gas and not exceeding 365 consecutive days when extracting from gas shale.

The exploration licensee submits to the Minister for approval, at least 30 days before the projected date for the work, a detailed program of the projected tests during that period.

The program must be certified by an engineer who can prove training or experience in drilling. It indicates”;

(2) by replacing “and duration” in subparagraph 4 of the second paragraph by “, duration and project schedule”;

(3) by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“The Minister approves the program with or without amendment.”.

2. The following sections are inserted after section 71:

“**71.1.** The exploration licensee who is carrying out tests pursuant to section 71 sends the Minister a weekly report of the work carried out. The report includes, with the necessary modifications, the information required under section 73.

71.2. The exploration licensee must abide by the test program required under section 71.

The exploration licensee may modify the test program by transmitting to the Minister beforehand, a supplementary agreement certified by the drilling engineer responsible for the carrying out of operations, stating the nature of the modification as well as the reasons therefor.

Any modification to the test program must be approved by the Minister.

71.3. When the Minister notes that the program referred to in section 71 is not complied with, the Minister may put an end to the test period.”.

3. Section 73 is amended by inserting the following after paragraph 3:

“(3.1) methods used to dispose of extracted substances;”.

4. Section 123 is amended by replacing “62” by “71, 71.1, 71.2,”.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL

5. The exploration licensee who carried out a test period before (*insert the date of coming into force of this Regulation*) may avail himself or herself of the provisions of section 71 of the Regulation as it reads on (*insert the date of coming into force of this Regulation*). Such test period must take place within a period not exceeding 180 consecutive days when extracting petroleum and natural gas excluding extraction from gas shale.

6. This Regulation comes into force on the fifteenth day following the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.