Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, doing business as Port Metro Vancouver, has prepared this guide to assist tenants, terminal operators, consulting firms and the public with the review of proposed development, dredging, construction and demolition projects in the Port’s jurisdiction. This includes the Burrard Inlet, Fraser River, Pitt River and Roberts Bank.*

Applicants are responsible for consulting with Port Metro Vancouver to determine the appropriate application procedures and requirements. Port staff is available to answer your questions and to help you throughout the review process.

This guide is provided for general information purposes only, is subject to approved Port Metro Vancouver policies and may be changed or updated without notice.**

This document is available for download from our website at http://www.portmetrovancouver.com/.

**Guide Document Sections:**

1. Why do you need Port approval?
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**Notices**

* Until the end of December 2014, Port Metro Vancouver holds a Head Lease with the Province of British Columbia that conveys authority over the use of waters and foreshore lands associated with the provincial bed of the Fraser River. After 2014, the Province will resume responsibility for managing these areas of the River.

* A review of the Project Review Process is underway and may result in updates to the process.
1. **Why do you need Port approval?**

The Port’s jurisdiction is a mix of navigational authority throughout this area and jurisdiction over real property in Burrard Inlet, Indian Arm, lands and waters east of the provincial bed of the Fraser River, and various federal holdings in the North, South and Middle Arms of the Fraser River.

Under the *Canada Marine Act*, Port Metro Vancouver is responsible for the administration, management and control of land and water within its jurisdiction. In exercising its mandate, Port Metro Vancouver strives to ensure that new developments meet applicable standards and minimize environmental and community impacts. New developments should also support Port Metro Vancouver’s land use objectives as described in the Port Metro Vancouver Land Use Plan.

To effectively manage these responsibilities, Port Metro Vancouver administers a Project and Environmental Review Process. Port approval applies to land use, construction, and demolition on land, water and air space administered by Port Metro Vancouver, including all property leased or licensed to other parties.

**Port Metro Vancouver Management Jurisdiction**
2. Projects Requiring Approval

All proposals involving physical works and activities that could result in adverse environmental effects, on Port Metro Vancouver property require approval through the Port’s Environmental Assessment Procedure (EAP). In addition, certain physical works and land use changes will require Project Permit Review.

For most works proposed, Port Metro Vancouver issues a Project Permit to applicants. Proposals that require this Permit include:

- changes of use on land or water
- new buildings or structures on land or water
- temporary buildings or structures on land or water
- additions to and modifications to existing structures
- demolitions
- land reclamation projects
- capital dredging (deepening of a channel or waterlot) or maintenance dredging
- new utility corridors
- recreational docks
- new float homes or home relocations

Projects should be discussed with Port Metro Vancouver staff in advance of submitting a permit application in order to determine if an exemption may apply, though please note that all proposed works must be reviewed through Port Metro Vancouver’s EAP, even if no Project Permit is required.

The Planning and Development Department administers all proposals requiring Building or Project Permits. For proposals not requiring Project Permits, applicants may contact Environmental Programs directly to initiate an EAP. Please see Section 4 for more information on the EAP process.

3. Port Metro Vancouver Project Permits

Applicants must contact the Planning and Development Department to discuss their proposal and application requirements prior to submitting an application. If necessary, a pre-application meeting will identify requirements specific to the proposal, and any issues that may be expected to arise in the review process.

Following pre-application contact, applicants must submit a completed application form to the Planning and Development Department, supported by additional information as necessary to adequately describe the proposed works and assess any impacts. The application form and a detailed description of application requirements are provided in Sections 9 and 10 of this document. An application fee and documentation deposit must also be submitted.

Project applicants are not required to submit a separate application for the EAP. Small projects not requiring a Project Permit will be referred directly to Environmental Programs for the EAP. Any structures constructed or installed within Port jurisdiction without a Permit may be subject to removal or cancellation of tenure.

Recreational Docks

Port Metro Vancouver is currently not accepting any recreational dock applications within our jurisdiction, including both single and shared docks. Any recreational dock applications currently under review are being processed. New recreational dock guidelines are being developed which will consider environmental impacts, marine navigation, safety, public access and existing best practices. The current moratorium on docks ensures that we can develop the guidelines and review future applications in a consistent manner. For more information please visit our website.
Float Homes

The Port is limited in its ability to approve new floating homes in Port Metro Vancouver jurisdictional waters. The size and scope of float home communities has been effectively capped based on the number in existence in 1999 for both arms of the Fraser River, and float homes are not permitted in Port controlled portions of Burrard Inlet, Indian Arm and Port Moody Arm.

A Project Permit application is required for new homes and relocations of existing homes, as is periodic re-submission of a valid marine survey and proof of insurance in order to ensure ongoing tenure. New float home applications as well as tenure renewals are currently reviewed on a case specific basis to ensure compliance with our federal mandate, as well as the other concerns and requirements associated with in-water residential use. This review may include referral to upland municipalities with which the Port may have a float home management agreement. For more information, contact the Planning and Development Department. Float homes must meet requirements as determined by Planning and Development.

Float homes brought to or relocated within Port jurisdiction without a Permit may be subject to removal or cancellation of tenure.

Property Agreements

No works may commence without adequate tenancy agreements in place. Existing tenants should review their respective property agreements to ensure their proposed works or uses are permitted. Required changes to lease arrangements resulting from proposed works must be discussed with the Real Estate Department in advance of submitting an application.

Prospective tenants that do not have a lease, license or other agreement to use Port Metro Vancouver property or water must obtain a documented interest in the property (e.g. a signed offer to lease) prior to a Project Permit being issued. Prospective tenants should contact the Real Estate Department to begin this process.

Navigation

Applications for projects or activities with a water component are reviewed by Port Metro Vancouver’s Operations and Harbour Master’s Office. The intent of their review is to ensure the proposed works do not negatively impact vessel movements or access to nearby properties during or after construction.

Transport Canada is also responsible for ensuring the protection of navigable waters. They issue their own permits for works occurring on, near or over water.

Site Servicing

Generally, major utilities serving Port Metro Vancouver property are provided by local municipalities, the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District, BC Hydro, Terasen, and Telus. Applicants are responsible for proper connections to these services and obtaining all necessary approvals as part of their developments. Note that discharges to land, air and water in Port jurisdiction are generally not permitted unless practical alternatives do not exist, and then only if it can be demonstrated that they would not result in adverse environmental effects.

Applicants are required to obtain all necessary site-servicing information prior to finalizing servicing plans. Servicing plans should take into account the location of existing on-site services in order to avoid any possible damage to these installations for which they would be responsible. Contact the Engineering Department and other utility providers for information on existing service locations and capacities. More detailed information will sometimes be required from the adjacent jurisdiction.
4. Environmental Review

Port Metro Vancouver has a long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship. This commitment is reflected in proactive responses to environmental regulation as well as cooperation with other regulatory agencies. The Port strives to ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to prevent adverse environmental effects resulting from activities on Port lands, including impacts to air and water.

Port Metro Vancouver is a federal authority with environmental decision-making responsibilities under section 67 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012). Projects that are “designated projects” as described in the *Regulations Designating Physical Activities* under CEAA 2012 may require an application to and federal environmental assessment by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. For those projects that do not qualify for a formal environmental assessment as a designated project under CEAA 2012, Port Metro Vancouver has the responsibility of determining whether a project is environmentally sound.

Most projects within PMV jurisdiction are not designated projects under CEAA 2012 and therefore are subject to review by Port Metro Vancouver. Prior to carrying out any project, exercising a power or performing a function or duty in relation to any proposed project, PMV must assure itself that the carrying out of the project on federal lands is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

To fulfill its decision-making responsibilities under section 67 of CEAA 2012, Port Metro Vancouver applies its long established in-house Environmental Assessment Procedure (EAP) to review project proposals. All projects involving physical works and any activities that could result in adverse environmental effects on Port property require an EAP review. Where projects also require a Project Permit, the Planning Review and EAP run concurrently, and conditions of approval for both will be provided in the Project Permit.

In general, the applicant should provide a description of all significant project components and activities, including those associated with both construction and operation, and in particular those that may adversely affect land, air or water, and those that may be a nuisance to surrounding communities, such as noise and lighting. The applicant should also describe methods that will be used to avoid or reduce adverse environmental effects. Applicants are encouraged to contact PMV’s Environmental Programs Department in advance of submitting an application to ensure that all required information is included with the application.

Adverse environmental effects could include destruction of fish or wildlife habitat. They could also include spills or leaks of contaminants into soil, sediment, groundwater and/or surface water. Projects with the potential to contaminate Port lands as well as projects that involve new or expanded leaseholds may require an environmental site assessment. For further information on site assessments, refer to the *Environmental Baselines and Exit Assessments for Tenants of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority*.

Adverse environmental effects in air could result from emissions of all kinds including dust, diesel exhaust, process waste emissions (e.g., from stacks), and vapors from storage tanks. Projects with the potential to affect air quality may be required to provide an air emissions inventory that quantifies existing and anticipated emissions to air. Tenants may also be required to demonstrate commitment to continuous improvement in terms of reducing air emissions resulting from activities at their site.

Where ever appropriate, projects will be referred to other agencies such as Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, Health Canada, Transport Canada, the B.C. Ministry of Environment, the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and/or Metro Vancouver for

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1 “Lands” in this context includes uplands and soils, intertidal lands and sediments, submerged lands and sediments, and surface and ground waters.
regulator or expert comment. These agencies may make recommendations to Port Metro Vancouver regarding conditions of approval. Following completion of the EAP review, an environmental review decision is made.

Conditions for project mitigation (often included in a Schedule of Environmental Conditions) and recommendations are forwarded to the Planning and Development Department for inclusion in the Project Permit. Where a Project Permit is not required, Environmental Programs will communicate the outcome of the EAP review and decision directly to the applicant. In both cases, the applicant is responsible for satisfying any conditions and/or required actions. There is no fee for the EAP review.

5. Port Metro Vancouver Building Permits

Port Metro Vancouver issues its own Building Permits on Port owned lands using accredited Building Code professionals contracted for plan review. The Port requires that design drawings be reviewed to ensure buildings and structures meet the 2010 National Building Code of Canada and the National or BC Fire Code. Contracted Building Code professionals advise Port staff on the issuance of Building Permits, inspections and building suitability for occupancy.

Port Metro Vancouver Building Permits are required for:
- new building construction
- changes of building use
- additions and renovations
- structural modifications
- interior renovations
- temporary buildings/structures on Port property

Exceptions include works not regulated by the Building Code, and certain in-water works such as:
- floating docks or piers
- float homes being relocated to or within Port waters
- mooring dolphins, pilings
- private recreational moorage facilities

The Building Permit review process normally follows the issuance of a Project Permit. The Building Permit process can be initiated early (prior to approval and issuance of the Project Permit), or phased to meet construction schedules, at the risk of the applicant.

Floating docks and piers are regulated under the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, including sections 303 and 307. Applicants proposing marinas or structures over water must be prepared to confirm the conformance of their works with these standards. For more information please contact Planning and Development.

Applicants should submit two copies of all sealed drawings and technical specifications (in metric) to Port Metro Vancouver’s Code Consultant. One set no larger than 11” x 17” in size, as well as electronic copies of all drawings must also be provided to the Planning and Development Department.

Port-specific Letters of Assurance relating to the National Building Code must be completed and submitted where applicable. These can be downloaded from Port Metro Vancouver’s website. Site services are generally provided to Port properties by the neighbouring municipality or jurisdiction. Ensuring the location, capacity, and potential for connection to these services is the applicant’s responsibility, and should be explored prior to finalizing plans for development (and before application for a Project Permit is made). For further information on site servicing, see Section 3.

For more information on the Building Permit review process, including the PMV Code Consultant process, please see our website.
**Electrical, Gas, and Elevator Permits**

Applicants are responsible for obtaining all necessary trade permits for gas, electricity and elevator installations directly from the authority having jurisdiction, typically the British Columbia Safety Authority. Projects requiring these specialized permits generally rely on the qualified contractor to secure the relevant permit from the authority having jurisdiction.

Port Metro Vancouver is not involved in the review of the technical documentation, but may request a copy of the issued Permit as part of the record drawing package submitted at the completion of construction. Elevators are regulated under the BC Elevator Code.

**6. Dredging**

Dredging projects must meet the regulations of the *Canada Marine Act, Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, Canadian Environmental Protection Act* and *Federal Fisheries Act*. Capital dredging projects require both a Project Permit and an environmental review. Maintenance dredging projects need to undergo an environmental review but do not need to obtain a Project Permit. A specific Permit Application form is required for dredging projects, and is available on our [website](#).

The following must accompany a completed application for dredging:

- Application Fee – based on the Project Permit fee schedule (there is no fee for review of Maintenance Dredging applications)
- Letter of Riparian Consent – a Letter of Riparian Consent from the upland owner for proposals within a water lot or located adjacent to the shoreline
- Sketch/Drawing – diagram of the proposed dredge area (a sketch template is provided in the application form on page 25 of this document)
- Sediment Analysis – a sediment analysis is required to allow appropriate environmental assessment of the dredgate

The review period for dredging applications will vary depending on the potential environmental and navigation impacts. For routine or maintenance dredging projects where no Project Permit is required and where anticipated impacts are minimal, applications are generally assessed within 4 to 6 weeks. If the proposed project has the potential for a greater environmental impact or larger implications for land use or navigation, a longer processing time may apply. The application may be forwarded to Transport Canada Navigable Waters Protection Division, the Council of Marine Carriers, Pilots, or other water users if the proposed project has the potential to impact navigation.

The dredging application form is designed to provide basic information required by most of the agencies that may be asked to review the proposal. Certain reviewing agencies may require additional/specific information. If so, the applicant will be notified.

**7. Other Approvals – Other Agencies**

Applicants are reminded that other regulatory approvals may be required for projects undertaken within Port Metro Vancouver jurisdiction. Port staff can assist applicants in identifying external approval processes on a case-specific basis. However, applicants are responsible for determining what other approvals are necessary and obtaining these approvals from the appropriate agencies.
8. Application Processing

The Planning and Development Department will assign a planner to each Project Permit application to coordinate the review. Based on their evaluation, the application will be directed to one of two process streams: Planning Review or Planning Review with Consultation.

In determining the appropriate review process, the following factors will be considered:
- any proposed change of a site’s land use
- consistency with land use designation in the Port Land Use Plan
- potential for off-site impacts that may affect neighbouring residents and/or industrial or commercial users
- First Nations, the public or stakeholders who have previously expressed an interest regarding the site or projects of the same type
- whether the project requires cooperation from external parties

In addition, all applications are forwarded to Environmental Programs for the EAP, which is a separate process that runs concurrently with the Planning Review. This may include referral to external agencies.

Planning Review

In general, projects that do not involve any of the factors listed above will be reviewed by internal Port departments only – a Planning Review.

Where one or more of these factors do apply, projects may still be reviewed only by Port staff depending on the anticipated level of external interest. Some proposals may simply warrant a courtesy notification to stakeholders such as adjacent tenants, neighbouring residents and businesses, or the local municipality.

Planning Review with Consultation

Port Metro Vancouver is committed to providing First Nations, local communities and other interested parties an opportunity to provide input into the review of proposals that may impact them. In general, projects that meet one or more of the factors listed below and are anticipated to generate significant stakeholder interest will require a consultation component.

Projects involving Planning Review with Consultation may include:
- large site redevelopment or expansion
- major new buildings or structures on land or in-water
- reclamation works
- major demolition works
- high-profile projects

Types of Consultation

The form of consultation will vary depending on the nature of the project, its potential impacts and known external interests. The Planning and Development Department will work closely with the applicant to establish the consultation program.

Consultation may also involve a separate and distinct process with First Nations that have specific interests within the project area. There may be an additional review cost for the First Nation review of the proposal.
The Project Review Committee

Following the project review process, the Planning and Development Department prepares a project report. This report includes a summary of application details, comments received during the consultation process and the outcomes of the EAP, and recommends whether or not the project warrants approval. It may also recommend conditions that could be included in the permit if approved. The report is forwarded to the Project Review Committee or its delegate for consideration.

The Project Review Committee is a standing committee comprised of representatives from several Port departments. The Committee may choose to approve or decline the application or request additional information about the application prior to making a decision.

If the project is approved, a Project Permit is issued to the applicant. If a project is not approved, the applicant is advised of the rationale of the decision.

How long does the Project Review Process take?

The review period depends on a number of factors such as:

- completeness of the application submitted
- complexity of the proposal
- magnitude of potential off-site impacts
- level of public and/or First Nations consultation
- level of involvement required by external parties

Generally, applications that follow the Planning Review process stream and do not require consultation with external parties or a Building Permit are processed in 8-12 weeks.

Applications that require consultation with external parties normally take much longer to process. Depending on the complexity of the project or the land use implications, Permit issuance may take 4 to 6 months. Port Metro Vancouver staff can advise on the anticipated duration of the review process during the pre-application meeting.

Should an application be inactive for a period of 6 months from the date of most recent submission due to a lack of response from the applicant, it may be closed at the discretion of Port Metro Vancouver. Re-activation of a closed file will require payment of the Project Permit Review Fee in effect at the time of re-activation.

When can construction begin?

Construction can begin once all relevant conditions of approval of the Project Permit are satisfied, property agreements are in place and the applicant has received all other necessary approvals from external agencies. Projects involving works that are regulated under the National Building Code of Canada are required to obtain a Building Permit prior to undertaking construction (see Section 5).

Applicants should note that Fisheries and Oceans Canada requirements might restrict in-water works during fisheries-sensitive periods. If so, these constraints would be included in any Permit conditions.

Permit Extensions

Project Permits are valid for a fixed period, and validity may be extended by written request 30 days prior to the expiry date by submission of a request for extension and payment of the base Project Permit fee in effect at the time of the request. Note that some circumstances, such as encroachment on fisheries-sensitive periods or conflicts with other projects or Port activities, may make it difficult if not impossible to approve such requests. Regardless, substantial construction must commence within the period specified in the Permit.
9. **Review Fees**

All projects requiring a Project Permit including Extensions and Amendments are subject to a non-refundable application fee to accompany the application. Project applicants will be advised of the applicable fee at the pre-application meeting, or applicants can contact the Planning and Development Department to confirm the appropriate fee.

### Project Permit Fees

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<th>Type of Review</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>GST</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$525.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the basic consultation fee above, applicants are responsible for all costs related to additional public consultation activities such as flyers, advertisements, public open house expenses, and First Nation review fees.

Application fees will be accepted from Port tenants, leaseholders or consultants working on their behalf.

The Project Permit fee also covers the EAP review where applicable. If no Project Permit is required, there is no fee for the EAP review.

### Documentation Deposits and Record Drawings

For projects requiring a Project Permit, a documentation deposit is required. This deposit is based on the construction value of the project and is retained by Port Metro Vancouver until all required record drawings, such as as-builts, surveys, or letters of assurance have been received. The required deposit is calculated as 1% of the construction value (minimum $1,500/maximum $10,000).

As-built or record drawings are detail drawings of any structure, utilities or civil improvements (roads, retaining walls etc.) built on or made to a property. They may in some cases be slightly different from what was reviewed and shown on the Permit drawings – any changes must be shown on the as-built drawings. Port Metro Vancouver requires drawings in Autocad 2000 DWG or later, as well as in PDF format.

Accurate digital locations are particularly important for in-water structures, as they are added to the Navigable Waters database, and may appear on future navigational maps. In some cases, a survey may be acceptable in place of as-built drawings, as directed by the Planning and Development or Engineering Department.

A general site location or key plan must be included with record drawing submissions to identify the structures in relation to surrounding features. A drawing index list shall include the drawing name and drawing number of all submissions, if applicable. Once all information has been submitted to Port Metro Vancouver’s satisfaction, the deposit is refunded in full with interest.

Projects not requiring a Project Permit may in some cases be required to submit record drawings upon completion of the construction.
Building Permit Fees

Applicants are responsible for all costs related to Building Permits and related trade permits. Once sufficient Building Permit documentation has been submitted, a contracted Building Code Professional will prepare an estimate for the review costs, which are then invoiced to the applicant, plus an additional 10 percent administrative fee. Building Code review will begin once payment is received by Port Metro Vancouver. Any amount unused in the review is refunded to the applicant. In the event unforeseen review costs arise, Port Metro Vancouver will discuss appropriate options for cost recovery with the applicant.

Real Estate Documentation Fees

Administrative fees are applicable for a new lease, license or other agreement or for an amendment to an existing legal agreement. Please contact the Real Estate Department for a current tenure fee list. Fees may be paid by cheque made payable to Port Metro Vancouver.

10. Plans and Information Required

The following information is required for a complete application and to ensure a timely review:

✓ A complete and signed application form.

✓ Payment of the appropriate application fee and documentation deposit if applicable.

✓ A written detailed description of the proposal and rationale, such as project benefits, consistency with the Land Use Plan, alternatives considered, and mitigation proposed, if any.

✓ Dimensioned drawings in metric to describe the proposal including:
  • location plan, 1:5000 scale
  • site plan drawn to scale, illustrating the following:
    ▪ lease and property boundaries including legal high water mark where applicable as registered in the Land Titles Office
    ▪ drawings showing existing and proposed buildings and structures, including any marine structures, fill, retaining walls, etc.
    ▪ existing and proposed access points, roads, driveways, parking areas, paved surfaces, walkways
    ▪ existing and proposed site services, light standards, drainage, fencing, fire hydrants (this includes all services on floats and fingers)
    ▪ when adjacent to or on the water, the project in relation to the tidal Higher High Water line, including dimensioned elevations and water depth
    ▪ elevations, cross-sections, floor plans and roof plans where applicable

✓ Submissions should include one 11” x 17” size set, and an electronic copy.

✓ Renderings or photographs should be submitted where appropriate.

✓ Where the proposal involves potential off-site impacts (e.g. traffic, noise, views, glare, dust) the applicant may be required to provide assessments of the impacts and options for mitigative measures. These works are typically completed by outside consultants, at the applicant’s expense.
Where the proposal involves works adjacent to the high water line, or within a waterlot, detailed information on existing habitat, potential impacts, construction activities or methodologies and proposed mitigative measures. The applicant should contact the Environmental Programs Department to identify information that may be required for each specific project.

BC certified engineer stamped construction drawings showing proposed buildings and structures, such as piers, ramps, and floats. Float typical are acceptable for recreational floats only, or at the discretion of PMV.

BC certified engineer confirmation that the floats and structures on water are in conformance with National Fire Protection Association standards, and/or are acceptable to the local fire department. A fire plan may also be required at the discretion of PMV.

It is in the applicant's interest to provide sufficient information at the time of application as any requests for additional information will affect the review time. Attach additional pages to the application form as needed. Please indicate N/A if a particular question is not applicable to your development.

Additional formal documentation such as studies or professional reviews may be necessary. Any such requirements will be identified by Port Metro Vancouver staff during either the pre-application meeting or the Project Review process.

Failure to provide all of the relevant elements, or submission of incomplete information, will result in the application being returned to the applicant.

11. Contacts

**Project Permits and Building Permits**
Planning and Development ph: 604-665-9047  
external email: port_planning@portmetrovancouver.com

**Environmental Review**
Environmental Programs ph: 604-665-9082  
Email: environmentalprograms@portmetrovancouver.com

**Property Enquiries**
(lease, easements, licensing, etc.) Real Estate ph: 604-665-9196

*Note: Those with existing property agreements should contact their Property Administrator directly.*

**Navigation Matters and Dredging**
Harbour Master ph: 604-665-9086

**Site Servicing**
Engineering and Maintenance ph: 604-665-9132

Fax for all departments fax: 1-866-284-4271

**Mailing Addresses**
Port Metro Vancouver
100 The Pointe, 999 Canada Place
Vancouver, BC Canada V6C 3T4