



# Official Community Plan & Zoning Amendments

## What is an Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw?

An Official Community Plan (OCP) establishes the community vision for the plan area, and contains statements of goals, objectives, and policies to implement that vision. These policies are used to guide decisions on planning and land use management.

The Zoning Bylaw is the most important regulation used to manage the use and development of land and to implement the goals and objectives of the Official Community Plan. This bylaw applies to most privately owned land within the RDBN, and some Crown Lands. The Zoning Bylaw divides areas and properties into zones. Each zone includes regulations regarding the permitted uses on the land; the density of those uses; and the number, size, and siting of buildings and structures on the land.

Rezoning is the process to amend the zone applied to a specific property. A rezoning application is made to the RDBN by a property owner when they want to use the property or develop to a density which is not permitted in the zone for the property. The Regional District Board is the approving authority for all applications.

When a rezoning application is made, the RDBN looks to the policies in the OCP to help evaluate the application and determine if the proposed change should be supported. The application is also reviewed for its potential impact on the character of the immediate area.

An OCP amendment application will be required if a proposed rezoning is not adequately consistent with an area's OCP.

An application to amend an Official Community Plan or the Zoning Bylaw must follow a process that is outlined in the *Local Government Act*, the Regional District's Development Procedures Bylaw, and the Public Notice Bylaw. A bylaw amendment must receive three readings and adoption from the Regional District Board. For most applications a public hearing is required between first and third readings to allow the public an opportunity to provide their opinions on the application to the Board. Under section 461(3) of the *Local Government Act* a public hearing can not be held for certain residential rezonings

The time required to process an OCP amendment or rezoning bylaw may vary considerably depending on the scope of the proposed development, the agencies referred to as part of the review process, and the number of issues that need to be evaluated. Generally, the process can be expected to take a minimum of four months. If an OCP amendment or rezoning bylaw is not adopted within a period of 24 months after the date of first reading, the bylaw will expire. A new application will be required to proceed with the amendment that was the subject of the lapsed bylaw.

**RDBN Planning Department**

[planning@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:planning@rdbn.bc.ca)

[www.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca)

37 3rd Ave, PO Box 820  
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0

Call us at: 250-692-3195  
Toll free 1-800-320-3339

# The Application Process

**1. Speak with Planning Staff** - Staff can provide information on the application requirements and the review process. This will help ensure that a complete application is submitted and prevent unnecessary delays.

**2. Submit Application** - To start the OCP/Zoning Bylaw amendment process, a complete application with the required supporting documents and fees must be submitted to the RDBN.

**3. Referral Process** - Once an application has been received, the Planning Department may determine that input from First Nations, neighbouring municipalities, and government agencies is required. The application may also be reviewed by an Advisory Planning Commission (APC), which is made up of area residents. The APC evaluates the application and makes recommendations to the Regional District Board and staff regarding the application.

**4. Staff Report** - Staff review all the information related to an application, including comments received from other agencies and the APC and prepare a report for the Board. The staff report includes a summary of the proposed development, an analysis of the potential impacts, and a recommendation on the proposed bylaw amendment(s). The staff report also includes a draft bylaw(s) and a list of actions to be undertaken as part of the process.

**5. Public Notice for Residential Development Zoning Bylaws** (*only applicable for S.464(3) bylaws*) - If a zoning amendment bylaw is for residential development and meets the requirements of Section 464(3) of the *Local Government Act*, a public hearing is not permitted.

**6. 1st and 2nd Reading** - The staff report and amendment bylaw(s) are sent to the RDBN Board for consideration. If the Board gives the bylaw first and second reading the application will proceed to the next step. If the application is denied, the file is closed, a portion of the application fee is refunded, and the application does not proceed to a Public Hearing or consideration of third reading.

**7. Post a Sign** (*not applicable for S.464(3) bylaws*) - If a bylaw amendment receives first and second reading and requires a Public Hearing, the applicant must post a sign on the property at least 10 days before the Public Hearing. The purpose of the notification sign is to advise nearby residents about the application considered by the RDBN Board. The sign must conform to certain standards regarding size, location, and materials. The sign can be rented from the Planning Department or made to specifications by the applicant.

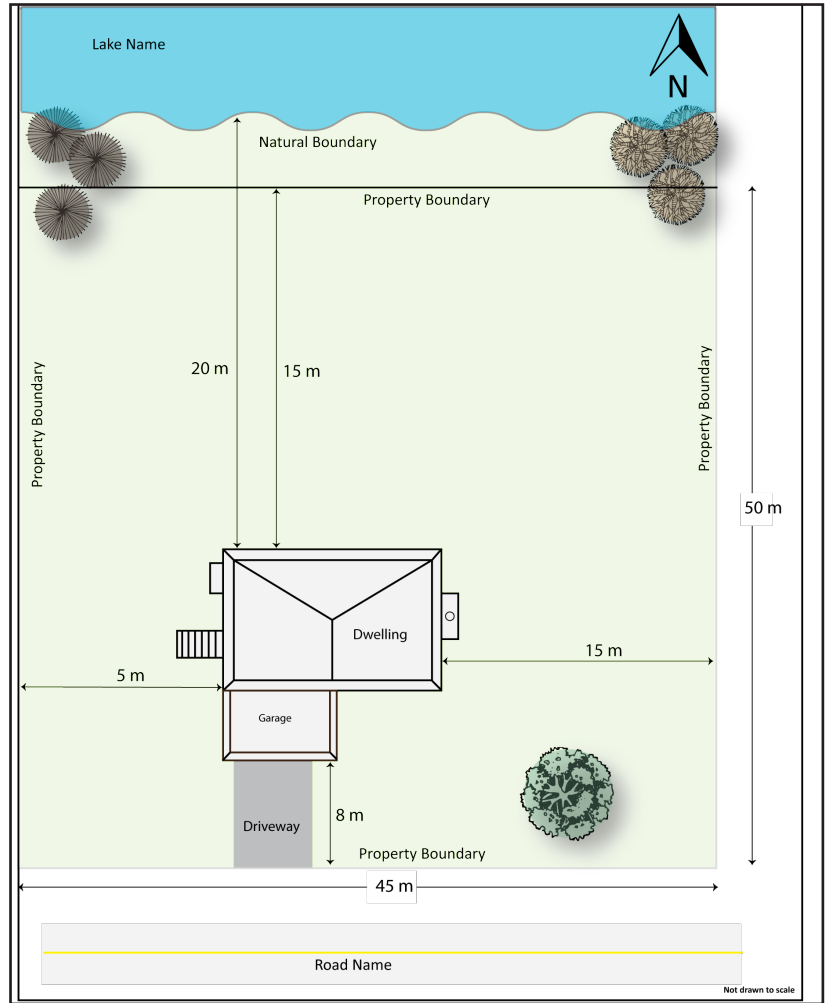
**8. Public Hearing** (*not applicable for S.464(3) bylaws*) - Before the bylaw(s) can proceed to third reading a Public Hearing is held. In addition to the sign on the property, a notice is placed in the applicable newspaper, the RDBN's official Facebook page, the notice screen in the RDBN lobby, and the RDBN's webpage. Additionally, a notice is mailed or delivered to nearby property owners/tenants to advertise the Public Hearing. Where a Public Hearing is not required, the same advertising takes place notifying the public of consideration of the application. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow those who feel their interests are affected by the bylaw(s) to comment on the application. A report of the Public Hearing, including written submissions, is prepared and submitted to the Regional District Board for consideration.

**9. 3rd Reading and Adoption** - The Board may give the amendment bylaw(s) third reading or deny the application. Substantial changes to the bylaw may require an amended second reading and if required another Public Hearing. If the bylaw(s) receives third reading, the applicant will be notified of any actions required to be taken prior to adoption of the bylaw. Once conditions of approval have been satisfied, the RDBN Board will consider adopting the bylaw(s).



# Application Checklist

- Copy of the Certificate of Title or Title Search, and relevant charges, dated within 30 days of the date of the application
- Letter of Authorization signed by all registered property owners if the agent is not the owner
- Application fee
- Completed and signed application form
- Site plan drawn to a scale showing the following as appropriate:
  - Boundaries and dimensions of the parcel
  - Size and location of all existing and proposed buildings, structures, and uses on the site including measurements from all proposed and existing structures to the nearest parcel line
  - Location and name of road(s) adjacent to the property
  - Existing and proposed parking and driveways
  - Topographic features, water bodies and waterways including measurements from all proposed and existing structures to the natural boundary, stream centre line or top of bank, whichever is applicable
  - Proposed subdivision layout, showing the number and approximate location of lots and/or consolidation of the parcel(s)
  - North arrow and scale



## Fee Schedule

Schedule A to Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Development Procedures Bylaw No. 1898, 2020

<b>Official Community Plan Amendment</b>	<b>\$1,000*</b>
<b>Zoning Bylaw or Land Use Contract Amendment</b>	<b>\$1,000*</b>
<b>Combined OCP/Zoning Bylaw or Land Use Contract Amendment</b>	<b>\$1,500*</b>
<b>Sign Fee (when applicable)</b>	<b>\$100**</b>

\*For applications to legalize an existing bylaw contravention, the fee is increased by an additional 50%

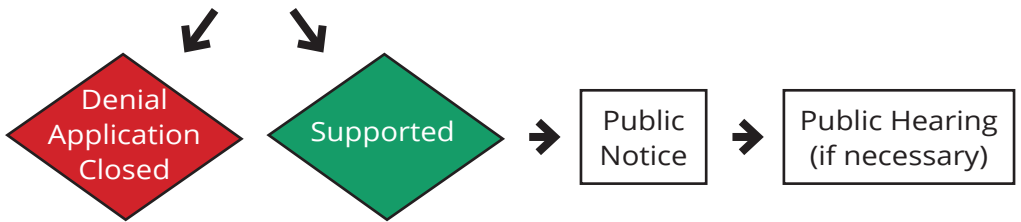
\*\* A sign applies unless the applicant provides their own sign.

# The Approval Process

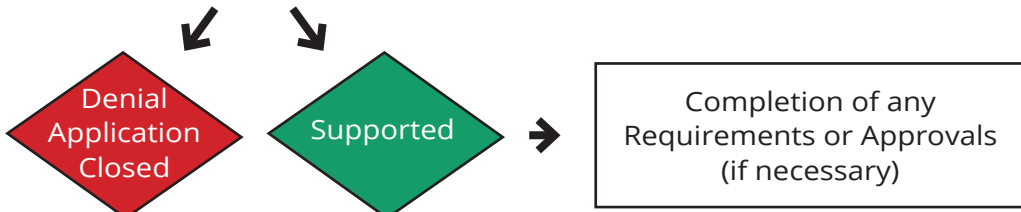
Consult Planning Department Staff



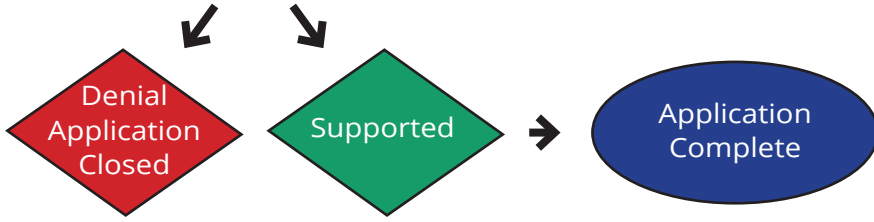
Consideration by Board of 1st and 2nd reading of Bylaw



Consideration by Board of 3rd Reading of Bylaw



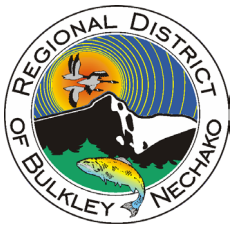
Consideration by Board for Adoption



Online Applications



[www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/planning/land-use-planning/applications](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/planning/land-use-planning/applications)



RDBN Planning Department  
planning@rdbn.bc.ca  
www.rdbn.bc.ca



# A Guide to the Public Hearing Process

## What is a public hearing?

A public hearing is an official meeting where the public and applicant are given an opportunity to provide their input to the Regional District Board on a proposed new bylaw or bylaw change. A public hearing must be held prior to adopting or amending an official community plan bylaw or a zoning bylaw. Certain types of zoning bylaws do not have public hearings. Planning Department staff will inform you if a public hearing is not required or permitted.

Anyone who thinks that they may be affected by the proposed bylaw amendment has the opportunity to speak or provide written comments at or prior to the public hearing. Following the close of the public hearing there are restrictions on the Regional District Board's ability to receive further input on the bylaws; therefore, it is important that input is provided prior to the close of the public hearing.

## Who can attend?

As the name implies, public hearings are open to the public and anyone can attend. A written statement can be submitted before a public hearing or read at a public hearing for those who cannot attend or do not wish to speak. The submission will become part of the public record and attached to the report of the public hearing.



## What are the notification procedures?

Notification of a Public Hearing will state the following:

- Time, date and place of the hearing
- Purpose of the bylaw
- How to submit written comments
- Place and times that copies of the bylaw and related information may be inspected

Copies of the bylaw and associated background documents are made available at the Regional District office in Burns Lake during regular office hours, at the local municipal office of the closest community, and at the public hearing.

There are several ways a public hearing is advertised in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako:

- **Newspaper advertising** in one issue of a local newspaper, the last date no less than seven days before the hearing.
- **Mail-out of individual notices** to owners and tenants within 200 metres of the subject property.
- **Online** in the meeting section of the RDBN website and on the RDBN Official Facebook page.
- **Signage** - When a bylaw amendment applies to a specific property the applicant must post a sign on the property. It must be visible from a public road and posted at least ten days before a public hearing to advise neighbouring and nearby property owners about the official community plan and/or zoning bylaw amendment applications under consideration by the Regional District Board.

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## **What is the procedure at a public hearing?**

When a public hearing is required, it is usually scheduled for a weekday evening in a venue located in the community closest to the application area. Alternately, an electronic/telephone meeting may be held.

Typically, the Electoral Area Director is delegated by the Regional District Board to Chair the public hearing and report back to the Regional District Board regarding the input provided. Planning Department staff are also present to record the comments received and answer technical questions.

The Chair will open the public hearing with an explanation of the proceedings and a short overview of the proposed bylaw. The persons attending the public hearing are then invited to speak. Everyone present will be given an opportunity to speak. Speakers are to state their name and address prior to providing the Chair of the public hearing with their comments.

The applicant has the same standing as any member of the public and may be allowed to provide initial comments at the public hearing.

If there is insufficient time for all the speakers to be heard the hearing can be adjourned by the Chair to another time and location specified at the public hearing.

When the Chair determines that everyone has had a reasonable opportunity to be heard, the Chair will close the public hearing.

## **Can the bylaw be debated at the public hearing?**

A public hearing is not an opportunity to debate the merits of the bylaw. The purpose of the public hearing is to give everyone an opportunity to provide their input to the Regional District Board in a respectful environment.

## **What happens after a public hearing?**

When a public hearing is closed, the ability of the Board to receive new information is limited. The purpose of this rule is to ensure that all persons are aware of, and have an opportunity to speak to, the information that the Board has received regarding the proposed bylaw.

A public hearing report summarizing the comments made at the public hearing will be presented to the Regional District Board prior to the Board's consideration of the bylaw.

A question and answer session may be held prior to the public hearing if a bylaw is particularly controversial or complicated.

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# Application Form

## Official Community Plan (OCP) / Zoning Bylaw Amendment

Applicants are advised to consult with Planning Staff before submitting an application. Applications can be submitted by mail, in person at the RDBN Office or emailed to [planning@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:planning@rdbn.bc.ca).

### 1. APPLICANT

**Property Owner(s):**

Name(s):

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Company Name:

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Mailing Address:

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Phone (Home):

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Phone (Cell):

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E-mail:

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### 2. PROPERTY OWNER

**Applicant/Agent** (if you are an agent acting on behalf of a property owner please fill out this section and have the property owner complete section 3).

Name:

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Company Name:

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Mailing Address:

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Phone (Home):

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Phone (Cell):

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Email:

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### 3. AGENT AUTHORIZATION

If the applicant is not the sole registered owner of the subject property, ALL owners of the subject property must sign the application below, or provide a signed letter, authorizing the applicant to act as agent on their behalf in regard to the application.

As owner(s) of the land described in this application, I/we authorize (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ to act as Applicant, and as our agent in regard to this application.

_____	_____	_____
Owner Name (print)	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Owner Name (print)	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Owner Name (print)	Signature	Date

### 4. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Legal Description(s) of the land which is the subject of this Application (subject property):

\_\_\_\_\_

Civic Address (House No., Street Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel Identifier (PID): \_\_\_\_\_

Property Size(s): \_\_\_\_\_ (Hectares/Acres)

**Existing Land Use:**

(Describe all current uses that occur on the land under application, including a list of buildings and the use of each building.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## 5. REQUESTED AMENDMENT

Existing Zoning:

Proposed Zoning Amendment:

Existing OCP Designation:

Proposed OCP Amendment:

### Reason for Application:

(Describe the reason for the application. If the application is to allow a proposed new land use or development, describe that use and / or development. Also discuss why you consider the proposed use and / or development to be appropriate for the land under application. Attach separate pages to the application, or a letter as necessary.

## 6. APPLICATION FEES

An application fee as set out in Schedule A to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Development Procedures Bylaw No. 1898, 2020 must accompany this application. An application is not considered complete and cannot be processed until the required application fee and information has been received by the Regional District. Fees can be paid in the following ways:

- Cheques payable to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- Debit card or cash payments can be made at the RDBN office, 37 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Burns Lake, BC.
- ETransfer to [pay@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:pay@rdbn.bc.ca) (Include in message box what you are paying for)
- Credit card through [Option Pay](#) on the RDBN Webpage (fees will apply)

The following fees are required: Check the box that applies to your application

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Official Community Plan (OCP) Amendment | \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Bylaw Amendment                  | \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combined OCP and Zoning Bylaw Amendment | \$1,500 |

\*Please note that the fee for an application to legalize an existing bylaw contravention is increased by an additional 50%.

## 7. SIGN NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Most applications require that a sign be posted on the property to advise the community of the application. The sign can be provided by the property owner, or it can be rented from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako office (37-3rd Ave, Burns Lake) for a fee of \$25 plus a security deposit of \$75. The \$100 fee and deposit can be included with your application fee.

**Do you wish to rent signage?**  Not applicable (to be confirmed by Planning Department)

Yes, I will pay the sign fee now

No, I will provide my own signage

## 8. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Personal information requested on this form is collected under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* section 26(c) and will be used for the purpose of processing your application. Any information relating to the use and development of the land provided to the RDBN for consideration in relation to the application may be made available for review by any member of the public. If you have any questions about the collection and use of this information, please contact the RDBN Information and Privacy Coordinator at 1-800-320-3339.

## 9. INDUSTRIAL OR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES OR ACTIVITIES

Has the site been used for any industrial or commercial purposes or activities described in **SCHEDULE 2** of the Contaminated Sites Regulations? (SCHEDULE 2 included in application package). If yes, complete the Site Disclosure Statement located on the following provincial site and attach to application. ([www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/site-remediation/guidance-resources/forms](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/site-remediation/guidance-resources/forms))

Yes

No

## 10. DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that the attached information, provided with respect to this application is a true statement of facts, and authorize RDBN staff to conduct site inspections of the subject property for the purpose of confirming information submitted as part of this application, and for the purpose of processing this application.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner(s)/Agent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**\*To ensure your application is complete and that all items have been included with your application, see page 3 of the Official Community Plan & Zoning Amendment brochure for the application checklist.**

***Environmental Management Act***

**CONTAMINATED SITES REGULATION**

[Last amended March 1, 2023 by B.C. Reg. 133/2022]

**Schedule 2**

[en. B.C. Reg. 128/2022, App. 2, s. 10.]

**Specified Industrial or Commercial Uses**

<b>A</b>	<b>Chemical industries and activities</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. adhesives manufacturing or bulk storage</li><li>2. chemical manufacturing or bulk storage</li><li>3. explosives or ammunition manufacturing or bulk storage</li><li>4. fire retardant manufacturing, bulk storage or shipping</li><li>5. fertilizer manufacturing, bulk storage or shipping</li><li>6. ink or dye manufacturing or bulk storage</li><li>7. leather or hides tanning</li><li>8. paint, lacquer or varnish manufacturing, formulation, recycling or bulk storage</li><li>9. pharmaceutical products, or controlled substances as defined in the <i>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i> (Canada), manufacturing or operations</li><li>10. plastic products (foam or expanded plastic) manufacturing or repurposing</li><li>11. textile dyeing</li><li>12. pesticide manufacturing, formulation, bulk storage or shipping</li><li>13. resin or plastic monomer manufacturing, formulation or bulk storage</li></ol>
<b>B</b>	<b>Electrical equipment and activities</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. battery manufacturing, recycling or bulk storage</li><li>2. facilities using equipment that contains PCBs greater than or equal to 50 ppm</li><li>3. electrical equipment manufacturing, refurbishing or bulk storage</li><li>4. electrical transmission or distribution substations</li><li>5. electronic equipment manufacturing</li><li>6. transformer oil manufacturing, processing or bulk storage</li><li>7. electrical power generating operations fueled by coal or petroleum hydrocarbons that supply electricity to a community or commercial or industrial operation, excluding emergency generators.</li></ol>

<b>C</b>	<p><b>Metal smelting, processing or finishing industries and activities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. foundries</li> <li>2. galvanizing</li> <li>3. metal plating or finishing</li> <li>4. metal salvage operations</li> <li>5. metal smelting or refining</li> <li>6. welding or machine shops (repair or fabrication)</li> </ol>
<b>D</b>	<p><b>Mining, milling or related industries and activities at or near land surface</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. asbestos mining, milling, bulk storage or shipping</li> <li>2. coal coke manufacture, bulk storage or shipping</li> <li>3. coal or lignite mining, milling, bulk storage or shipping</li> <li>4. milling reagent manufacture, bulk storage or shipping</li> <li>5. metal concentrate bulk storage or shipping</li> <li>6. metal ore mining or milling</li> </ol>
<b>E</b>	<p><b>Miscellaneous industries, operations or activities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. appliance, equipment or engine maintenance, repair, reconditioning, cleaning or salvage</li> <li>2. ash deposit from boilers, incinerators or other thermal facilities</li> <li>3. asphalt and asphalt tar manufacture, storage and distribution, including stationary asphalt batch plants</li> <li>4. coal gasification (manufactured gas production)</li> <li>5. medical, chemical, radiological or biological laboratories</li> <li>6. outdoor firearm shooting ranges</li> <li>7. road salt or brine storage</li> <li>8. measuring instruments (containing mercury) manufacture, repair or bulk storage</li> <li>9. dry cleaning facilities or operations and dry cleaning chemical storage, excluding locations at which clothing is deposited but no dry cleaning process occurs</li> <li>10. Repealed.</li> <li>11. fire training facilities at which fire retardants are used</li> <li>12. Repealed.</li> </ol>

<p><b>F</b></p>	<p><b>Petroleum (including blends and biodiesels) and natural gas drilling, production, processing, retailing, distribution and commercial storage</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. petroleum or natural gas drilling</li> <li>2. petroleum or natural gas production facilities</li> <li>3. natural gas processing</li> <li>4. petroleum coke manufacture, bulk storage or shipping</li> <li>5. petroleum product, other than compressed gas, dispensing facilities, including service stations and card locks</li> <li>6. petroleum, natural gas or sulfur pipeline rights of way excluding rights of way for pipelines used to distribute natural gas to consumers in a community</li> <li>7. petroleum product (other than compressed gas), or produced water storage in non-mobile above ground or underground tanks, except above ground tanks associated with emergency generators or with secondary containment</li> <li>8. petroleum product, other than compressed gas, bulk storage or distribution</li> <li>9. petroleum refining</li> <li>10. solvent manufacturing or bulk storage</li> <li>11. sulfur handling, processing, or bulk storage and distribution</li> </ol>
<p><b>G</b></p>	<p><b>Transportation industries, operations and related activities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. aircraft maintenance, cleaning or salvage</li> <li>2. automotive, truck, bus, subway or other motor vehicle maintenance, repair, salvage or wrecking</li> <li>3. dry docks, marinas, shipbuilding or boat repair and maintenance, including paint removal from hulls</li> <li>4. marine equipment salvage</li> <li>5. rail car or locomotive maintenance, cleaning, salvage or related uses, including railyards</li> </ol>
<p><b>H</b></p>	<p><b>Waste disposal and recycling operations and activities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. antifreeze bulk storage, recycling or shipping</li> <li>2. barrel, drum or tank reconditioning or salvage</li> <li>3. biomedical waste disposal</li> <li>4. bulk manure stockpiling and high rate land application or disposal (nonfarm applications only)</li> <li>5. landfilling of construction demolition material, including without limitation asphalt and concrete</li> <li>6. contaminated soil or sediment storage, treatment, deposit or disposal</li> <li>7. dry cleaning waste disposal</li> <li>8. electrical equipment recycling</li> <li>9. industrial waste lagoons or impoundments</li> <li>10. industrial waste storage, recycling or landfilling</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. industrial woodwaste (log yard waste, hogfuel) disposal</li> <li>12. mine tailings waste disposal</li> <li>13. municipal waste storage, recycling, composting or landfilling</li> <li>14. organic or petroleum material landspreading (landfarming)</li> <li>15. sandblasting operations or sandblasting waste disposal</li> <li>16. septic tank pumpage storage or disposal</li> <li>17. sewage lagoons or impoundments</li> <li>18. hazardous waste storage, treatment or disposal</li> <li>19. sludge drying or composting</li> <li>20. municipal or provincial road or yard snow removal dumping</li> <li>21. waste oil reprocessing, recycling or bulk storage</li> <li>22. wire reclaiming operations</li> </ol>
<b>I</b>	<p><b>Wood, pulp and paper products and related industries and activities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. particle or wafer board manufacturing</li> <li>2. pulp mill operations</li> <li>3. pulp and paper manufacturing</li> <li>4. treated wood storage at the site of treatment</li> <li>5. veneer or plywood manufacturing</li> <li>6. wood treatment (antisapstain or preservation)</li> <li>7. wood treatment chemical manufacturing or bulk storage</li> </ol>