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REGULATIONS	DESCRIPTION	ASSOCIATED PERMITS
National regulations		
<i>General environmental</i>		
National Constitution of the Republic of Argentina (1994)	<p>The National Constitution guarantees all residents the right to a healthy, balanced environment, suitable to human development, and imposes an affirmative duty on each resident to preserve the environment for future use (Article 41).</p> <p>It requires the redress of the environmental damage to begin with the obligation to restore the environment to its status ante quo, and grant standing to individuals, including environmental civil associations and the federal Ombudsman, to sue the government and private individuals to enforce and environmental right recognized in the Constitution, international treaty or federal law (Articles 41 and 43).</p> <p>The Constitution directs the national government to issue rules containing minimum environmental protection standards and mandates the provinces to enact legislation complementary to these federal regulations (Article 41).</p> <p>The National Constitution establishes that the provinces have the primary domain over the natural resources in their territory (Article 124).</p> <p>It also establishes the distribution map of competencies between the federal and provincial governments. According to this distribution, the provinces retain all the power not expressly delegated to the federal government in the Constitution (Article 121). Among the powers delegated to the federal government is to pass the Civil, Commercial, Criminal, <u>Mining</u> and Labour and Social Security Codes (Article 75).</p>	
National Law N° 25.675 and National Decree N° 2.413/00 General Environmental Law	<p>This regulation establishes the minimum environmental protection standards for the adequate and sustainable management of the environment, the preservation and protection of biological diversity and the implementation of sustainable development.</p> <p>It establishes that any work or activity that is likely to significantly degrade the environment, any component thereof or affect the people's quality of life, is subject to an <u>environmental impact assessment</u>.</p> <p>The General Environmental Law defines <u>environmental damage</u> as any relevant alteration that modifies negatively the environment, its resources, the balance of ecosystems, or collective goods or values.</p> <p>Anyone that causes the environmental damage will be responsible to restore the environment to its status ante quo.</p> <p>Law N° 25.675 also establishes that any individual or legal entity performing activities hazardous to the environment must obtain <u>insurance</u>, which shall guarantee financing the reversion of any possible damage to the environment; likewise, on a case-by-case basis and depending on the possibilities, it may create an environmental restoration fund to instrument restoration actions.</p>	

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	In addition, it establishes regulations on environmental damage, citizen participation, public hearings, etc.	
Resolution N° 102/2019 Environmental Impact Studies Consultants Register	This Resolution establishes the updating of the Register of Consultants in Environmental Impact Studies, which will be renamed the National Registrar of Consultants in Environmental Assessment ("Registro Nacional de Consultores en Evaluación Ambiental" - RNCEA). Any person who carries out Environmental Impact Studies in which the Secretariat of Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development (SGAyDS) takes action must register. Once the application has been entered through the Distance Processing platform (Trámite a Distancia - TAD) and the documentation is approved, the Certificate of Registration will be issued. It is valid for two years.	
<i>Environmental regulations for the oil & gas industry</i>		
National Resolution SE N° 105/92	<p>This regulation governs environmental considerations related to hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation throughout the different stages. Requirements include, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Works and Tasks Monitoring (Monitoreo de Obras y Tareas - MOT) during well-drilling activities, and subsequently on an annual basis. The requirement is to submit MOTs to the Energy Secretariat and the Provincial Enforcement Authority prior to August 31st each year. • Submit a Prior Environmental Survey before starting on any exploratory well drilling and within 3 months following the finding of an area for exploitation. <p>Exploitation Drilling Stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh water supply: Request authorization from the relevant authorities for the wells to be drilled and the volumes to be extracted. Register an electrical log for each well using handheld equipment. When catchment is done making use of surface sources the catchment and pumping plant must be located away from any animal access pathways and inside a fenced-in, protected enclosure. • Drilling fluid management: Confirm that there are no fresh water tables beneath the pits. Line pits with removable plastic sheets if underground aquifers are found. <p>Development and Production Stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a Prior Environmental Survey to include alternative programs for production water management, control and monitoring. 	
National Resolution SE N° 341/93	Establishes a timetable and rules for the reconditioning of ponds and restoration of the soils, by means of the categorization of said ponds in four types, which includes: Immediate action, High	

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	Risk, Medium Risk and Minimal or No Risk based on health and ecological risk assessments . (The term for the reconditioning in the frame of this resolution is expired).	
National Resolution SE N° 5/96	Approves the rules and procedures for the temporary or definitive abandonment of wells and establishes a categorization system and a timetable for their abandonment (Appendix A.1 of Annex A).	
National Resolution SE N° 24/04	Establishes the rules for the classification of environmental incidents (major and minor environmental incidents), and the term and conditions for submitting to the authorities the pertinent information regarding those environmental incidents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major contaminating incidents must be reported within 24 hours of their occurrence. A final report on the incident must be submitted within 30 days of having completed the control tasks involved, in line with the regulations provided for in this resolution. • Minor incidents must be documented and registered by the operator companies, which will be required to keep their records available for Enforcement Authority auditing or control upon request. 	
National Resolution SE N° 25/04	Regulates the scope for the Environmental Studies to be submitted during the oil & gas exploration and exploitation operations.	

Note: It is important to mention that these regulations applied directly when the oil and gas permits and authorizations were granted by the Federal Authority. Nowadays they need to be complemented with local regulations, which prevail in case of discrepancy. As consulted in the O&G provincial authorities, there are specific provincial regulations for certain environmental O&G aspects, (e.g. well abandonment), while in other cases, the province adheres to the national regulation (e.g. O&G transport through pipelines). The main provincial environmental law generally covers almost all aspects of the national resolutions mentioned in this section.

Waste management

National Law N° 25.916 and Decree N° 1.158/04 Integral Management of Domestic Wastes	Establishes the minimum environmental protection standards for the integral management of domestic waste, to which all current national, provincial and municipal legislation will have to adequate. Regulates management of domestic waste from its generation until its final disposal, including initial disposal, general or selective, collection, transfer and transportation and processing or treatment. It establishes that the enforcing authorities are the ones corresponding to each local jurisdiction. At a national level, it establishes an inter-jurisdictional coordination system, coordinated by Federal Environmental Council (COFEMA), which is in charge of accomplishing the objectives of the law.	
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<i>REGULATIONS</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>ASSOCIATED PERMITS</i>
National Law N° 24.051 and its Regulatory Decree N° 831/93 Hazardous Wastes Law	<p>Establishes the legal framework applicable to the generation, transportation and final disposal of hazardous wastes under federal jurisdiction. This excludes all domestic wastes, radioactive wastes and waste derived from the normal operation of ships.</p> <p>It prohibits the importation, introduction and transportation of all kind of wastes from other countries into national territory and airspace and territorial waters. According to Article 3 of National Regulatory Decree N° 831/93, the prohibition comprises those products obtained from recycled or recovered materials that do not have a sanitary and/or environmental harmlessness certificate, depending on the case, emitted prior to the shipping by applicable authorities in the country of origin, and ratified by the local enforcing authorities prior to the unloading.</p> <p>It establishes the obligation of generators, operators and transporters of hazardous wastes to register in the <u>National Register of Generators and Operators of Hazardous Wastes</u>. Also, they must apply for the <u>Annual Environmental Certificate</u>, which will have to be renewed annually and validates how hazardous wastes are handled, transported, treated and disposed of by the registered generator, operator or transporter.</p>	Annual Environmental Certificate
National Decree N° 181/92 and National Resolution N° 946/02 of the National Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development Importation of Non-Hazardous Waste	<p>National Decree N° 181/92 prohibits the transportation, introduction and temporary or definite importation of all kinds of waste or residues included in a non-taxative list presented in Annex I of said regulation.</p> <p>The National Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development, being the applicable authority, has regulated the procedures and forms to request the authorization to import non-hazardous wastes or residues, through National Resolution N° 409/01 now replaced by National Resolution N° 946/02.</p>	
<i>Fuel Tanks</i>		
National Law N° 13.660 and its Regulatory Decree N° 10.887/60 (modified by National Decree N° 401/05) Safety Regulations for the Production, Transformation and Storage of Fuels	<p>Establishes safety regulations for the facilities where production, transformation and/or storage of solid, mineral, liquid and gaseous fuels are produced.</p> <p>This regulation establishes safety provisions for tank farms.</p>	
National Decree N° 2.407/83 Safety Regulations for Fuel Supply through Pumping Stations	Establishes safety regulations for the supply of fuel through pumping stations.	
National Resolution N° 419/93 (Consolidated Text by National Resolution N° 404/94) of the	Creates the Register of National Universities for the Execution of Technical, Environmental and Safety Audits for storage areas; filling points; processing, fractioning and storage plants;	

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Secretariat of Energy and subsequent amendments (modified by National Resolutions N° 1.102/04 and 266/08)	refineries; underground and aboveground storage tanks, transportation tanks for hydrocarbons and by-products. Establishes provisions for the execution of these audits.	
National Resolution N° 266/08 of the Secretariat of Energy	Modifies National Resolution N° 419/93, creating the Register of National Universities for the Execution of Technical, Environmental and Safety Audits mentioned above.	
National Disposition N° 76/97 of the Under-secretariat of Fuels and complementary regulations	Approves technical norms for tanks to transport liquid fuels and liquefied petroleum gases through public roadways. Complements provisions of National Resolution N° 404/94 of the Secretariat of Energy.	
National Resolution N° 1.102/04 of the Secretariat of Energy	Creates the Register of Filling Points for Liquid Fuels, Own Consumption, Storage, Distribution and Commercialization of Hydrocarbons and Natural Compressed Gas.	
National Resolution N° 785/05 of the Secretariat of Energy	Establishes the National Program to Control Leaks of Aboveground Hydrocarbon and by-products Storage Tanks. Among other issues, it establishes the need to present an environmental impact assessment prior to the installation of any aboveground storage tank (AST), the registration of all ASTs and the need to perform periodical internal and external controls and audits to verify the operation of the tanks. It also establishes requirements for the closure and decommission of the tanks.	
<i>Protected areas</i>		
National Law N° 22.351 (modified by National Law N° 26.389) National Parks, Reservations and Natural Monuments	National Law N° 22.351 establishes the legal system for the protection of national parks, reservations and natural monuments, and its declaration as such. It defines the three categories for protected areas: National Parks, National Monuments and National Reserves. Industrial activities, mining exploration and exploitation activities and exploitation of natural resources, among others, are expressly forbidden in National Parks. Furthermore, any type of activity, with the exception of authorized scientific investigations and governmental inspection, is forbidden in Natural Monument areas. Lastly, industrial activities are allowed in Natural Reserve areas subject to obtaining an authorization from the enforcement authority.	
National Law N° 23.302 (modified by National Law N° 25.799) and its Regulatory Decree N° 155/89 Indigenous Communities	Declares of national interest the attention and support to natives and indigenous communities present in the country, and their defense and development towards their full participation in the national socio-economical and cultural process, respecting their own values and methods.	

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	<p>Plans shall be implemented to allow their access to the property of land and the promotion of their agricultural, forestry, mining, industrial or handmade production; the preservation of their cultural rules in teaching programs and the protection of health of its members.</p> <p>This Law acknowledges legal status to the indigenous communities established in the country, and creates the National Register of Indigenous Communities.</p> <p>Finally, it creates the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs, and appoints it as application authority for this regulation, the ILO Convention 107 (not in force; denounced by Argentina in 2001) and other complementary regulations.</p>	
National Resolution N° 328/10 of the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs National Register of Indigenous People Organizations	<p>This resolution creates the National Register of Indigenous People Organizations. Indigenous People Organizations registered in the aforementioned Register will have, among others, the following attributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in activities organized by the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs; • Participate in meetings performed within the Indigenous Participation Council; • Participate in meetings related to the National Program of Territorial Survey of Indigenous Communities; • Present projects to improve representation and participation levels within the organization to the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs; • Propose initiatives and proposals related to the compliance of indigenous rights to the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs; • Participate, within the framework to be established for the regulation of the Right to Consultation and Participation, in relation to interests that affects them and linked to the implementation of the rights of indigenous people. 	
<i>Neuquén Province regulations</i>		
<i>General environmental</i>		
Provincial Law N° 1.875 and Regulatory Decree N° 2.656/99, Appendices 2, 3 and 7 General Environmental Law	<p>This regulation establishes the principles for the preservation, conservation, defense and improvement of the environment in the Province of Neuquén.</p> <p>It establishes the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for all projects or activities capable of indirectly or directly modifying the environment of the provincial territory, including oil & gas exploration and exploitation activities, to be submitted prior to starting any activity.</p> <p>The aforementioned projects and activities are required to obtain an environmental license, the Environmental Impact Declaration (“Declaración de Impacto Ambiental – DIA”), from the Environmental Authority.</p> <p>The stages of the EIA process are detailed in Annex II and III of Regulatory Decree N° 2.656/99 and include citizen participation through public hearings.</p>	<p>Environmental License</p> <p>The usual timeframe for obtaining this license is 3 to 6 months, depending on the political context, the complexity of the project, the level of information provided to the Authority, etc.</p>

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	<p>In addition, Appendix VII establishes regulations and procedures for the protection of the environment during oil & gas exploration and exploitation operations, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casing program. In the casing programs it should be ensured that the surface casing is scheduled to extend not only downwards up to the appropriate depth for pressure control requirements, but also to extend sufficiently in breadth to cover all the low salinity aquifer horizons, considering as such a maximum of 4,000 microohms per centimeter or 3,000 ppm of total salts. • Drilling and completion mud pits. Firstly ensure there is no fresh water in the subsoil. Fresh water is deemed to be the underground water having a saline content not exceeding 3,000 ppm or having specific conductivity of 4,000 microohms per centimeter. Mud and waste pits will be lined with polythene sheets. • Construction of aboveground or open air pits. All currently existing pits and any pits built in future, (whatever use is expected to be given to them) will be required to comply with Resolution SE N° 341/93. Waterproof pits using high density PVC or polythene material in thicknesses ranging from 800 microns to 2 millimeters, or applying any other technique approved by the Enforcement Authority that will guarantee no oil-contaminated muds will filter through. Membrane joints will be done by fusion or heat welding. Permanent pits should be equipped with a minimum geotextile of at least 140 g/m². • Pit bottoms. Hydrocarbon wastes and pit bottom sludgewill be treated in such a way as to guarantee inerting. Sludge may be stored provided it can be guaranteed that leaching infiltration cannot occur and the storage site is clearly identified. • Managing hazardous completion fluids or gases used for testing. In the event oil-based or distilled fluids are used, these should be recycled or mixed with production oil for processing at the treatment plant. Surface disposal or confinement in earthen pits or pools is forbidden; Water-based fluids or biodegradable polymers may be scattered around the grading, roads or lands where there is no vegetation. • Spills. Report any spills to the Enforcement Authority in line with the timeframes provided for in art. 56. 	
<i>Environmental regulations for the oil & gas industry</i>		
Provincial Law N° 1.926 and Regulatory Decree N° 2.247/96	<p>Establishes the legal framework for oil & gas activities in the Province of Neuquén and appoint the Secretariat of Energy and Mining as local enforcement authority of such regulations.</p> <p>Oil & gas activities, including exploration, exploitation, storage, transportation, etc. are required to obtain an authorization from the enforcement authority. A technical report shall be submitted to the Authority with information on the activities and indicating if an Environmental Impact Assessment is required according to Provincial Law N° 1.875.</p> <p>Contingencies and incidents shall be reported to the Authority following guidelines established in National Resolution SE N° 342/93.</p>	

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Provincial Law N° 2.183	Concession and permit holders shall obtain an express authorization from the land owner to operate, as well as pay the corresponding right of use fees.	Land Owner Authorization
Provincial Law N° 2.867	Approves the Letter of Agreement signed the 23rd of July 2013 between the Provincial Minister of Energy and Public Services and YPF S.A., approved by the Executive Branch through Decree N° 1.208/13	
Provincial Law N° 2.615 and Regulatory Decree N° 2.124/08	Regulates the renegotiation of oil and gas concessions and establishes, among other issues, that companies shall prioritize contracting workers, professionals and service companies in Neuquén; and commit themselves to remediate existing environmental liabilities.	
Provincial Law N° 2.600, Regulatory Decree N° 1.905/06 and Provincial Disposition N° 112/11 Environmental Aptitude Certificate for the Oil & Gas Industry	<p>These regulations establish the need for the oil & gas industry (companies that develop reconnaissance, exploration, drilling, exploitation, storage and/or transportation of liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons) to obtain an “Environmental Aptitude Certificate of the Oil and Gas Activity” (“Certificado de Aptitud Ambiental de la Actividad Hidrocarburífera” - CAAAH) for the concession area, with an annual renewal. In order to obtain such Certificate, oil & gas companies are required to submit a very detailed <u>Environmental & Social Baseline</u> for the area, current facilities (wells, plants, pipelines, etc.), evaluate current impacts and risks, develop a detailed Environmental Management Plan and Emergency Response Plan for dealing properly with impacts and risks identified, report actions related with social benefits for local communities, among other requirements. Provincial Disposition N° 112/11 of the former Under-Secretariat of Environment approves the Terms of Reference to develop these Environmental & Social Baseline Studies.</p> <p>Companies are also required to report any accidents and incidents with a potential or actual damage to the environment within 48 hours of occurring.</p> <p>These regulations also create the Register for Environmental Control of the Oil & Gas Activity in which the oil & gas companies should be registered.</p>	<p>Environmental Aptitude Certificate for the Oil & Gas Industry</p> <p>As reported by the Authority, not many certificates have been issued since companies do not usually comply with all the requirements established in Law N° 2.600 and Decree N° 1.905/09</p>
Provincial Decree N° 1.483/12	<p>This regulation approves the Regulations and Procedures for the Exploration and Exploitation of Unconventional Resources in the Province of Neuquén aiming at preventing, mitigating and minimizing environmental impacts potentially arising from unconventional drilling in shale and tight gas and shale and tight oil reservoirs. The regulation is mainly focused on preserving the provincial water resources and establishes a number of restrictions and requirements, including, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prohibition of using groundwater suitable for the supply of populations and irrigation. • The prohibition of discharging flowback water into surface water bodies or courses. • The requirement of obtaining the Environmental License prior to any activity. • The Environmental Report shall follow guidelines established in Annex III of Regulatory Decree N° 2.656/99 and contain, among other information: a description of the treatment 	

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	<p>system for flowback water used in hydraulic stimulation; a sworn affidavit with the composition of fluids used in well development activities; an authorization for the water use and wastewater discharge from the enforcement authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh water storage ponds for well development shall be waterproofed and it is forbidden to use them for drilling wastes or flowback water. • Implement a Monitoring Plan for water quality of the flowback and register the daily volume of flowback per well. This information needs to be submitted to the environmental authorities. • Submit the drilling plan for unconventional wells to the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Under-secretariat of Mining and Hydrocarbons, every six months. • Physical and chemical analysis of flowback water shall be submitted to the Authority within 72 hs of occurrence in the well. Periodical analyses shall be submitted as long as the flowback is occurring. 	
<p>Provincial Law N° 2.666 Dry Wellsite</p>	<p>Establishes that all oil & gas wells must be drilled with "dry" wellsite techniques ("locación seca") controlling solids and treating sludge and cuttings in plants suitable for this task. In addition, it requires companies performing oil and gas well drilling, completion or repairs to implement any precautions required to avoid the release or spillage of sludge used in the abovementioned operations, as well as any substances capable of having a direct or indirect impact on the environment and any living beings, requiring complete tightness of any equipment and vessels or containers of any type.</p> <p>Concession and permit holders shall submit an "Environmental Sensitive Study" for each concession area and every time a well needs to be drilled.</p>	
<p>Provincial Resolution N° 506/14</p>	<p>Establishes the obligation of using organic oil absorbent blankets. These blankets must be approved by the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) or the La Plata National University.</p>	
<p>Provincial Law N° 2.175 and Regulatory Decree N° 29/01 Gas Venting</p>	<p>Prohibits gas venting in gas production wells and establishes legal limits for emission of natural gas in oil production wells.</p> <p>It also requires to submit a monthly gas venting affidavit to the Enforcement Authority, informing them of any gas emissions vented into the atmosphere for each oilfield, within the first 10 (ten) days of the month immediately following that for which the report has been prepared. Companies are also required to procure emission authorization for treatment plants and establish measurement and registration systems for the vented gas flow and its composition at each emission point, no matter the gas - oil ratio involved.</p>	
<p>Provincial Decree N° 1.631/06</p>	<p>Establishes regulations for the abandonment of oil & gas production wells, based on National Resolution SE N° 5/96.</p>	

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Abandonment of Oil & Gas Wells		
Provincial Disposition DMAyDS N° 226/01	Establishes requirements for the final disposal of remediated soils.	
Provincial Disposition DMAyDS N° 166/06	Establishes signage required for oil & gas activities.	
Provincial Resolution SRNySP N° 24/09	Establishes that a technical report (“memoria técnica descriptiva”) shall be presented to the Under-Secretariat of Mining and Hydrocarbons to perform any activity with the oil & gas industry in the Province of Neuquén. The technical report shall follow guidelines established in National Resolution SE N° 319/93 and any complementary provincial regulations.	
<i>Waste management</i>		
Provincial Regulatory Decree N° 2.656/99, Appendix 8, 9 and 10 Hazardous, Pathogenic and Solid Wastes	<p>It creates the <u>Provincial Register of Generators and Operator of Hazardous Wastes</u>, administered by the applicable authority, and in which all individuals and legal entities responsible of generating, handling, transporting, treating and disposing hazardous wastes in the Province shall be registered. Also, they must apply for the <u>Annual Environmental Certificate</u>, which will have to be renewed annually and validates how hazardous wastes are handled, transported, treated and disposed of by the registered generator, operator or transporter.</p> <p>Regulates the integral management of urban solid wastes, including the generation, possession, collection, transportation, storage, treatment and final disposal of these solid wastes, and the transformation operations necessary for their re-use or recycling.</p> <p>The law determines that the Municipalities in the Province of Neuquén are responsible for the management of urban solid wastes generated within their jurisdictions, and that generators are responsible for delivering these wastes to companies duly authorized by the municipal and provincial authorities to manage urban solid wastes.</p>	Annual Environmental Certificate
<i>Protected areas</i>		
Provincial Law N° 2.594 and Regulatory Decree N° 1.186/11 Protected Natural Areas	<p>These regulations create the Provincial System of Protected Natural Areas. It establishes the following categories for protected natural areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict Natural Reserve: area managed mainly for scientific purposes. • Provincial Park: area managed mainly for the preservation of ecosystems and with recreational purposes. • Natural Monuments: area managed mainly for the preservation of specific natural features. • Habitat/Species Management Area: area managed mainly for the preservation of habitats or to satisfy the needs of specific species. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected Landscapes: area managed mainly for the preservation of landscapes and for recreational purposes. Protected Area with Managed Resources: area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems. Resources Reserve: uninhabited or scarcely populated areas insufficiently assessed for potential development of human activities. 	
Provincial Law N° 2.184 and Regulatory Decree N° 2.711/97 Historical, Archaeological and Paleontological Heritage Law	Establishes the obligation of the owners of lands where historical, archaeological and paleontological objects are found to inform the local authorities within 24 hours.	
<i>Water and wastewater management</i>		
Provincial Law N° 899 and Regulatory Decree N° 790/99 Provincial Water Code	<p>The provincial Water Code and its regulations establish the system for the exploitation and preservation of the water resources of public domain.</p> <p>Additionally, establishes the requirement of obtaining permits for the drilling of groundwater wells and use of water (“<i>Permiso de Explotación</i>” and “<i>Permiso de Perforación</i>”).</p> <p>This regulation also prohibits any kind of water contamination, and establishes limits for wastewater discharges.</p>	Water Exploitation Permit Groundwater Well Drilling Permit
Provincial Resolution N° 181/2000 from the Provincial Entity of Water and Sanitary Services (<i>Ente Provincial de Agua y Saneamiento - EPAS</i>)	The Resolution establishes that for discharging wastewater into water bodies, a Wastewater Discharge Permit must be obtained. For discharging wastewater into the sewage system, a wastewater affidavit must be submitted for obtaining the corresponding authorization. Annex I contains the limits for discharging wastewater in a sewer and in surface waters.	Wastewater Discharge Permit
Provincial Disposition DGRH N° 29/00	This regulation approves Affidavit forms to apply for the water exploitation permit.	Water Exploitation Permit
Provincial Regulatory Decree N° 2.656/99, Appendices 7.	<p>Appendix VII establishes regulations and procedures for the protection of the environment during oil & gas exploration and exploitation operations, such as:</p> <p>Production water. In the event formation purge effluents are disposed of in different bodies of water, authorization from the Enforcement Authority will be required. Use high density material geomembranes a minimum 800 microns thick or any other suitable material authorized by the Enforcement Authority for ensuring pit tightness.</p>	
Provincial Disposition DMAyDS N° 312/05	Establishes requirements for the treatment of sanitary wastewater generated in camps. Moreover, proper septic systems are required to be installed at camps (e.g. mobile WWTP).	

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Provincial Resolution N° 709/11	Establishes requirements to implement a mobile WWTP, including the regulated limits. In addition, the Authority must approve Mobile WWTP.	Operating Permit
Provincial Disposition N° 423/17	This regulation approves Affidavit forms for use of public water for industrial purposes - exploration and exploitation of non-conventional hydrocarbons; and worksheets for controlling the transported truckload of water for industrial use.	

Río Negro Province regulations

General environmental

Provincial Law N° 3.266 and Regulatory Decree N° 656/04 Environmental Impact Assessment	<p>This regulation establishes the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for all projects or activities capable of indirectly or directly modifying the environment of the provincial territory, including oil & gas exploration and exploitation activities, to be submitted prior to starting any activity.</p> <p>The aforementioned projects and activities are required to obtain an Environmental Resolution, from the Environmental Authority (Council of Ecology and Environment of the Province of Río Negro (CODEMA), designated as such by Decree No. 663/2003).</p> <p>In order to obtain the Environmental Resolution, the proponent of the works or projects must previously submit before the jurisdictionally competent enforcement authority the corresponding Sworn Affidavit that states whether the proposed work or activity will degrade the environment or affect the quality of life of people, containing the requirements established by the regulations (Article 8).</p> <p>When corresponds, the enforcement authority will convene a Public Hearing, to natural or legal persons, public or private, state or not, potentially affected by the realization of the project, and to non-governmental organizations interested in preserving the environmental values that this law protects (Article 9).</p> <p>Article 16 indicates the minimum contents that an EIA must contain.</p> <p>The Environmental Resolution will have the temporary validity that the regulation establishes, at the end of which it will have to be renewed. Nevertheless, when modifications are made to the parameters that gave rise to the Environmental Resolution, a new Sworn Affidavit must be submitted regardless of the time elapsed (Article 21).</p> <p>Article 26 establishes that the enforcement authority will implement an Environmental Monitoring and Auditing System, which will operate during all stages of the project.</p> <p>On the other hand, Article 28 determines that the regulation should establish a categorization of projects, of which, the Provincial Environmental Authority (CODEMA) will reserve the</p>	Environmental Resolution
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REGULATIONS	DESCRIPTION	ASSOCIATED PERMITS
	<p>Environmental Impact Assessment of those that have the highest presumed risk. Among these projects, they are included the, <i>prospection, exploration, extraction, transport and industrialization of hydrocarbons and their derivatives, facilities for the gasification and liquefaction of hydrocarbon residues, gas pipelines, oil pipelines, poly-pipelines, gas compressor plants and all infrastructure associated with them</i> (according to Decree No. 656/2004).</p>	
<p><i>Environmental regulations for the oil & gas industry</i></p>		
<p>Decree N° 452/2005</p>	<p>Regulates Law No. 3.266 specifically in relation to O&G activity.</p> <p>Article 1 establishes that the projects and/or activities related to the hydrocarbon activity, under the terms of Article 3 paragraph b) of Law N ° 3.266, will be considered for the purposes of this Decree as presumed high-risk activities.</p> <p>Article 2 approves two documents containing instructions, which are annexed, for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative procedures and recommendations that should be taken into account in the hydrocarbon activity for the exploration stage (Annex I) – E.g. In the exploration drilling, it will not be allowed to drill through any other technique than the "Dry Wellsite (Locación Seca)", this involves the treatment of sludge, materials and all other types of waste, in watertight containers -; and • Administrative procedures and recommendations that should be taken into account in the hydrocarbon activity for the stage of exploitation, development and production (Annex II) – E.g. In case of well definitive abandonment, operators must present to the CODEMA a schedule for the definitive abandonment of wells, according to the norms and procedures established by the National Secretariat of Energy in its Resolution No. 5/95 -. <p>Article 5 indicates that O&G exploration and exploitation companies must submit before the CODEMA the EIA, as established in Law N° 3.266, prior starting these activities. The CODEMA will communicate to the companies the approval and/or objections to the information presented, within 30 days of the presentation of the documentation by the companies.</p> <p>Contingencies and incidents shall be reported to the CODEMA following guidelines established in Annex II, Article 3.</p> <p>Companies must submit annually to the CODEMA a list of chemical inputs and additives used in the stages of exploration, drilling, completion and dehydration, indicating the amount used and nomenclature that allows easy identification and categorization as dangerous or not.</p> <p>Article 10 creates the Environmental Control Register for the Hydrocarbon Activity where all companies dedicated to the activities of exploration, drilling, exploitation, storage and/or transportation of crude oil must register. An affidavit should be submitted for this registration (contents included in Article 11).</p>	

<i>REGULATIONS</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>ASSOCIATED PERMITS</i>
Provincial Law N° 2.627 and its Regulatory Decree N° 24/2003 Hydrocarbons Police Force	<p>Creates the Hydrocarbons Police Force dependent of the Executive Power which will exercise throughout all the province, the police power in the matter of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons. The Hydrocarbons Police Force must coordinate its actions with the Provincial Water Department and the Provincial Council of Ecology and Environment.</p> <p>The regulatory decree establishes how the Force will be comprised. The inspectors will collect the reports that are necessary to control the proper exploitation of resources and production volumes. They will be authorized to carry out the field inspections that are necessary (e.g. measurements, extraction of samples, etc.), as well as to request all kinds of documentation.</p> <p>Moreover, it approves the Hydrocarbons Transportation Guide (Annex I), which must be used, as mandatory, for the transport by trucks of liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons in the area of the province.</p>	
Provincial Law N° 4.682 Environmental Remediation Plan for the Exploration and Exploitation of Hydrocarbons	<p>The "Environmental Remediation Plan" is created in the area of the Province of Río Negro, destined to the areas affected by the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons and other related activities, within the provincial jurisdiction.</p> <p>It must quantify the damages and liabilities generated by the exploitation and exploration of hydrocarbons to the environment, health of the population and to the surface funds, determining the potential costs of remediation that could arise as a consequence of the fulfillment of the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) General cleaning of oilfield surfaces. b) Remediation of the subsoil by oil spills. c) Vegetable and forestry repopulation of the desertified areas, with native species, acquired exclusively in public and private nurseries existing in the province. In this regard, the presentation of the certificate of origin indicating such acquisition will be a necessary condition. d) Capping of oil pools and soil quarries. e) Construction of enclosures to store waste from the activity. f) Remediation and preservation of natural sources of drinking water (subject to specific regulations). g) Recovery of buried oil and gas pipelines out of service and in disuse. h) Limitation and rationalization of the accesses to wells, batteries and hydrocarbon plants. <p>The "Environmental Remediation Plan" will be financed by the operators of the O&G fields that develop their activities in the provincial jurisdiction.</p>	
Resolution N° 383/2011 Service of Detection of Buried Utilities	<p>The hydrocarbon exploitation concessionaires that plan to carry out excavations and/or perforations of any kind within the territory of the Province of Río Negro must hire, prior to the execution of said tasks, a detection service of buried utilities to avoid their possible affectation.</p>	

REGULATIONS	DESCRIPTION	ASSOCIATED PERMITS
	Annex I contains the basic characteristics that this mentioned service must contain.	
Provincial Law N° 4.296	<p>This regulation reaffirms the full exercise by the Province of Río Negro of the original domain and administration over the hydrocarbon deposits that are located in its territory and in the bed and subsoil of the coastal territorial sea, within the framework of Laws N° 17.319 and N° 26.197.</p> <p>Designates to the Executive Power as the application authority to determine the areas of the province in which it is important to promote the activities governed by this law; cancel contests; fully and independently exercise control and enforcement activities and exercise of police power over all hydrocarbon activity; establish the procedures for constitution of rights of way and fix the compensations and updates recognized to the surface owners; and declare the expiration and/or nullities of the permits and concessions.</p>	
Provincial Law N° 4.818 Terms and Conditions for the Renegotiation of Hydrocarbon Concessions	<p>Approves the Terms and Conditions for the Public Call to Companies Holders of Concessions of Exploitation of Hydrocarbon Areas granted by the National State (Annex I).</p> <p>The concessionaires that are interested in the renegotiation of the terms and conditions of their concessions currently in force, must register in the Provincial Registry of Renegotiation of Exploitation Concessions of Río Negro Hydrocarbon Areas.</p> <p>The additions of unconventional deposits are expressly excluded from this legal framework, which will be regulated by special law.</p> <p>The Executive Power is empowered to renegotiate the hydrocarbon concessions corresponding to the companies registered in the previously mentioned register, through the State Secretariat of Energy of the Province.</p> <p>Companies must commit to remedy the environmental liabilities existing in the respective areas, including a detail of them, as well as their plan and schedule of works, which must be carried out within a period no longer than five (5) years from the date of signing the agreement.</p> <p>The concessionaire companies, as well as their contractors and subcontractors must give priority to the goods and services supplying firms located in the Province of Río Negro, with medium and long-term contractual modalities when the service or work contracted or subcontracted has permanence in the time. In addition, priority must be given to the hiring of local workers (80% or more). The nearest cities to the area of exploitation will have priority.</p> <p>The extension of the original term of the exploitation concessions may not exceed ten (10) years counted from its expiration.</p> <p>It is worth mentioning that Annex I item 4.1.6.2.3 establishes that special and hydrocarbon associated wastes must be treated within the Province of Río Negro, except when the Environmental Authority indicates that it is not possible to do it based on technical or operative reasons.</p>	

<i>REGULATIONS</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>ASSOCIATED PERMITS</i>
Provincial Law N° 3.462 Dry Wellsite	<p>Establishes that all oil & gas wells must be drilled with "dry" wellsite techniques ("locación seca") controlling solids and treating sludge and cuttings in plants suitable for this task.</p> <p>Concession and permit holders must inform to the application authority, prior to the beginning of the drilling and exploitation works, the detailed work plan that contains the drilling program of each of the wells.</p> <p>The areas where the technique is activated must contain only the materials belonging to the system, and other areas must be established to wash the transportation equipment and the elements used in that process. Said zones must be located outside the areas defined for the drilling and their location will be informed in the drilling program that the concessionaires must submit to the enforcement authority.</p> <p>The decision to grant exploration permits and exploitation and/or transport concessions, as well as to extend their terms, authorize their assignments or renegotiations, will be exclusive of the Executive Power.</p>	
Provincial Resolution N° 339/2018 Abandonment of Oil & Gas Wells	Establishes regulations for the abandonment of oil & gas production wells, based on National Resolution SE N° 5/96.	
<i>Waste management</i>		
Provincial Law N° 2.472 (modified by Law N° 4.361) Special Wastes	<p>Approves the regulation of all stages of special waste management. According to Article 52, special waste is defined as any waste that belongs to any of the categories listed in Annex III, unless it does not have any of the intrinsic characteristics described in Annex IV. These Annexes contain the list of "Categories subject to control" and the "List of dangerous characteristics", respectively.</p> <p>It creates the <u>Provincial Register of Generators, Haulers and Operator of Special Wastes</u>, administered by the applicable authority, and in which all individuals and legal entities responsible of generating, handling, transporting, treating and disposing special wastes in the Province shall be registered. For this, an affidavit must be presented, containing the information specified in Article 11. The registration will be accredited through the issuance of the <u>Environmental Certificate</u>, which will have to be renewed annually and validates how special wastes are handled, transported, treated and disposed of by the registered generator, operator or transporter.</p> <p>When the generator is authorized by the environmental authority to eliminate the waste in its own plant, it will also be considered an operator, and as such it must be registered in the corresponding Registry (Article 15).</p> <p>For <i>radioactive wastes</i>, it prohibits the entry, transportation, transshipment, transfer or storage, permanent or transitory in the territory of Río Negro and its jurisdictional sea, of radioactive waste and toxic waste of industrial, chemical or biological origin (Article 1). It also prohibits the</p>	Environmental Certificate

<i>REGULATIONS</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>ASSOCIATED PERMITS</i>
	installation in the territory of the province and/or the 200 miles of its jurisdictional sea of reservoirs, repositories, deposits, garbage dumps, permanent or transitory, destined for the storage of all radioactive material, supplies or wastes as well as biological or inert waste (Article 3).	
Provincial Law N° 2.599 and Resolution N° 1.570/2003 Pathological Wastes	<p>The Law establishes that all medical service authorized in the territory of the Province of Río Negro, which produces pathological waste, must provide the means for its elimination or processing in the terms established by the regulation.</p> <p>Resolution No. 1.570/2003 of the Provincial Secretariat of Health approves the "Provincial Technical Norms on Management of Biopathological Wastes" that regulate the mentioned Law. The Technical Norms contain a series of dispositions related to the handling, storage, transport, treatment and final disposal, which the generators, transporters and operators of pathological waste must comply. These must also be registered in the <u>Register of Generators, Transporters and Operators of Biopathological Wastes</u> managed by the Directorate of Environmental Health and renew the <u>Certificate of Authorization</u> obtained on the basis of said registration every 3 years.</p> <p>It also establishes that the generators of pathological waste must keep in their establishments the documentation that accredits the incineration of the waste they produce.</p>	Certificate of Authorization
Provincial Law N° 4.818 Terms and Conditions for the Renegotiation of Hydrocarbon Concessions	Annex I item 4.1.6.2.3 establishes that special and hydrocarbon associated wastes must be treated within the Province of Río Negro, except when the Environmental Authority indicates that it is not possible to do it based on technical or operative reasons.	
<i>Protected areas</i>		
Provincial Law N° 2.669 Provincial Law N° 3.333 Natural Protected Areas	<p>Creates the Provincial System of Protected Natural Areas. The creation of these areas will be carried out by law of the province with precise delimitation of its perimeter. The enforcement authority will elaborate the management plans, safeguarding the right of the legitimate occupants.</p> <p>Law No. 3.333, prohibits the execution of any project or program for the conservation, administration and/or development of areas that involve existing natural resources in lands of public and/or private domain of the province or included in the regime of the Law N° 2.669 and its amendments and that do not have the approval of the province.</p>	
Law No. 3.041 and its Regulatory Decree No. 1.150/2003 Archaeological and Paleontological Heritage	Provides that individuals are required to report to the authority of (the Río Negro Culture Agency) or to the nearest police authority, the existence or casual finding, anywhere in the provincial territory, of archaeological or paleontological sites or objects, and must abstain from extracting them without the intervention of specialists.	

<i>REGULATIONS</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>ASSOCIATED PERMITS</i>
	<p>The exploration, excavation and/or collection of archaeological and paleontological objects without the authorization of the enforcement authority is prohibited throughout the province. The authorizations must be extended only to scientific institutions and to professionals and technicians of the disciplines inherent to the subject of this law.</p> <p>Establishes that the companies that carry out works that involve movements of earth susceptible of producing great transformations in the soil or subsoil, must include from the beginning of their planning, a technical evaluation of the impact that they can produce on the archaeological and/or paleontological resources eventually existing, a plan of activities tending to its preservation and the forecast of its cost in the general budget of the work.</p>	
Provincial Law N° 3.702 Protection of Biodynamic Vegetal Species	<p>The objective is to focus on the preservation, conservation, defense and rational and integral use of the non-implanted native medicinal, aromatic and biodynamic plant species, from which the active principles can be extracted for the preparation of medicines, extraction of principles immediate or derived for industry and consumption, in the framework of Provincial Law N° 2.600 (this Law recognizes as the public domain of the Province of Río Negro the heritage and genetic, aquatic, terrestrial and aerial resources originated in the Río Negro territory).</p> <p>Biodynamic plant species means those from which it can be extracted the immediate chemical principles or derivatives that can be used in the manufacture of medicines, diagnostic means, dietetic, hygienic, cosmetic, and veterinary products, essential oils and dried material or whose derivatives are suitable for industrialization.</p>	
Provincial Law N° 2.056 Wildlife	<p>Declares of public interest the wildlife that temporarily or permanently inhabits Territory of the Province, as well as its management and that of its habitats or environments.</p> <p>Determines that feasibility studies and projects of any kind, which may originate or produce significant alterations or transformations in the environment, that modify the habitat of wildlife species, should be analyzed and have the favorable opinion of the authority of application.</p>	
<i>Water and wastewater management</i>		
Provincial Law N° 2.952 and Regulatory Decree N° 1.923/96 (modified by Decree N° 1.093/2010) Provincial Water Code	<p>The mentioned Law approves the Provincial Water Code regulating everything concerning the tutelage, government, administration and police of public water, its sources, beds, channels, banks and beaches; its use and enjoyment by private individuals, as well as the construction, administration and maintenance of works that enable their use and preservation or protection against their harmful effects.</p> <p>For the purpose of deriving public surface water; capture groundwater for private use; discharge in the same domiciliary, urban, agricultural or industrial effluents, a concession, authorization or permission must be obtained from the competent authority.</p> <p>Chapter III of Title II of this Code contains provisions related to the granting of applications for water use. These must contain, as a minimum, the requirements listed in Article 30, among</p>	Water Use Permit Groundwater Well Drilling Permit Groundwater Exploration Permit Wastewater Discharge Authorization

REGULATIONS	DESCRIPTION	ASSOCIATED PERMITS
	<p>which is the presentation of an environmental impact assessment and its forecasts in this regard "when appropriate, depending on the entity or extent of the use".</p> <p>Regarding the use of groundwater, regardless of obtaining an administrative authorization (referred us Water Use Application), the Code requires the prior obtaining of an administrative permit for exploration and drilling of groundwater upon presentation of the work plan to be carried out and its approval by the application authority (<u>Groundwater Well Drilling Permit</u> for exploration and drilling within own territory; and <u>Groundwater Exploration Permit</u> for exploration on foreign soil or in the public or private domain of the State). The application authority will keep a Register of Exploration Permits and a Register of Drilling Permits.</p> <p>The permit holders must maintain a file of the water abstraction with all the technical background related to each one of the perforations and immediately communicate any physical or chemical alteration produced in the extracted water. In addition, they must issue a final technical report, once the drilling work is completed.</p> <p>This regulation also approves the "Regime of Protection and Conservation of Water Resources", which applies to any natural or legal person who discharges their waste in water bodies from the province of Río Negro. It prohibits the direct or indirect discharge of treated or untreated wastewater, to public roads, irrigation channels and any underground water body, unless expressly authorized in each case.</p> <p>Wastewater and its final disposal must contain the corresponding discharge authorization granted by the Provincial Water Department. All those that discharge their effluents in the authorized water bodies must register in the <u>Register of Users of Water Bodies</u>. This registration will be prior to the authorization of use of the water body.</p>	
<p>Provincial Law N° 2.391 and Regulatory Decree N° 1.894/91 Water Resources Protection</p>	<p>Provides that establishments that discharge industrial wastewater should have a unique discharge point, so they must join all their discharges in a single exit before trespassing the boundaries of the property; have a sampling and flow measurement chamber in the final discharge point, on the line of demarcation of the property and with direct access; and adopt a system to remove coarse solids, in case of having effluents that contain them.</p> <p>Once all the industrial establishments are registered, the application authority will intimate them to present the effluents treatment plant project.</p>	
<p>Resolution N° 378/92</p>	<p>This Resolution of the Provincial Water Department complements the provisions of Decree No. 1.894/91, approving the parameters and discharge limits in the different receiving bodies for industrial liquid effluents regulated in Laws N° 2.952, 2.391 and the aforementioned Decree No. 1.894/91.</p>	
<p>Provincial Resolutions N° 78/2007 and N° 79/2007</p>	<p>The gray and black waters from temporary installations of the O&G camps must be treated, prior to their discharge, by means of an efficient septic system, which guarantees the non-affectation of the environment.</p>	

REGULATIONS	DESCRIPTION	ASSOCIATED PERMITS
Treatment of Sanitary Effluents from the O&G Camps	<p>Any activity that requires the installation of camps must certify in a reliable manner, before the CODEMA, the gray and black water treatment system that will be used to mitigate this impact, such as compact mobile plants for the treatment of effluents or systems of greater efficiency.</p> <p>The treatment must be carried out by the Service Provider Company, duly registered before the CODEMA, and/or by its own system that fulfills the requirements demanded by the application authority. The Register is created through Resolution N° 79/2007.</p>	
Provincial Resolution N° 886/2015 Protection of water resources and control of industrial and oil and gas activities	<p>Establishes provisions for wastewater discharges generated in the oil and gas activity, including the classification of the different activities, the presentation of affidavits to complete the registration in the <u>Register of Users of Water Bodies (mentioned above)</u>, discharge parameters, requirements for wastewater treatment plants, etc.</p>	
<i>Soil Conservation</i>		
Provincial Law N° 1.556	<p>The province of Río Negro has adhered to the regime of the National Law N° 22.428 of Soil Conservation through the Provincial Law N° 1.556.</p> <p>The enforcement authority may declare a Soil Conservation District any area where it is necessary or advisable to undertake soil conservation or recovery programs and provided that techniques adaptation and efficiency are available for the region or similar regions.</p>	
Provincial Law N° 2.345	<p>Establishes that all works and constructions carried out in the Province of Río Negro in which the geological and geotechnical conditions of the foundations or soils used in their construction acquire relevance in terms of their stability, safety, development and/or durability, they must have geotechnical studies whose scope allows to assure their total reliability.</p>	
Resolution N° 12/2005	<p>In the absence of provincial regulations that adopt guideline levels of soil quality, this Resolution from the CODEMA adheres to those established by National Decree No. 831/93, regulatory of Law No. 24.051.</p>	
<i>Air Quality</i>		
Resolution N° 12/2005	<p>Given that in the Province of Río Negro there are no specific regulations that regulate the matter of environmental air quality and gaseous emissions from fixed sources, Resolution N° 12/2005 of the CODEMA, adheres to the guidance levels for air quality established by National Decree N° 831/93, regulatory of Law No. 24.051.</p> <p>As regards to air emissions from mobile sources (trucks, heavy equipment, etc.), Law N° 24.449 and its Regulatory Decree N° 775/95 (National Traffic Law) will be applicable, incorporated into the provincial legal system by Law No. 2.942.</p>	

REGULATIONS	DESCRIPTION	ASSOCIATED PERMITS
<i>Indigenous Communities</i>		
Provincial Law N° 2.287 and its Regulatory Decree N° 1.693/90	<p>Recognizes the existence of the Indigenous Advisory Council, based in Ingeniero Jacobacci, composed of elected delegates from indigenous communities, rural and urban associations in the province of Río Negro; and, creates the Council of Development of the Indigenous Communities that will act as authority of application of the present law, with consultative and resolute character.</p> <p>The Regulatory Decree created the Provincial Registry of Indigenous Communities, which will act within the Council for the Development of Indigenous Communities, and in which indigenous communities must register.</p>	