

DIRECTIVE 2014-01 2nd Update

August 21, 2014



2nd UPDATE - Short-Term Water Use Suspension Covers Most of Northeast B.C.

To: Industry

Effective Date: Immediately

Latest Requirement:

Water withdrawals by the oil and gas industry are now suspended for all rivers, creeks, streams and lakes in northeast B.C.- including the Liard River watershed - for short-term water use approved by the Commission.

Note the following exceptions:

- Withdrawal of water stored in dugouts is <u>not</u> suspended.
- Withdrawal of water is <u>not</u> suspended from the main channel of the following large rivers:
 - Peace River
 - Pine River
 - Sikanni Chief River
 - Prophet River

- Muskwa River
- Fort Nelson River
- Liard River
- Dunedin River
- Withdrawal of water is <u>not</u> suspended from the following lakes:
 - Williston Lake
 - Dinosaur Lake

A map showing all watersheds now under suspension is attached.

Background:

The Commission closely monitors stream flow and water levels and makes changes to permitted uses as conditions change. Due to ongoing low stream flow, concerns continue to escalate for impacts to fish and aquatic resources and community water supply. The current weather forecast from Environment Canada is for dry weather to continue.

Northeast B.C. has continued to be been extremely dry, with water levels continuing to recede, including in the Liard River watershed. The levels of many rivers are currently near or below their record low flows for this time of year. River levels are anticipated to continue dropping until such time as significant rainfall occurs.

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) issued <u>Directive 2014-01</u> on July 28, suspending some short-term water withdrawals by the oil and gas industry in northeast B.C. due to drought conditions. On August 8, the Commission issued an <u>Expanded Directive</u> to include additional basins within the Peace River watershed.

Should you have any questions regarding this Directive Update, please contact:

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