

DIRECTIVE 2018-01

Aug. 20, 2018



Suspension of Water Diversions in the Peace River & Liard River Watersheds

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) is requiring the oil and gas industry to immediately suspend all previously approved water diversions under Section 10 of the *Water Sustainability Act*, due to drought conditions. This includes rivers, streams and lakes in the following basins within the Peace River and Liard River watersheds:

Peace River watershed

- Aitken Creek
- Beatton River
- Blueberry River
- Cache Creek
- Cameron River
- Chinchaga River
- Johnson Creek
- Doig River
- Farrell Creek
- Lynx Creek
- Milligan Creek
- Kotcho River
- Shekilie River

Liard watershed

- Fontas River
- Kantah River
- Petite River

Diversion and use of water stored in dugouts or dams is not suspended and the suspension does not apply to the main channel of the Peace River or Dinosaur Lake. More information can be found on the B.C. Government [Drought Information page](#).

Low stream flow conditions are escalating concerns for impacts to fish, aquatic resources and community supply in the above basins. Water levels are anticipated to continue dropping until significant rain falls in the area. The Commission will assist industry in identifying options for alternative short-term water supply should it be required during this period of drought.

Applications for water diversion:

Given local variability, it is possible some streams in the areas under suspension will have recovered sufficiently to allow some water withdrawal. The Commission will review new applications for diversion, or requests to use existing approvals, on a site-specific basis.

Operators are requested to do the following to support their application or request to use an existing Section 10 approval:

1. Limit the application to water volumes and points of diversion that are realistic to the specific operational needs for the upcoming months.
2. For new applications for diversion for water from rivers and streams, or to request use of existing approvals, provide a good discharge measurement at the point(s) of diversion, to provide information on current flow conditions in relation to the volume of water requested. The discharge measurement will be collected to an acceptable hydrometric standard by a qualified individual.
3. For new applications for diversion from lakes, or reactivation of existing approvals, provide information on lake bathymetry:

- Surface area (hectares).
- Depth (metres). If lake depth information is not already available from provincial databases or previous surveys, obtain depth measurements at points along two transects representing the long and short lake axes, to determine maximum lake depth.
- Volume (cubic metres).

For more information about this Directive, please contact:

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**For oil and gas incidents and emergencies, please contact the Commission at:
1-800-663-3456 (24 hours).**