



New Designations Under Water Act

TO: Industry Clients

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

REQUIREMENT:

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) has designated staff of the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) as Regional Water Managers and Assistant Regional Water Managers under Section 1 of the Water Act. These new designations provide Commission staff with the authority to issue water licences for oil and gas purposes. This utilizes the Commission's single-window structure as well as hydrological tools and expertise for water allocation decisions.

Operators seeking water licences will now be required to submit applications to the Commission. Consistent with all Commission processes, a manual will be developed to support water licence applications. This manual is currently under development and is anticipated to be finalized by mid-May. In the interim, operators anticipating applying for licences should contact the Commission's hydrologist for further direction.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2004 the Commission has been the permitting authority for short-term water permits (valid for a duration of one year or less) through statutory authority for Section 8 of the Water Act. Through these designations the Commission also assumes the responsibility of reviewing and permitting water licences, which are valid for a period of longer than one year. Water licence application fees and water rental fees as designated in the Water Act will still apply.

The Commission is committed to ensuring responsible water use, and has the necessary expertise and tools, including the [Northeast Water Tool](#), to make informed decisions on water allocation for oil and gas industry uses. The Commission also has the authority to suspend industry water use in situations of low water levels, as took place during droughts in 2012 and 2010. Water use by the oil and gas industry is reported quarterly on the Commission's [website](#) and includes water licence data.

For further information on this industry bulletin, please contact:

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