



Short-Term Water Use Approval Updated Application Form and Manual

TO: Industry

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 19, 2015

BACKGROUND:

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) has authority for Section 8 of the Water Act, to provide review and determination related to applications for short-term use of water to support oil and gas activities, while providing for the protection of fisheries and aquatic resources and community water supply. The Commission has updated the Section 8 application form and application manual, both of which are available on the Commission's [website](#).

In order to better inform decision-making, the following changes to the Commission's review and determination process have been made. The changes are reflected in the Section 8 application manual:

- Environmental flow requirements have been enhanced to ensure consistency with the Ministry of Environment's *Environmental Flow Needs Policy (Jan 2014)*. These changes are intended to enhance the management of water allocation during the winter low-flow period. Users are referred to Appendix F of the manual, titled *Guidance on Water Withdrawals*. These changes are being incorporated into the NorthEast Water Tool (NEWT), with the NEWT upgrade anticipated for January 2015. NEWT can be viewed at: <https://water.bcogc.ca/newt>.
- Clarity on review and determination for Section 26 of the Water Act for "Permits Over Crown Land," which provide for use of Crown land for temporary water pipelines or pumping sites associated with an approval for short-term use of water under Section 8 of the Water Act.

For more information, please contact:

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