

# Quarterly Oil and Gas Water Management Summary

First Quarter 2022 (Jan - Mar)







This Quarterly Water Management Summary presents short-term water use and water licence data from the Q1 January to March 2022 period.

Previous annual water use reports and quarterly water management summaries are available at [bcogc.ca](https://bcogc.ca).

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## Vision, Mission and Values

### Vision

A resilient energy future where B.C.'s energy resource activities are safe, environmentally leading and socially responsible.

### Mission

We regulate the life cycle of energy resource activities in B.C., from site planning to restoration, ensuring activities are undertaken in a manner that:



Protects public safety



Safeguards the environment



Supports meaningful reconciliation



Advances the public interest and contributes to B.C.'s economy

### Values

**Transparency** is our commitment to be open and provide clear information on decisions, operations and actions.

**Innovation** is our commitment to learn, adapt, act and grow.

**Integrity** is our commitment to the principles of fairness, trust and accountability.

**Respect** is our commitment to listen, accept and value diverse perspectives.

**Responsiveness** is our commitment to listening and timely and meaningful action.

# Role of the BC Oil and Gas Commission

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As a provincial Crown agency, we protect public safety and safeguard the environment through the sound regulation of oil, gas and aspects of geothermal activities in B.C. while balancing a broad range of environmental, economic and social considerations.

We regulate resource activity through the [Oil and Gas Activities Act \(OGAA\)](#), the [Petroleum and Natural Gas \(PNG\) Act](#), and other associated laws related to heritage conservation, roads, land and water use, forestry, and other natural resources.

Through combined authority and working with partner agencies, we regulate activities on Crown land, private land, and the Agricultural Land Reserve. When oil, gas, or geothermal permits are granted, we are responsible for ensuring industry compliance with provincial legislation from initial exploration to final reclamation.

As more resources have been discovered, techniques for accessing them have advanced, environmental awareness has increased, and stakeholders have let us know they are interested in providing more input.

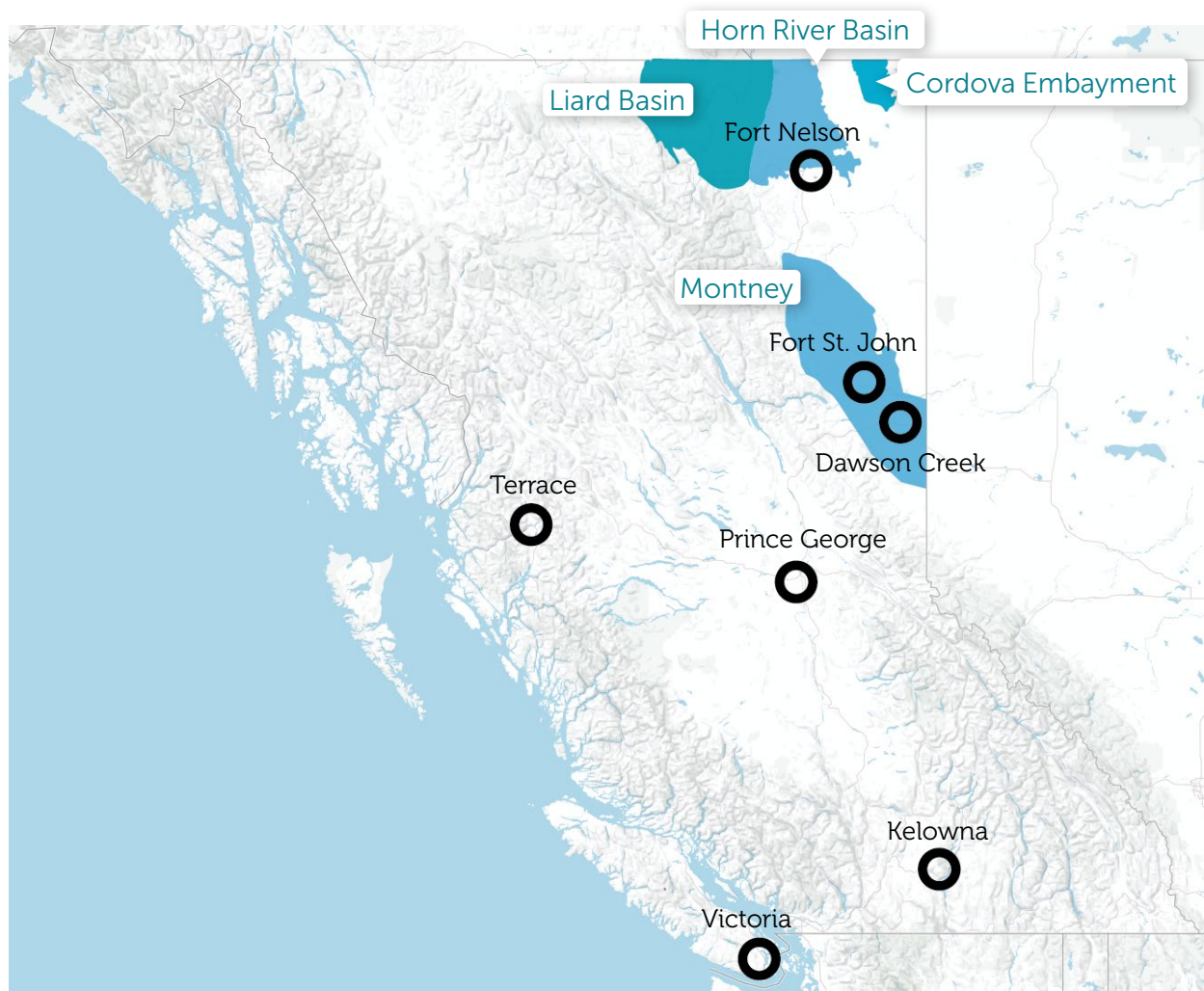
During our review and decision-making processes, we work closely with [land owners](#), [rights holders](#), and [Indigenous communities](#).

The Commission currently has over 280 employees operating out of seven locations: Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Terrace, Prince George, Kelowna and Victoria. The largest number of employees are in the Fort St. John office.



With more than 20 years' dedicated service, we're committed to ensuring safe and responsible energy resource management for British Columbia.

## Commission Office Locations Throughout B.C.



## Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the many Indigenous Territories and Treaty areas, each with unique cultures, languages, legal traditions and relationships to the land and water, which the BC Oil and Gas Commission's work spans. We also respectfully acknowledge the Métis and Inuit people living across B.C.



# How Water is Used and Accessed

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## Water Use

Water is used for various purposes in the oil and gas industry. The largest use of water is for hydraulic fracturing, however, water is used for other purposes, such as:



Seismic or geophysical exploration



Drilling



Machine washing



Dust control



Water floods (enhances oil recovery)



Ice road freezing



Hydrostatic testing of pipelines

## Water Access

There are different ways the oil and gas industry may access water in British Columbia. Some methods are managed through provincial legislation, including:

**Water licences** issued under section 9 of the Water Sustainability Act (WSA) for surface and groundwater. Commission staff designated as Regional Water Managers have the authority to issue and administer long-term water licences.

**Short-term surface water use or diversion approvals** issued under section 10 of the WSA. Short-term water use is administered by the Commission.

**Water source wells** authorized by the Commission under OGAA are wells where water is withdrawn for injection into underground formations to enhance oil or natural gas recovery.

**Flowback water** that returns to the surface after being injected for hydraulic fracturing.

**Produced water** that flows to the surface as a by-product of oil and gas production.

### Industry may access water by means outside of regulatory oversight:

**Private agreements** can be made with land owners who have a source of surface water supply such as a dugout or groundwater well. In some cases, private agreements may require a Waterworks water licence under the WSA.

# Oil and Gas Activity Water Use: Short-term Approvals & Long-Term Licences

## Q1 Short-Term Water Use

During January to March there were 248 water use approvals in place, representing 714 withdrawal locations, held by 36 companies (Table 1).

The total water volume available for use by short-term approvals active on the last day of Q1 was 18,300,693 m<sup>3</sup>.

A total of 292,693 m<sup>3</sup> was reported as withdrawn.

**TABLE 1 - SHORT-TERM APPROVALS AND USE  
FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2022**

	Q1
Companies with Active Approvals	36
Active Approvals	248
Approved Withdrawal locations	714
Volume Available for Use (m <sup>3</sup> )	18,300,693
Cumulative Volume Reported Withdrawn (m <sup>3</sup> )	292,693

## Q1 Long-Term Water Use

During January to March, there were 106 active oil and gas related water licences, representing 110 withdrawal locations, held by 30 companies (Table 2).

The total water volume associated with short-term approvals active on the last day of Q1 was 32,163,740 m<sup>3</sup>.

A total of 684,428 m<sup>3</sup> was reported as withdrawn.

**TABLE 2 - LONG-TERM WATER LICENCES AND USE  
FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2022**

	Q1
Companies with Active Water Licences	30
Active Water Licences	106
Licensed Withdrawal Locations	110
Annual Volume Available for Use for Water Licences (m <sup>3</sup> )	32,163,740
Cumulative Volume Reported Withdrawn (m <sup>3</sup> )	684,428


A break-down of short-term approvals and water licence use by OGC Water Management Basin is listed in Table 4 on page 10.

# Oil and Gas Related Water Licences

**Table 3: Licences that Withdrew Water from January to March 2022**

LICENCE #	LICENCEE	SOURCE	OGC WATER MGMT BASIN	ANNUAL APPROVAL (m <sup>3</sup> /YR)	2021 WATER USE (m <sup>3</sup> /YR)
C112155	Whitecap Resources Inc.	Peace River	Lower Peace River	1,825,000	148,555
C133155	Pacific Canbriam Energy	Williston Lake	Peace Arm	3,650,000	41,355
C134469	ConocoPhillips Canada	Halfway River	Lower Halfway River	3,650,000	288,016
C134471	Petronas Energy Canada	Sikanni Chief River	Upper Sikanni Chief	2,993,000	117,612
C500172	Secure Energy Services	Aquifer 634	Lower Peace River	36,500	4,276
C501076	Ovintiv Canada ULC	Bissette Ck, Dawson Ck	Pouce Coupe River	482,000	11,143
C501120	Canlin Energy Corp.	FSJ Aquifer	Upper Beatton River	1,825	40
C501672	ConocoPhillips Canada	Aquifer 451	Cache Creek	49,750	3,295
C501766	T. Hartnell Enterprises	Aquifer 633	Lower Kiskatinaw River	100,000	165
C501773	Tourmaline Oil Corp.	FSJ Aquifer	Upper Beatton River	19,710	1,533
C501793	CNRL	Aquifer 931	Milligan Creek	36,500	3,084
C501865	Boundry Lake Sand & Gravel Ltd.	FSJ Aquifer	Lower Peace River	10,950	112
C502134	Petronas Energy Canada	FSJ Aquifer	Cameron River	4,015	479
C502277	Peaceland Farm Ltd.	Aquifer 908	Lower Halfway River	360,000	4,451
C502295	Todd Energy Canada	FSJ Aquifer	Blueberry River	146,000	22,957
C502448	CNRL	Dawson Creek Bedrock	Murray River	5,475	104
C502452	CNRL	FSJ Aquifer	Kahntah River	3,650	17
C502455	CNRL	Dawson Creek Aquifer	Smoky River	1,095	278
C502462	CNRL	FSJ Aquifer	Kahntah River	7,300	1,019
C502467	CNRL	FSJ Aquifer	Upper Beatton River	3,650	82
C502795	CNRL	Aquifer 451	Blueberry River	3,650	306
C502900	Pineview Trucking & Excavating Ltd.	Unconsolidated Aquifer	Outside of NEBC	98,550	11,459
C502957	Time Travel Services Ltd.	Aquifer 928	Upper Peace River	10,000	3,832
C503048	Albright Flush Systems	Aquifer 451	Cache Creek	2,920	670
C503088	Inga Water Source Ltd.	Aquifer 451	Cache Creek	21,170	1,785
C503155	Inga Water Source Ltd.	Aquifer 451	Cache Creek	76,285	17,797





At the end of the first quarter, water used by industry was a fraction of a per cent (0.001) of the average runoff replenished annually in northeast B.C.



TABLE 4 - SUMMARY OF WATER ALLOCATION AND USE FOR OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES IN 2022, ORGANIZED BY OGC WATER MANAGEMENT BASIN (Page 1 of 4)

MAJOR and Sub-Basin Name	OIL AND GAS RELATED SHORT-TERM WATER USE APPROVALS - SECTION 10					OIL AND GAS RELATED WATER LICENCES - SECTION 9					
	NUMBER OF APPROVED WITHDRAWAL LOCATIONS	TOTAL VOLUME APPROVED (m³)	TOTAL VOLUME APPROVED AS % OF MEAN ANNUAL RUNOFF	TOTAL VOLUME WITHDRAWN IN 2022 (m³)	TOTAL VOLUME WITHDRAWN AS % OF MEAN ANNUAL RUNOFF	NUMBER OF LICENCED WITHDRAWAL LOCATIONS	TOTAL VOLUME LICENCED (m³)	TOTAL VOLUME LICENCED AS % OF MEAN ANNUAL RUNOFF	TOTAL VOLUME WITHDRAWN IN 2022 (m³)	TOTAL VOLUME WITHDRAWN AS % OF MEAN ANNUAL RUNOFF	MEAN ANNUAL RUNOFF (m³)
<b>BEATTON RIVER</b> (sub-basin of Peace River)											
Upper Beatton River	11	750,600	0.150%	1,875	0.000%	17	1,575,519	0.315%	1,656	0.000%	499,408,440
Middle Beatton River	26	304,896	0.122%	2,899	0.001%	1	1,095	0.000%	0	0.000%	249,152,995
<b>Middle Beatton Total (incl. Upper Beatton)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1,055,496</b>	<b>0.141%</b>	<b>4,774</b>	<b>0.001%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,576,614</b>	<b>0.211%</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>0.000%</b>	<b>748,561,435</b>
Milligan Creek	12	39,100	0.020%	0	0.000%	6	235,425	0.123%	3,084	<b>0.002%</b>	191,536,686
Blueberry River	25	631,906	0.215%	26,635	0.009%	4	198,925	0.068%	23,264	0.008%	293,278,540
Doig River	1	5,000	0.002%	2,695	0.001%	1	51,100	0.016%	0	0.000%	323,069,523
Lower Beatton River	2	519,600	0.376%	0	0.000%	1	20,730	0.015%	0	0.000%	138,262,629
<b>BEATTON TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>2,251,102</b>	<b>0.133%</b>	<b>34,104</b>	<b>0.002%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2,082,794</b>	<b>0.123%</b>	<b>28,004</b>	<b>0.002%</b>	<b>1,694,708,813</b>
<b>HALFWAY RIVER</b> (sub-basin of Peace River)											
Chowade River	0					0					327,027,527
Upper Halfway River	1	500,000	0.063%	0	0.000%	1	72,000	0.009%	0	0.000%	795,962,409
<b>Upper Halfway Total (includes Chowade)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>0.045%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>0.006%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000%</b>	<b>1,122,989,936</b>
Graham River	1	2,400	0.000%	0	0.000%	0					860,627,172
Cameron River	28	1,096,271	0.490%	11,180	0.005%	19	1,111,919	0.497%	479	0.000%	223,679,567
Lower Halfway River	3	13,595	0.009%	0	0.000%	9	5,448,688	3.596%	292,468	0.193%	151,526,991
<b>HALFWAY TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,612,266</b>	<b>0.068%</b>	<b>11,180</b>	<b>0.000%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6,632,607</b>	<b>0.281%</b>	<b>292,947</b>	<b>0.012%</b>	<b>2,358,823,666</b>
<b>MOBERLY RIVER</b> (sub-basin of Peace River)											
Moberly River	0					0					391,714,995
<b>MOBERLY TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000%</b>	<b>391,714,995</b>
<b>PINE RIVER</b> (sub-basin of Peace River)											
Burnt River	1	39,000	0.005%	0	0.000%	0					737,930,022
Sukunka River	9	240,000	0.023%	47	0.000%	0					1,047,282,572
<b>Sukunka River Total (includes Burnt)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>279,000</b>	<b>0.016%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0.000%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000%</b>	<b>1,785,212,594</b>
Upper Pine River	1	18,000	0.001%	0	0.000%	0					1,466,884,035
Murray River	6	203,000	0.008%	0	0.000%	1	5,475	0.000%	104	0.000%	2,698,285,017
Lower Pine River	7	1,890,000	1.373%	123,836	0.090%	1	650,000	0.472%	0	0.000%	137,619,889
<b>PINE TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2,390,000</b>	<b>0.039%</b>	<b>123,883</b>	<b>0.002%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>655,475</b>	<b>0.011%</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>0.000%</b>	<b>6,088,001,535</b>

OIL AND GAS RELATED SHORT-TERM WATER USE APPROVALS - SECTION 10						OIL AND GAS RELATED WATER LICENCES - SECTION 9					
MAJOR and Sub-Basin Name	NUMBER OF APPROVED WITHDRAWAL LOCATIONS	TOTAL VOLUME APPROVED (m³)	TOTAL VOLUME APPROVED AS % OF MEAN ANNUAL RUNOFF	TOTAL VOLUME WITHDRAWN IN 2022 (m³)	TOTAL VOLUME WITHDRAWN AS % OF MEAN ANNUAL RUNOFF	NUMBER OF LICENCED WITHDRAWAL LOCATIONS	TOTAL VOLUME LICENCED (m³)	TOTAL VOLUME LICENCED AS % OF MEAN ANNUAL RUNOFF	TOTAL VOLUME WITHDRAWN IN 2022 (m³)	TOTAL VOLUME WITHDRAWN AS % OF MEAN ANNUAL RUNOFF	MEAN ANNUAL RUNOFF (m³)
KISKATINAW RIVER (sub-basin of Peace River)											
West Kiskatinaw River	0					0					117,515,115
East Kiskatinaw River	0					0					105,452,962
Middle Kiskatinaw River	4	42,950	0.076%	0	0.000%	1	600,000	1.065%	0	0.000%	56,347,972
Middle Kiskatinaw Total (incl. West & East)	4	42,950	0.015%	0	0.000%	1	600,000	0.215%	0	0.000%	279,316,049
Lower Kiskatinaw River	17	851,722	0.950%	1,753	0.002%	10	3,198,317	3.567%	165	0.000%	89,659,847
KISKATINAW TOTAL	21	894,672	0.242%	1,753	0.000%	11	3,798,317	1.029%	165	0.000%	368,975,896
PEACE RIVER											
Peace Arm	0					3	9,125,000	N/A	41,356	N/A	N/A
Upper Peace River	1	510,000	0.001%	0	0.000%	1	10,000		3,832		36,423,413,429
Lynx Creek	0					0					30,436,635
Farrell Creek	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	0					91,018,843
Cache Creek	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	8	677,605	0.908%	23,549	0.032%	74,603,546
Pouce Coupe River	5	143,396	0.056%	0	0.000%	4	1,650,200	0.645%	11,143	0.004%	255,686,202
Lower Peace River	9	677,550	0.592%	0	0.000%	8	4,204,919	3.673%	152,944	0.134%	114,470,012
PEACE TOTAL (incl. Kisk/Pine/Moberly/Half/Beatton)	170	8,478,986	0.018%	170,920	0.000%	96	28,836,917	0.060%	554,044	0.001%	47,891,853,572
SMOKY RIVER											
Smoky River	3	27,000	0.001%	0	0.000%	2	6,595	0.000%	278	0.000%	2,669,506,123
SMOKY TOTAL	3	27,000	0.001%	0	0.000%	2	6,595	0.000%	278	0.000%	2,669,506,123
MUSKWA RIVER (sub-basin of Fort Nelson River)											
Upper Muskwa River	0					0					1,725,201,511
Middle Muskwa River	0					0					1,973,711,816
Middle Muskwa Total (incl. Upper Muskwa)	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	3,698,913,327
Lower Muskwa River	1	22,000	0.003%	0	0.000%	0					646,841,560
MUSKWA TOTAL	1	22,000	0.001%	0	0.000%	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	4,345,754,887
PROPHET RIVER (sub-basin of Fort Nelson River)											
Upper Prophet River	0					1	36,593	0.002%	0	0.000%	1,470,271,289
Middle Prophet River	7	63,000	0.010%	0	0.000%	0					621,428,680
Middle Prophet Total (incl. Upper Prophet)	7	63,000	0.003%	0	0.000%	1	36,593	0.002%	0	0.000%	2,091,699,969
Lower Prophet River	2	8,200	0.003%	0	0.000%	0					272,262,427
PROPHET TOTAL	9	71,200	0.003%	0	0.000%	1	36,593	0.002%	0	0.000%	2,363,962,396



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SIKANNI CHIEF RIVER (sub-basin of Fort Nelson River)											
Upper Sikanni Chief River	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	3	3,117,689	0.386%	117,612	0.015%	807,771,692
Middle Sikanni Chief River	6	165,188	0.017%	0	0.000%	4	29,203	0.003%	0	0.000%	949,755,794
Middle Sikanni Chief Total (incl. Upper Sikanni)	6	165,188	0.009%	0	0.000%	7	3,146,892	0.179%	117,612	0.007%	1,757,527,486
Lower Sikanni Chief	9	48,424	0.006%	952	0.000%	0					875,678,142
SIKANNI CHIEF TOTAL	15	213,612	0.008%	952	0.000%	7	3,146,892	0.120%	117,612	0.004%	2,633,205,628
FORT NELSON RIVER											
Kahntah River	34	178,648	0.045%	0	0.000%	2	10,950	0.003%	1,036	0.000%	400,582,903
Fontas River	3	17,200	0.003%	0	0.000%	0					591,531,903
Fontas Total (includes Kahntah)	37	195,848	0.020%	0	0.000%	2	10,950	0.001%	1,036	0.000%	992,114,806
Klua Creek	0					0					402,135,448
Upper Fort Nelson River	0					0					276,181,026
Upper Fort Nelson Total (incl. Sikanni Chief Total, Kahntah, Fontas, Klua)	52	409,460	0.010%	952	0.000%	9	3,157,842	0.073%	118,648	0.003%	4,303,636,908
Snake River	0					0					310,763,522
Sahtaneh River	9	30,500	0.006%	0	0.000%	0					474,904,729
Middle Fort Nelson River	11	103,630	0.020%	0	0.000%	0					515,348,901
Middle Ft Nelson Total (incl. Upper Ft. Nelson total, Muskwa Total, Prophet Total, Snake, Sahtaneh)	82	636,790	0.005%	952	0.000%	10	3,194,435	0.026%	118,648	0.001%	12,314,371,343
Kiwigana River	7	71,500	0.016%	2,579	0.001%	0					441,657,543
Lower Fort Nelson River	0					0					312,768,938
FORT NELSON TOTAL	89	708,290	0.005%	3,531	0.000%	10	3,194,435	0.024%	118,648	0.001%	13,068,797,824
LIARD RIVER											
Muncho River	0					0					551,551,360
Upper Liard River	0					0					33,125,817,465
Upper Liard Total (incl. Muncho)	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	33,677,368,825
Grayling River	0					0					630,833,914
Upper Toad River	0					0					1,521,055,576
Racing River	0					0					1,488,336,681
Lower Toad River	0					0					419,472,722
Beaver River	0					0					10,862,659,426
Middle Liard River	0					0					463,652,312

OIL AND GAS RELATED SHORT-TERM WATER USE APPROVALS - SECTION 10						OIL AND GAS RELATED WATER LICENCES - SECTION 9					
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LIARD RIVER con't											
Middle Liard Total (incl. Upper Liard Total, Grayling, Upper Toad, Racing, Lower Toad, Beaver)	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	49,063,379,456
Capot-Blanc Creek	0					0					183,879,851
Dunedin River	0					0					820,464,167
Lower Liard River	1	20,000	0.002%	0	0.000%	0					1,236,634,664
LIARD TOTAL (incl. Fort Nelson)	90	728,290	0.001%	3,531	0.000%	10	3,194,435	0.005%	118,648	0.000%	64,373,155,962
PETITOT RIVER											
Sahdoanah River	22	55,000	0.022%	1,764	0.001%	0					252,625,362
Upper Petitot River	47	165,400	0.011%	0	0.000%	0					1,476,579,488
Tsea River	33	133,810	0.031%	2,484	0.001%	0					434,062,484
Middle Petitot River	13	62,600	0.009%	0	0.000%	0					698,562,753
Middle Petitot Total (incl. Sahdoanah, Upper Petitot, Tsea)	115	416,810	0.015%	4,248	0.000%	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	2,861,830,087
Lower Petitot River	23	276,000	0.031%	0	0.000%	0					904,314,069
PETITOT TOTAL	138	692,810	0.018%	4,248	0.000%	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	3,766,144,156
HAY RIVER											
Upper Kotcho River	0					0					311,519,217
Kyklo River	2	26,720	0.018%	468	0.000%	0					145,897,691
Shekilie River	28	330,599	0.073%	1,656	0.000%	0					450,747,494
Lower Kotcho River	3	14,400	0.005%	2,208	0.001%	0					311,519,217
Lower Kotcho Total (includes Upper Kotcho, Kyklo, Shekilie)	33	371,719	0.030%	4,332	0.000%	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	1,219,683,619
Hay River	28	212,300	0.039%	144	0.000%	0					538,672,352
HAY TOTAL	61	584,019	0.033%	4,476	0.000%	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	1,758,355,971
CHINCHAGA RIVER											
Chinchaga River	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	0					109,492,680
CHINCHAGA TOTAL	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	0	0	0.000%	0	0.000%	109,492,680
OTHER (outside Northeast B.C.)	252	7,798,588	N/A	109,518	N/A	2	98,793	N/A	11,459	N/A	N/A
GRAND TOTAL	714	18,300,693	0.015%	292,693	0.000%	110	32,136,740	0.027%	684,429	0.001%	120,568,508,464

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## PREVIOUS REPORTS

Annual water reports and quarterly updates are available on the Commission's website at <https://www.bcogc.ca/data-reports>.

For questions regarding this report, please contact [OGC.Communications@bcogc.ca](mailto:OGC.Communications@bcogc.ca)



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