



## Suspension of Water Diversions in the Peace River and 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:

- Alces River
- Beaton River (Doig River, Osborne River, Blueberry River)
- Farrell Creek
- Cache Creek

#### Tributaries to the Kiskatinaw River (but does not include the Kiskatinaw River)

#### Liard River Watershed:

- Fontas River
- Kantah River
- Petitot River
- Gutah Creek
- Hay 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:
  - a. Surface area (hectares).
  - b. 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.
  - c. Volume

**If you have any questions regarding this Directive, please contact:**

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The BC Oil and Gas Commission protects public safety and safeguards the environment through the sound regulation of oil, gas and geothermal activities in B.C. From exploration through to final reclamation, the Commission works closely with communities and land owners, and confirms industry compliance with provincial legislation. It also ensures there are close working relationships; consults with, and considers the interests of Indigenous peoples.

With more than 20 years' dedicated service, the Commission is committed to safe and responsible energy resource management for British Columbia.

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