

# DIRECTIVE 2012-01

September 13, 2012



## UPDATE - Suspension of Short-Term Water Use in Northeast B.C.

**To:** Industry Clients

**Effective Date:** Immediately

### Background:

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) issued [Directive 2012-01](#) on Aug. 2 suspending short-term water withdrawals in northeast B.C. due to drought conditions. This is an update to that Directive.

The Peace River area (Fort St. John and Dawson Creek) has continued to be exceptionally dry, while portions of far northeast B.C. (Fort Nelson area) have received some rain in August (Fort Nelson received 46 mm of rain during August, while Fort St. John recorded 23 mm). Effects on rivers has been variable.

### Requirement:

Two changes are noted in the Directive Update:

- The flow on the Pine River has receded such that short-term water withdrawals are now suspended.
- Flows on the Fort Nelson River and Liard River, while below normal for the date, are above the threshold for suspension of water withdrawals, and they are exempted from the suspension. The discharge on the Fort Nelson River downstream of the community of Fort Nelson is estimated to be 210 m<sup>3</sup>/s (18,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day), while the Liard River is estimated to be near 1,400 m<sup>3</sup>/s (120,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day).

Withdrawals of water for all rivers and lakes in northeast B.C. for short-term water use approved by the Commission remain suspended, with the following exceptions:

- Withdrawal of water stored in dugouts is not suspended.
- Withdrawal of water from the following sources is not suspended:
  - Peace River
  - Halfway River
  - Sikanni Chief River
  - Muskwa River
  - Fort Nelson River
  - Liard River
  - Williston Lake
  - Dinosaur Lake

Should you have any questions regarding this Directive Update, please contact:

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