

Water Act Authorizations and Licensing

January 11, 2018

Outline

- **Introduction**
- **The Water Act Requirements**
- **Review Process**
- **Standards and Guidance**
- **Compliance Action**

Introduction – What does the a Regional Hydrogeologist do?

Facility Types	Typical Types of Documents Received and Reviewed
<p>Industrial Brine extraction & storage, various power generating plants (coal, diesel-fired), Landfills, Waste Storage and Recycling, Chemical Manufacturing, Wood Treatment and Processing, Pulp Manufacturing, Landfarms, Aggregate Extraction (sand, gravel, peat, borrow pits),</p> <p>ESAs Bulk Storage Facilities, Retail or Gas Service Stations, Spills or Release Incidents, Highway Maintenance Yards, etc.</p> <p>Municipal Land Applications of Residuals (pulp, sewage sludge, ash, drinking H2o treatment residuals)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Industrial Approval Applications - Industrial Approval Amendments - Industrial Approval Renewals - Groundwater Monitoring Proposals/Reports - Groundwater Management Proposals/Reports - Well Decommissioning & Reclamation Plans/Report - Water Act Authorizations/Licenses - Phase I & II Reports for Non-Approved Facilities (ESAs) - Remediation Plans and Reports - Risk Management Plans and Reports



Water Act – When are Authorizations Required?

- **Authorizations under the Water Act are required for water use and water diversion activities**
 - **Approvals (Water Diversion)**
 - **Licenses (Water Use)**
 - **Registrations under Codes of Practice**

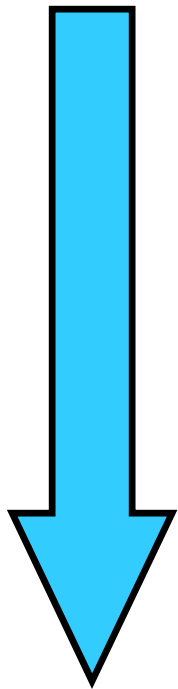
“Authorizations are required if an activities involves placing, constructing, operating, maintaining, removing or disturbing works that alters, may alter or become capable of altering the flow of water.”

Water Act – What is its purpose

- **Purpose of Authorization under the Act?**
 - To promote the conservation and management of water to sustain our environment and high quality of life
 - The wise allocation and use of water
 - Promote economic growth and prosperity
 - Protection of existing rights

Water Act Authorizations – Review Process

Major components of the process:



- 1. Proponent files an application**
- 2. AEP reviews the application**
- 3. AEP monitors proponent's public notice requirements (Statement of Concern deadline)**
- 4. AEP decides to issue or refuse to issue an approval**
- 5. Proponents or Public can appeal the decision**

Water Act Authorizations – Review Process

- **What does AEP Look for in an Application?**
 - **If diversion is over 3,650 m³/year, the application must be accompanied by a report prepared by a Professional Geoscientist or Professional Engineer**
 - **Is the Well constructed properly?**
 - Refer to Water (ministerial) Regulation, Section 47
 - **Was a pumping test conducted as per the Guide to Groundwater Authorizations?**
 - **Other Considerations**
 - Nearby groundwater and surface water Users that could be impacted
 - Geology and hydrogeology of the water producing unit
 - Is the groundwater directly connected to a surface water source?

Water Act Authorizations – Standards and Guidance

- Applicants applying to obtain a Water Act Authorization with regards to Sand and Gravel Pit operations are expected to adhere to the Guide to Water Act Authorizations Required for Dugouts, Borrow Pits and other types of Pits/Excavations (GOA May 2015) when preparing their applications.
- To aid in the preparation of applications the Implementation and FAQ for the Guide to Water Act Authorizations Required for Dugouts, Borrow Pits and other types of Pits/Excavations was released in June of 2016
- In the Grimshaw Area applicants are also expected to follow the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Sand and Gravel Mining Procedure in order to obtain a development permit.

Thank You

Alberta