

DEWATERING / PUMPING APPROVAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

As defined in Section 1(1) of the *Water Act*, de-watering or pumping activities that do not result in consumptive use of water are considered an “activity”. In order to meet requirements of the Act, these activities require an Approval.

Environment and Parks (AEP) may have previously issued Temporary Diversion Licences under the *Water Act* for de-watering or pumping activities in some areas of the province. To maintain consistency within the Department and to meet the legislative requirements, AEP - South Saskatchewan Region manages these activities through Approvals under the *Water Act*.

Please also be aware that depending on the “source” and “quality” of water being diverted, there may be separate requirements under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA) for discharge into natural receiving water bodies. If either the ‘source location’ or ‘receiving location’ is public land or a crown claimable water body, an authorization under the *Public Lands Act* may also be required.

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are required to fill out and submit the following *Water Act* application form:
[http://aep.alberta.ca/water/forms-applications/documents/
ApplicationWaterActApproval-Form-Jul2016.pdf](http://aep.alberta.ca/water/forms-applications/documents/ApplicationWaterActApproval-Form-Jul2016.pdf)

Please ensure the following information is provided along with the application form:

- 1) A site plan showing:
 - a) the de-watering site or source of flooding (legal land description)
 - b) form of conveyance or drainage (e.g., pipe)
 - c) the discharge point or receiving water body (legal land description); and,
- 2) Amount of water to be pumped or conveyed;
- 3) The rate of pumping;
- 4) Pumping or conveyance period – provide start and end dates;
- 5) Current perimeter of the de-watering site and the expected perimeter of the high water mark;

- 6) Description of the discharge point or receiving water body (storm system, drainage ditch, etc.);
- 7) Written consent from the landowner of the receiving water;
- 8) If discharging into a natural watercourse, provide a description of the sedimentation and erosion control measures which will ensure there are no impacts to the watercourse from the de-watering activity; and,
- 9) If discharging into a natural water body, confirmation that there is adequate capacity for the discharge in the receiving water body.

WETLAND DEWATERING/PUMPING APPROVAL APPLICATION

If de-watering is occurring from a water body that is a wetland or slough, the following information must also be provided:

- 10) Current estimated perimeter of the water body (wetland or slough);
- 11) Estimated change in the perimeter (draw-down) of the water body (wetland or slough) based on the dewatering activity;
- 12) Current estimated depth of the water body (wetland or slough);
- 13) The amount of drawdown (depth-wise) for the water body (wetland or slough) as a result of pumping (i.e., how will the overall volume or depth of the water body change as a result of the de-watering); and,
- 14) Whether there will be long-term impacts to the wetland from the de-watering (i.e., water level being drawn down below the normal high water mark of the wetland), and if so, a Wetland Impact Assessment must be completed by a Qualified Wetland Aquatic Environmental Specialist.

EXEMPTIONS

In addition, some construction site de-watering activities are considered exempt from requiring an Approval as per the exemptions in ***Schedule 3 of Water (Ministerial) Regulations***.

Excerpt from Water (Ministerial) Regulations

Schedule 3

Diversions of Water or Operations of Works that are Exempt from the Requirement for a Licence:

1 The following diversions of water and any operations of works associated with those diversions do not require a licence:

- (f) a diversion of water for the purpose of dewatering a sand and gravel site or construction site if
 - (i) the water diverted as a result of the dewatering is
 - (A) moved into and retained in an on-site pit, without using the water, or
 - (B) diverted back into a water body without using the water, if the water is equal to or of the same quality as the water that was originally diverted,
 - (ii) the dewatering site, the water body and the on-site pit referred to in subclause (i) are hydraulically connected,
 - (iii) there is no adverse effect on the aquatic environment or on a household user, licensee or traditional agriculture user, and
 - (iv) in the case of a construction site,
 - (A) there is no adverse effect on any parcel of land, and
 - (B) the maximum duration of the dewatering operation is 6 months or less for the entire construction project;

Important Links and Documents

Water Act - <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/w03.pdf>

Water Act. Water (Ministerial) Regulation -
http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/1998_205.pdf

EPEA Information and Approval Process - <http://aep.alberta.ca/land/programs-and-services/reclamation-and-remediation/forms-applications/epea-approval-process.aspx>