

# Regulatory Bulletin for the Oil & Gas Industry in Western Canada

## September 2018



INTEGRATED  
SUSTAINABILITY

WATER | WASTE | ENERGY

## FEDERAL

### Teck Resources Ltd.'s Oilsands Project Heads to Joint Review Hearing

Teck Resources Ltd. (Teck) commenced the first public hearing for their Frontier Mine Project (the Project) on 25 September 2018. The \$20.6 billion [project](#) is to be located north of Fort McMurray and expects to employ approximately 7,000 employees during construction and 2,500 throughout operations. Despite current oil prices, the Project has a positive outlook as Teck has successfully continued with the regulatory process. During the hearing, Teck signed the [final participation agreement](#) with the Mikisew Cree First Nation in front of the joint review panel. Teck had already obtained agreements with Cree, Dene and Metis communities that would be affected by the activity.

## ALBERTA

### Area-Based Closure Program Mapping Tool

On 30 August 2018, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) released the [Area-Based Closure Program Mapping Tool](#). This is now available in OneStop, for companies to collaborate on proposed area-based closure projects. Companies intending to submit information on area-based closure projects will need to ensure they have a valid business associate (BA) code and a valid digital data submissions (DDS) system account to login to OneStop. DDS administrators must assign new roles to DDS users, which includes consultants who will be submitting on behalf of a company.

### Updated Requirement for Survey and Sketch Plans

As of 30 August 2018, Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and the AER have implemented an updated content requirement for sketch and survey plans for public lands disposition [applications](#) and amendments. The document "Content Requirements for Survey Plans and Sketches: for disposition, reservation and notation activities affecting public lands (excludes agricultural activities)" contains the latest acceptable plan standards for [survey and sketch plans](#). Additional information for survey and sketch plan preparation and submission requirements can be found on [AEP's website](#).

### Surface Water Allocation Directive

The Government of Alberta (GoA) has initiated the development of the Surface Water Allocation Directive (the Directive) that will aid in the planning and licencing processes for watersheds that currently do not have regional policies in place. The Directive sets out to meet the needs of water users while maintaining the environmental integrity of the aquatic ecosystem. The Directive will provide guidance for rivers, lakes, and wetlands. Existing licences that do not expire will not be affected by the Directive, only new applications, temporary diversion licences (TDLs) and licence renewal applications will be impacted. AEP will open public engagement on the Directive from 1 October- 31 October 2018. It is anticipated that the Directive will be scheduled for release based on feedback received during this time.

Individuals can submit their comments to [talkaep.alberta.ca/surfacewaterallocation](http://talkaep.alberta.ca/surfacewaterallocation) beginning 01 October 2018.





## BRITISH COLUMBIA

### Commission-Wide Systems Outage

The British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission (BC OGC) will be moving the Victoria office to a [new location](#) on 16 October 2018. The office will move from 388 and 398 Harbour Road to 2950 Jutland Road, however, the mailing address and phone numbers will remain the same. As a result of the move, there will be an outage of all BC OGC online systems between 11 October-16 October 2018. This includes, but is not limited to, the Application Management System, eSubmission and KERMIT.

### Water Suspension Removed from the Peace and Liard River Watersheds

Effective immediately, the water diversion suspension for all oil and gas activities in the Peace River and Laird River watersheds has been [removed](#). The BC OGC initially suspended all [approved diversion activities](#) under Section 10 of the *Water Sustainability Act* in the watersheds due to increased drought conditions. A full list of the lakes, rivers, and streams within the identified basins that are no longer under suspension can be found on the BC OGC's website.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The AER has implemented changes to three *Water Act* [forms](#), effective immediately. The intent behind the changes is to align the forms as part of the Integrated Decision Approach, which the AER has been testing and refining through a series of [pilot projects](#).

Operators must use the following revised *Water Act* forms:

- Application for *Water Act* Licences (submitted via email)
- Code of Practice for Hydrostatic Testing: Registration under EPEA and Notification under the *Water Act* (submitted via OneStop)
- *Water Act* Code of Practice – Notification (submitted via OneStop)

For more information on the Integrated Decision Approach or OneStop, please contact Integrated Sustainability's Environment and Regulatory Manager.



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