

# Regulatory Bulletin for the Oil & Gas Industry March 2020



WATER | WASTE | ENERGY

## INTERNATIONAL

### California Wastewater Reduction – Kern County

As one of the largest [oil-producing states](#) in the United States of America (USA), California generates large volumes of industrial wastewater each year. Projects in Kern County range from 5,000 barrels/day (bbl/d) to 600,000 bbl/d of produced water that would require treatment for reuse and/or discharge. Due to a relatively dry winter, approximately 30% of the population of California is living in drought conditions, making the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#) (SGMA) a significant driver for water management, conservation and reuse in the state despite the worsening macro economic scenario globally. To reduce injection of wastewater in disposal wells and minimize fresh water usage, operators and agencies in California are continually evaluating and developing technologies focused on treatment of produced water for beneficial use in Kern County.

## ALBERTA

### Wildfire Season Begins

In Alberta, [wildfire season](#) runs 01 March to 31 October, and firefighters are positioned strategically throughout the province during this time. Wildfires must be reported using the [Alberta Wildfire](#) toll-free number [310-FIRE (3473)]. Additionally, fire permits are required for any burning except campfires in the [Forest Protection Area](#) during wildfire season. Fire permits let firefighters know exactly where burning is planned and help minimize false calls. Fire permits are free and can be requested from any Agriculture and Forestry office. For an overview of the current fire bans in Alberta, visit the [Alberta fire bans](#) website.

### Aboriginal Consultation Office Closures

As of 26 March 2020, consultation timelines and consultation adequacy decisions will be temporarily paused for the following First Nation and Metis Settlements: Aseniwuche Winewak Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Blood Tribe, Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement, Chipewyan Prairie First Nation, Fort McKay First Nation, Frog Lake First Nation, Gift Lake Metis Settlement, Horse Lake First Nation, Kapawe'no First Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, Mikisew Cree First Nation, O'Chiese First Nation, Paul First Nation, Peerless Trout First Nation, Siksika Nation, Stoney (Bears paw) Band, Stoney (Chiniki) Band, Stoney (Wesley) Band, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Sucker Creek First Nation, Whitefish Lake First Nation, and Woodland Cree First Nation.

The consultation pause will be reassessed after a two-week period. Updates on the consultation pause can be found on the Aboriginal Consultation Office's [website](#).



## Updates to the Application Management System

Effective 30 March 2020, the British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission (BC OGC) will release [updates](#) to the Application Management System (AMS) that will improve workflow and functionality of the following features:

- Well Applications
- Facility Applications and Historical Facility Submission
- Historical Pipeline Submissions
- Amendment Applications and Historical Submissions
- Aggregate Operation Applications
- Application tabs
- Maps and Plans tab
- Attachments tab

An AMS Guide will become available on the BC OGC [website](#) and supporting manuals will be updated at a later date.

## Pipeline Regulations Amendments

On 09 March 2020, the BC OGC [amended](#) the [Pipeline Regulation](#) to include the following changes:

- Post Construction Plans
  - » Must be submitted within 60 days and show the location of the pipeline and all associated oil and gas activities (AOGA)
  - » Record drawings and pipe and component specifications must be submitted within 90 days
- Pipeline Safety
  - » Right-of-ways must be kept clear after construction is complete
  - » An integrity management program is now required for the entire life cycle of the pipeline
  - » A damage prevention program must be implemented
  - » The CSA Z662 Annex A Safety and Loss Management System is mandatory
- Fluid Transport - a pipeline is considered inactive if it does not transport fluid for 18 consecutive months

## BC OGC Office Closures

Due to an increase in cases of COVID-19, the BC OGC offices in Fort St. John, Victoria, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Terrace, Kelowna, and Prince George will be [closed](#) effective 19 March 2020. The majority of staff are working from home and all non-essential travel has been suspended. Inquiries and meetings are being handled via phone. Industry emergencies can be reported to the BC OGC 24-hour emergency line at: 1-800-663-3456. The BC OGC will provide further updates, as circumstances warrant. For real time updates follow the BC OGC on social media via [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

## Did You Know?

Our Water Infrastructure and Advisory Services groups have helped customers realize up to 50% cost reductions associated with water management. Through working with our customers and reviewing their short, medium, and long term water demands, we are able to recommend cost efficient water management strategies and infrastructure, customized to meet their respective needs. By integrating automation and telemetry monitoring with our real-time water management software, we can use operational data to review operational processes and needs and help minimize the costs incurred through repeated water movements and overheating on long distance water transfer.

Additionally, Integrated Sustainability's Water Security Bulletin, which evaluates snowpack levels, river flows, and freshets timing, can be used to help manage water transfer and sourcing risks and ensure operators are able to deliver water on time and on budget.

For more information on our Water Security Bulletin please contact our Regulatory Manager Tanya Cairns at (403) 617-5743 or [Tanya.Cairns@integratedsustainability.ca](mailto:Tanya.Cairns@integratedsustainability.ca).

For further information on potential water transfer cost reduction opportunities, please contact Trevor Wall at (587) 892-5441 or [Trevor.Wall@integratedsustainability.ca](mailto:Trevor.Wall@integratedsustainability.ca).

