

DIRECTIVE 2014-01

July 28, 2014



Suspension of Short-Term Water Withdrawals (Peace River)

To: Industry

Effective Date: Immediately

Effective immediately, the oil and gas industry is required to suspend all short-term water withdrawal previously approved by the Commission through Section 8 of the Water Act, for the following basins within the Peace River Watershed:

- Blueberry River
- Cameron River
- Cache Creek
- Lynx Creek
- Farrell Creek

The withdrawal of water is suspended from rivers, streams, creeks and lakes within the watershed. Withdrawal of water stored in dugouts is not suspended.

The Peace River area has been relatively dry for the past three months. Since May 1st, Fort St. John has received approximately 50 per cent of normal rainfall. As a result, water levels on some rivers are low. Many rivers are near or below their record low flows for this time of year, with discharge of less than 10 per cent of their normal flow for this date. River levels are anticipated to continue dropping until significant rain falls in the area.

Due to the low stream flow conditions, concerns are escalating for impacts to fish and aquatic resources and community water supply in some key river basins.

The oil and gas industry is required to suspend all short-term water use from the watersheds listed above, with the exception of water stored in dugouts. The Commission will assist industry in identifying options for alternative short-term water supply should it be required during this period of drought.

For more information, please contact:

Allan Chapman
Hydrologist, Operations Division
BC Oil and Gas Commission
Allan.Chapman@bcogc.ca
250-419-4435

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