



UPDATE TO DIRECTIVE 2010-05 November 25, 2010



UPDATE – END TO SUSPENSION OF SURFACE WATER WITHDRAWAL

TO: Industry Clients

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediate

REQUIREMENT:

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) has ended the partial water withdrawal suspension for the Halfway River basin.

BACKGROUND:

Due to low snowpack last winter and lower than normal rainfall in the spring and summer, river levels in portions of the Peace River watershed fell below normal levels in late July. In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, the Commission issued [Directive 2010-05](#) on Aug. 11, 2010 (updated on Sept. 16 and Oct. 6) suspending short term water withdrawal by the oil and gas industry in four river basins (Kiskatinaw, Pine, Moberly and Halfway rivers) where there were concerns that low water levels could impair community water supplies or critical fish resources. Significant rainfall occurred throughout the Peace River watershed in September and October, improving water levels and allowing the Commission to end suspensions on some rivers.

The water level on the Halfway River has improved significantly from its summer low, but it remains below its median level for the date (the water level and discharge is currently unavailable due to ice conditions on the river). Although the water use suspension has been lifted, the Commission will continue monitoring during the winter months to ensure there is no impact on river levels or fish habitat.

Should you have any questions regarding this Directive, please contact:

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