

# Bulletin 2018-04

February 22, 2018

## New Alberta Environment and Parks Water Directive

On February 22, 2018, Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) issued *Directive for Water Licensing of Hydraulic Fracturing Projects – Area of Use Approach*, which provides industry with greater flexibility around water use for multistage hydraulic fracturing projects within a constrained mineral tenure area and clarifies how the AER will evaluate multiyear water licence applications.

Historically, licensees typically obtained temporary water diversion licences valid for up to one year for hydraulic fracturing projects. In order to obtain longer-term water licences, licensees had to specify at the time of application the exact location where water would be used, which is not always known for multistage hydraulic fracturing operations.

Under this new directive, operators can apply for longer-term water licences valid for up to ten years where the hydraulic fracturing project areas are known at the time of application based on mineral tenure but where the exact location of water use cannot be confirmed until development plans are finalized. More details on the information required when submitting a water licence application to the AER can be found in the directive.

For questions about the directive, please contact AEP at [AEP.WaterPolicy@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AEP.WaterPolicy@gov.ab.ca).

For application-related questions, please contact the AER at [IndustryRelations@aer.ca](mailto:IndustryRelations@aer.ca) or your Water Authorizations staff contacts.

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