

Water Act - Fact Sheet

Temporary Diversion of Water

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Alberta's Water Act requires a licence be obtained before diverting and using surface water and groundwater.

A temporary diversion licence provides authority for diverting and using surface water or groundwater on a temporary basis up to a maximum period of one year. This licence identifies the source of water supply, location of the diversion site, allocation of water allowed from the source(s), and the conditions under which the diversion and use must take place.

Applicants are responsible for obtaining rights-of-access to lands where the temporary diversion is proposed.

When do I need to apply for temporary diversion licences?

When there is a need for a short-term diversion and use of water for purposes such as:

- Emergency water supply such as filling dugouts during drought, until main water source is available, etc.
- Obtaining data through monitoring well pumping
- Dust control, bridge washing, etc.
- Drilling oil and gas wells (drilling fluid)
- Other short-term use except where exempted under Schedules 3 and 4 of the Water Act, Water (Ministerial) Regulation (the Regulation)

A copy of a temporary diversion licence must be kept at the diversion site(s) or in vehicles used for water hauling. Therefore it is important to plan ahead and make application to obtain a temporary diversion licence before diverting water.

How do I apply for a temporary diversion licence?

The following are acceptable methods for applying:

- Submitting an application form or letter by fax, mail, or e-mail
- Providing the required information by telephone or
- Applying in person at an Alberta Environment District Office (see page 2)

What information is required?

The applicant should supply the following information:

- Name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for the diversion
- If applicable, name, address, and telephone number of a contact person
- Identify the supply as surface water supply (names or unnamed) or groundwater Legal land description of the diversion site(s)
- Volume of water to be diverted
- The approximate commencement date and duration period of the diversion
- The purpose (i.e. reason for the water diversion)

Are temporary diversion licences required for all purposes?

The following diversions do **not** require a licence:

- * Statutory household use
- * Traditional agriculture use
- * Fire-fighting
- * Wells equipped with hand pumps
- * Operating an alternative watering system, using surface water, for livestock that are generally grazed
- * Other uses where exempted under Schedules 3 and 4 of the Regulation

For further information on exemptions, please see www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/Legislation/WaterAct.html or contact the nearest Regional Office.