
**PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS
OF THE WATER ACT**

**Establishment of Battle River Basin
Water Conservation Objective**

The Lieutenant Governor in Council approved the Water Management Plan for the Battle River Basin in Alberta on June 23, 2014 through Order In Council (O.C. 299/2014).

The Water Management Plan for the Battle River Basin recommends the establishment of a water conservation objective (WCO) for the Battle River basin.

The Water Management Plan for the Battle River Basin considered both the technical information on the state of the basin as well as the public's comments.

Technical and public consultation for the Water Management Plan for the Battle River Basin included deliberations by the Battle River Basin Stakeholder Advisory Group since 2004 and the general public in 2014. The established Instream Objectives (IOs) and minimum flows within the Battle River Basin were widely discussed considering the definition of a WCO under the Water Act.

The technical studies undertaken demonstrate that the diversion of water from the Battle River has negative effects on the aquatic environment to varying degrees. Technical instream needs assessments have shown that flows in excess of the current IOs are necessary to improve the health of the aquatic environment.

Therefore, as recommended in the Water Management Plan for the Battle River Basin and as provided for under Section 15(1) of the *Water Act*, I hereby establish the Battle River Basin WCO as follows:

- *A WCO shall be applied to all named and unnamed tributaries, and groundwater with hydrologic connection to surface water.*
- *The WCO is defined as a rate of flow that is 85% of the natural flow that is to be left in the watercourse; and during those times when the natural flow approaches the lowest quintile (20%) flow, reductions shall be applied based on the greater of either:*
 - a) 15% instantaneous reduction from natural flow or;*
 - b) The lesser of either the natural flow or the 80% exceedance natural flow based on available time step data.*

That this WCO applies to any licences issued for applications received on, or after, January 1, 2013.

I find that the public consultation undertaken as part of the Water Management Plan for the Battle River Basin planning process satisfies the public consultation requirement for establishing this WCO.

Information on this WCO will be provided to the Battle River Basin Watershed Planning and Advisory Council, First Nations, and it will be posted on the Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development website.

Original signed by:

Designated Director under the Act
Neil Hollands

February 9, 2015

Dated