



2024 Drought Support

Expedited *Water Act* approvals support

Background

Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) recognizes that drought conditions in 2024 may impact a wide variety of water users including business, the agricultural sector and communities. EPA is implementing expedited *Water Act* licence and approval processes to support Albertans impacted by drought conditions.

Program description

Water users and those who wish to conduct work in or around water can receive expedited assistance from EPA to help minimize the impact of drought.

Program eligibility

Assistance is available to water users who have an urgent need to undertake work for the purpose of accessing water due to drought and low flow conditions, and who, if required, need assistance in submitting an application for regulatory authorizations under the *Water Act*.

Expedited support is available for these activities:

1. Intake cleanouts
2. Water storage
3. Other activities as defined under the *Water Act*

How the program works

Step 1 – Water users in need of support should contact EPA by emailing or calling their EPA district office. Identify this activity is for '**2024 Drought – Approval**'. Review relevant section on eligible activities to know what information to have available, as well as map and contact information below.

Step 2 – Within one business day, an EPA staff member will contact the water user directly to discuss their specific situation.

Step 3 – EPA staff and water users will work together to identify and assess options available, mitigations to avoid adverse effects, and any regulatory requirements that need to be met.

Step 4 – Where required, EPA will work with the water user through a streamlined authorization process under the *Water Act*.

Step 5 – Once approved, the applicant can commence the authorized activity.

Eligible activities and what information to have available

1. Intake cleanouts

Intake cleanouts may be required when a water user is unable to divert water due to an obstruction at their point of diversion. This may require regulatory authorization under the *Water Act*, as well as potentially the *Public Lands Act*.

Information to have available:

- The legal land location(s) of the proposed activity
- The purpose of the proposed activity (intake cleanout or water storage construction)
- If you currently have a Water Licence under the *Water Act*, and the licence number(s).
- The timing of the proposed activity (when you would like to undertake the activity and how long it will take)
- How the activity will be undertaken (equipment required, how the equipment will be used, etc.)
- Phone number, email and/or alternative contact information

Learn more about approvals and how to obtain some of the above information at:

- Water Approvals Fact Sheet
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/water-act-approvals>

2. Water storage

The construction of water storage can allow a water user more flexibility for water management within their project area. This and other activities may require regulatory authorization under the *Water Act*, as well as potentially the *Public Lands Act*.

Information to have available:

- The legal land location(s) of the proposed activity
- The purpose of the proposed activity (intake cleanout or water storage construction)
- If you currently have a Water Licence under the *Water Act*, and the licence number(s).
- The timing of the proposed activity (when you would like to undertake the activity and how long it will take)
- How the activity will be undertaken (equipment required, how the equipment will be used, etc.)
- The estimated volume of the proposed storage
- Phone number, email and/or alternative contact information

Learn more about approvals and how to obtain some of the above information at:

- Water Approvals Fact Sheet
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/water-act-approvals>
- Dugout Volume Calculator
<https://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app19/calc/volume/dugout.js>
- *Water Act*: Dugouts Fact Sheet
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/water-act-dugouts>

3. Other activities as defined under the *Water Act*

Work in and around waterbodies, lakes, and wetlands may require regulatory authorization under the *Water Act*, as well as potentially the *Public Lands Act*.

For assistance, contact your local EPA district office.

Learn more about approvals at:

- Water Approvals Fact Sheet
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/water-act-approvals>

Additional information

For additional information on other 2024 drought support activities, visit Alberta.ca/Drought.

The [Alberta River Basins](https://rivers.alberta.ca)¹ website provides simple, geography-based access to river, lake, precipitation, and snow pillow stations and their data in Alberta.

¹ <https://rivers.alberta.ca>

EPA district office contact

Boreal District	epa.waborealregion@gov.ab.ca , 780-538-5260
Capital District	epa.wacapitalregion@gov.ab.ca , 780-427-7617
Red Deer District	waterapprovals.reddeer@gov.ab.ca , 403-340-7052
Calgary District	epa.waapprovcal@gov.ab.ca , 403-297-7602
Lethbridge District	waterapprovals.lethbridge@gov.ab.ca 403-381-5322

EPA district office boundary map

