

## Approval Amendment Fact Sheet

Expedited Authorizations Process for Flood Recovery (EAPFR)

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development - South Saskatchewan Region

Under the *Water Act* and *Public Lands Act*, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) manages the authorization process for activities in water bodies and crown lands in the vicinity of water bodies (beds and shores), including erosion control, bank stabilization, stream crossings, and the construction of flood mitigation structures. To help Albertans rebuild after the June 2013 flood, ESRD developed an Expedited Approval Process for Flood Recovery (EAPFR) projects. The EAPFR combines and streamlines the application process for *Water Act* Approvals and *Public Lands Act* Temporary Field Authorizations.

### What is an Approval?

Before taking on any activity in or near a water body in Alberta, an Approval under the province's *Water Act* must be obtained, and Authorization may be required under the *Public Lands Act*. To apply, complete and submit an EAPFR application form found on the EAPFR website. The requirements for an application package can also be found on this website. Applications are reviewed by ESRD for effects on, but not limited to, hydrology, aquatic environment, wildlife, public safety, third parties, and any other matters ESRD considers relevant. The *Water Act* requires that public notice be given, and resolution of statements of concern received on the proposed project before an Approval can be granted.

Authorizations under the *Public Lands Act* are referred to multiple ESRD agencies to ensure all public resources are considered. These documents are issued to the applicant with conditions attached. The Approval and Authorization holder is given a defined time period in which to construct, maintain, and/or operate the project.

- [Expedited Authorizations Process for Flood Recovery \(EAPFR\)](#)

### What is an amendment?

It is not unusual for on-site conditions or construction plans to change once an Approval has been issued. However, working outside of the Approval conditions is a contravention of the *Water Act* and the *Public Lands Act*. Therefore, any changes to the authorized plan in an Approval require application to ESRD for amendment. An amendment to the Approval is issued once formal review is conducted, authorizing work to continue. Please consult with a *Water Act* Approval Coordinator or the designated Lands Officer to determine if an amendment is required.

### How to apply for an amendment?

Submit a completed EAPFR application form to ESRD. If submitting by email, state "EAPFR Amendment Application for Approval # 000000-00-00" in the subject header. Ensure the following are included, at a minimum: reason for amendment request, application form completed in full, updated construction timeline, updated plans, and additional measures to reduce the impact on the aquatic environment.

### What is the timeline for amendment review?

The process for reviewing both amendment and Approval applications is identical. Therefore, timeline for review of amendment requests will vary depending on the requested changes to the Approval. Requests to extend the expiry date, unless the date extends into a Restricted Activity Period (RAP), may be processed quickly. Whereas requests to significantly modify the constructed works may require re-referral to ESRD subject experts, and re-advertising of public notice, which results in longer review timelines. Additional legislative requirements, such as authorization under the *Public Lands Act* may be necessary if the footprint of construction changes. ESRD is committed to working with applicants for timely review of amendment applications.

## Contact Information

### Water

Questions about Approval amendments can be sent to ESRD. For questions related to Water Act Approvals, please contact your *Water Act* Approval Coordinator, or your local ESRD *Water Act* office at:

Calgary office: 403-297-7605 or [ESRD.FloodRecoveryCalgary@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ESRD.FloodRecoveryCalgary@gov.ab.ca)

Lethbridge office: 403-381-5322 or [ESRD.FloodRecoveryLethbridge@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ESRD.FloodRecoveryLethbridge@gov.ab.ca)

### Land

For questions related to Public Lands Act approvals or amendments, please contact the local ESRD - *Public Land Act* Office and speak to a Land Approvals representative at;

Calgary office: 403-297-8800

Lethbridge office: 403-381-5486

Blairmore office: 403-562-3210

Medicine Hat office: 403-529-3677

**Note\*** EAPFR issued TFA (Temporary Field Authorization) permits under the *Public Land Act* may utilize the above ESRD.FloodRecovery email address for Flood related TFA amendment/application. All other Public Land applications/amendment types (other than EAPFR TFA requests) please contact either your local Land field office above or Edmonton Approvals Section – EDS (Electronic Digital Submission) support at 780-422-2518 for submission details and requirements.