

Contaminated Sites Approved Professionals Society

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- Update on WSA
- Policy intentions papers
- GWPR
- Next steps
- Questions, discussion

WSA development

PHASE	OBJECTIVES	TIMING			
Phase I	Scoping, engagement, development of policy documents	2009 to 2013			
Phase II	 Development of Bill Royal Assent Budget 2015 	Aug 2013 to May 2014 February 2015			
Phase III Current Phase	 Regulation development Business processes and IM/IT – e.g., Groundwater licensing system HR planning, recruitment and training First Nations engagement Communications 	Apr 2014 to Dec 2015			
 WSA Brought into Force with initial set regulations GW licensing 		Early 2016			
Phase V	 Complete outstanding regulations Program review 	Post Implementation			

Regulation and policy development

2015

Focus on completing regulations to maintain business continuity including:

- Water sustainability regulation
- Groundwater protection regulation
- Dam safety regulation
- Violation tickets and fines regulation
- Consequential amendments

2016 - beyond

Future regulations/policy to be developed:

- Livestock watering
- Measuring and reporting
- Area based regulations
- Water objectives
- Water sustainability plans
- Dedicated agricultural water
- Governance

Key Changes coming with Implementation of WSA in 2016



- New water fees and rentals to come into effect
- Groundwater licensing
- Expanded Groundwater
 Protection Regulation
- Environmental flows

Implications for Water Users

- Licensing non-domestic groundwater use, may include terms and conditions and new fees and rentals
- Requirement to consider environmental flow needs in new water allocation decisions
 - More information to review applications to better understand the water supply and impact on aquatic ecosystems
 - Greater reliance on off-stream storage or alternate sources to mitigate variability in supply
- Potential for more temporary restrictions to protect critical environmental flow needs (applies to new and existing licences)
- New fees and rentals will apply to both surface and non-domestic ground water
- Requirements for measuring and reporting under future regulation
- Future consideration Consider water quality, quantity and aquatic ecosystem health in statutory decisions

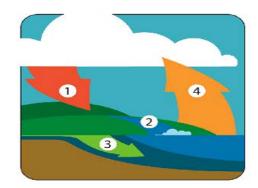
Policy Intention Papers Licensing Groundwater Use



- Existing users
 - Three year transition period
 - Application fee exempt in first 12 months
 - Rentals from the date the WSA in force
 - Date of first use as date of precedence
- New users
 - Application fee
 - Rentals from date of licence issue
 - Application date as date of precedence

Policy Intention Papers Groundwater protection

- Expand provisions related to well construction, maintenance, groundwater protection
- Exclude some wells
- Professional qualifications
- Setbacks to protect existing uses
- Controlling artesian flow
- Restrict well pits
- Well maintenance, deactivation, decommissioning



Wells regulated under the WSA

- Water supply, including water source wells;
- Monitoring wells;
- Recharge or injection wells;
- Dewatering or drainage wells;
- Remediation wells;
- Geotechnical wells (boreholes and test pits);
- Closed-loop geoexchange wells;

Except:

- High temperature geothermal wells;
- Oil and gas wells;
- Mineral exploration holes;
- Waste disposal wells;
- Ditches, building drains, seismic relief holes.



GWPR proposed changes – Registration & qualifications

Current GWPR	Proposed changes		
 Qualifications for Registration: BC Water Well Driller (ITA) BC Well Pump Installer (ITA) Equivalent from other prov/territory CGWA 	 All current qualifications plus: BC Gotechnical/Environmental driller (ITA) BC Geoexchange Driller (ITA) 		
Drillers can drill all classes of wells and install pumps	After regulation comes into effect, new drillers' activities restricted according to qualification		
	Previously registered drillers continue to be permitted to drill any class of well and install pumps		

Well reporting

	GWPR Phase 1 reporting requirements		GWPR Phase 2 reporting requirements	
	Construction	Closure	Construction	Decommissioning
Water supply	No requirement	Submit	Submit	Same as in Phase 1
Monitoring	No requirement	Retain for permanent wells	Retain for permanent wells	Same as in Phase 1
Recharge / injection	No requirement	Submit for vertical drilled wells	Submit for vertical drilled wells	Same as in Phase 1
Dewatering	No requirement	Submit for permanent vertical drilled wells; retain for other permanent wells	Submit for permanent wells	Submit for permanent wells
Remediation	No requirement	Retain for permanent wells	Retain for permanent wells	Same as in Phase 1
Geotechnical	No requirement	Retain for boreholes	Retain for boreholes	Same as in Phase 1
Closed-loop geoexchange	No requirement	Retain	Submit one well per parcel, otherwise retain	Same as in Phase 1

GWPR proposed changes – Controlling artesian flow



Artesian flow provisions in WSA sections 52 and 53

Additional requirements proposed in the regulation:

- Equip well to prevent backflow
- Measure and report shut-in pressure
- All artesian wells require construction and decommissioning reports

Next steps

- Review/consider public comment
- Complete regulations for government approval
- Bring WSA into force early 2016
- New fees and rentals in effect
- Begin receiving applications to license groundwater use
- Communications with key sectors and existing groundwater users
- Initiate next phase of regulation development





http://engage.gov.bc.ca/watersustainabilityact/

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