

Bulletin 2022-31

October 11, 2022

New Guidance on Applications Under the *Water Conservation Policy for Upstream Oil and Gas Operations*

Today we released *Manual 025: Applications Under the Water Conservation Policy for Upstream Oil and Gas Operations*. The purpose of this manual is to assist operators in applying for new water licences, licence renewals, and licence amendments pursuant to the *Water Act* and under the scope of the *Water Conservation Policy for Upstream Oil and Gas Operations*. It does not apply to temporary diversion licences. It replaces the Alberta Environment and Parks 2006 *Water Conservation and Allocation Guideline for Oilfield Injection*. This manual supplements existing guidance around standard *Water Act* licence applications and recycling expectations found in other documents, such as the following:

- The AER's webpage on *Water Act* applications: Regulating Development > Project Application > Application Legislation > [Water Act](#)
- [Alberta Environment Guide to Groundwater Authorization](#)
- [Surface Water Allocation Directive](#)
- [Directive for Water Licensing of Hydraulic Fracturing Projects – Area of Use Approach](#)
- [Administrative Guideline for Transfer of Water Allocations \(and Agreements to Assign Water, and Licence Amendments\)](#)
- [Directive 081: Water Disposal Limits and Reporting Requirements for Thermal In Situ Oil Sands Schemes](#)

We have also released a mapping tool to help industry compare desired diversion locations against the water short, potentially water short, and locally constrained areas: <https://extmapviewer.aer.ca/wcp/index.html>.

We will regularly update the online mapping tool.

A draft of this manual was released for public feedback on April 20, 2021 (see [Bulletin 2021-15](#)). A summary of the feedback, including our responses, is available on the manual's webpage. For more information, see our website, www.aer.ca > Regulating Development > Rules and Directives > [Manuals](#).

If you have any questions about the new manual, please contact our Customer Contact Centre by phone at 1-855-297-8311 or by email at [inquiries@aer.ca](mailto:inquiries@ aer.ca).