



File: 9000138

July 20, 2016

Alexandra Gray
BC Hydro and Power Authority
1055 Dunsmuir Street
Suite 600
Vancouver, V7X 1V5

Dear Alexandra Gray:

Re: Beaver Dam Removal – Water Sustainability Act – 9000138

Thank you for submitting your *Water Sustainability Act* Changes In and About a Stream Application to FrontCounter British Columbia on July 11, 2016.

The Water Sustainability Regulation, Part 3, Section 39 (1)(u) Authorized Change was reviewed for the proposed removal of beaver dams and/or houses to support instream works and construction activities in accordance with the *Wildlife Act* Wildlife Permit (FJ14-154005) up to the confluence of Wilder Creek and the Peace River mainstem.

The Authorized Change is only authorized when the Wildlife Permit (FJ14-154005) is valid and in good standing. Moreover, as identified in the Wildlife Permit, only Management Units 7-31 through 7-35 are authorized.

This Authorized Change review **does not** extend to BC Hydro and Power Authority the ability to conduct instream works to manage water levels impounded by beaver dams, remove or destroy beaver dams or houses:

- Upstream of the aforementioned confluence of the Wilder Creek and Peace River mainstem;
- Authority to enter onto privately held land without landowner consent and permission; and,
- Where beaver dam activity poses no imminent damage to BC Hydro and Power Authority property or Site C Clean Energy Project.

It is the Ministry's understanding that BC Hydro and Power Authority will:

- Adhere to the conditions of Wildlife Permit: FJ14-154005 issued under the *Wildlife Act* authorizing BC Hydro and Power Authority to conduct beaver management activities as prescribed within the Wildlife Permit;



Ministry of
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- Confirm and verify fish presence on streams and follow prescribed timing windows of least risk “[Peace Terms and Conditions](#)” prior to undertaking any instream works regarding proposed beaver management activities;
- Manage all streams as fish bearing in the absence of known fish presence evidence and/or stream/fish survey confirmation report, declaring the watercourse non fish bearing. Assessment of fish presence or absence will be completed to Ministry; Resources Information Standards Committee (RISC) survey standards;
- For works that cannot be feasibly delayed or conducted to comply with the timing windows of least and in-stream works affecting fish and fish habitat will be guided through the *Fisheries Act* Authorization issued by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans;
- Follow the Ministry of Environment, “General BMPs and Standard Project Considerations: Beaver Dam Removal – Standards and Best Practices for Instream Works V.01” during operations;
- Provide the ministry upon request a copy of sediment control plan detailing measures to protect the environment in the form of a “Environmental Protection Plan” document.

In addition, all works in and about a stream must be compliant with applicable provincial, federal and/or municipal legislation/regulations including; but not limited to, the [Water Sustainability Act](#), [Water Sustainability Regulation](#), and Site C – Clean Energy Project – Construction Environmental Management Plan requirements.

BC Hydro and Power Authority will ensure an Independent Environmental Monitor is engaged to provide oversight and audit reporting services to the Ministry as required and an Environmental Monitor is engaged to oversee the implementation of the project.

It is also expected that all work will be consistent with the [Standards and Best Practices for Instream Works](#).

The effective date of this Authorized Change is July 20, 2016. If you have any questions and/or concerns regarding this communication, you can contact me at (250) 784-1220.

Melvin “Jameson” Mailloux, PAg
WSA Officer and Habitat Officer
Regional Water Stewardship Officer
Northeast Region