



**GUIDE TO THE**

***CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE  
TEMPORARY DIVERSION OF WATER FOR  
HYDROSTATIC TESTING OF PIPELINES***

*Water Act*

**AND THE**

***CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE  
RELEASE OF HYDROSTATIC TEST WATER FROM  
HYDROSTATIC TESTING OF PETROLEUM LIQUID AND  
GAS PIPELINES***

*Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*

**MARCH 2001**

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## 1.0 Introduction

One of the activities associated with Hydrostatic Testing of Pipelines involves obtaining water from a natural water body. The right to divert water from a natural water body and use of the water is regulated under the authority of the *Water Act, Code of Practice for the Temporary Diversion of Water for Hydrostatic Testing of Pipelines*. The release of hydrostatic test water to the environment after the completion of the hydrostatic test is regulated under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Code of Practice for the Release of Hydrostatic Test Water from Hydrostatic Testing of Petroleum Liquid and Gas Pipelines*.

The purpose of this guide is to provide information on the two Codes of Practice.

Persons responsible for hydrostatic testing must ensure they are in compliance with Alberta Environment's legislation including the requirements of the two Codes of Practice and other applicable legislation.

### 1.1 Water Act Code of Practice

This Code of Practice is regulated under Section 6 of the *Water (Ministerial) Regulation*.

Hydrostatic testing under this Code of Practice is defined as including the:

- (a) temporary diversion of up to 30,000 cubic metres of water from any source,
- (b) use of the water described in (a) as a test medium for pressure testing a pipeline to determine its integrity, and
- (c) the release of the water described in (b) from any portion of the pipeline.

A person responsible must not use water released following completion of the hydrostatic testing for any other purpose except in accordance with a licence under the *Water Act*.

In the course of diverting and using water from a water body, it may be necessary to obtain an approval to carry out activities such as:

- excavating sump, pump-out, or release sites
- constructing channels to change a watercourse flow pattern
- drilling, maintaining, improving, or abandoning water wells in accordance with the *Water (Ministerial) Regulation*

Depending on the activity, an approval may be required under the *Water Act* and/ or *Water (Ministerial) Regulation* or another Code of Practice needs to be followed.

Prior to the hydrostatic testing, an owner must prepare or have a person responsible prepare written instructions meeting all of the requirements of the *Water Act* Code of Practice. These written instructions are to ensure there is no adverse effect on any household user, licensee, traditional agricultural user, or on the aquatic environment. An example of a potential adverse effect on the aquatic environment that must be addressed is the transfer of foreign biota to the receiving water body. Before water can be diverted from a water body, a person responsible must assess whether an adequate amount of water is available based on existing rights, and on any impact a water diversion may have on the aquatic environment. Therefore when preparing written instructions, the person responsible should contact the appropriate areas of the Natural Resources Service of Alberta Environment, noted in Schedule 1 of this Code of Practice, for

- information on water use restrictions on the proposed water bodies
- other information on water resources management and
- aquatic issues in the area.

The *Water Act* Code of Practice describes situations where the Director may request any information prepared under this Code of Practice.

The *Water Act* Code of Practice does not provide right-of-way or access. These need to be obtained from landowners. For access to water sources on public land, authorization must be obtained from the local Land and Forest or Public Lands offices.

## **1.2 *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* Code of Practice**

This Code of Practice is regulated under Schedule 2 Division 2 of the *Activities Designation Regulation*, and is only applicable to hydrostatic testing of petroleum liquid and gas pipelines including installations connected to the pipelines (e.g. storage tanks).

Persons responsible must follow this Code of Practice for the release of any volume of hydrostatic test water to the environment and must obtain a registration number for a release of water in volumes of 1000 cubic metres or more prior to releasing the hydrostatic test water. The registration process is outlined in Section 3 of this Code of Practice.

Prior to any release of hydrostatic test water, a sample must be collected and analyzed as outlined in Section 4. Analysis varies on whether the release is to land or water.

Schedule 1 outlines the soil sampling to be conducted prior to the release of water to land. Schedule 2 outlines the chemical limits hydrostatic test water must meet for release to a water body.

Prior to filling a pipeline with water, a sample of source water must be collected and analyzed, as outlined in Section 4, to provide information on the quality of the source water and its suitability for any release after the hydrostatic testing.

Documentation of all releases of hydrostatic test water must be kept in accordance with Section 7 for a minimum of five (5) years

## **2.0 Enforcement**

Persons responsible, including owners, who contravene the *Water Act* Code of Practice will be subject to enforcement provisions of the *Water Act*. Similarly those who contravene the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* Code of Practice will be subject to enforcement provisions of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

Persons responsible are required to report any contravention in accordance with the provisions outlined in the two Codes of Practice

## **3.0 Notification under the *Water Act* Code of Practice and Registration under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* Code of Practice**

Under *Water Act* Code of Practice an owner is required to notify Alberta Environment prior to commencing hydrostatic testing. Section 3 identifies the notice requirement under the *Water (Ministerial) Regulation*.

Under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* Code of Practice, an owner is required to obtain a registration number prior to the release of hydrostatic test water in volumes of 1000 cubic metres or more.

A form providing both the notice and application for registration is available in regional offices and at the following Web page:

<http://www.gov.ab.ca/env/water/legislation/index.html>

## **4.0 Code of Practice Amendment**

Alberta Environment may review and subsequently amend either of these two Codes of Practice at any time. These Codes of Practice will be amended as required and will become effective when published by Alberta Environment.

Please forward written comments on the *Water Act* Code of Practice to:

Director, Water Management Division  
Natural Resources Service, Alberta Environment  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Oxbridge Place  
9820 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6

and for the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* Code of Practice to:

Director, Environmental Sciences Division  
Environmental Regulatory Service, Alberta Environment  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Oxbridge Place  
9820 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6

## 5.0 Questions and More Information

Please direct any question and request for more information on these Codes Of Practice to:

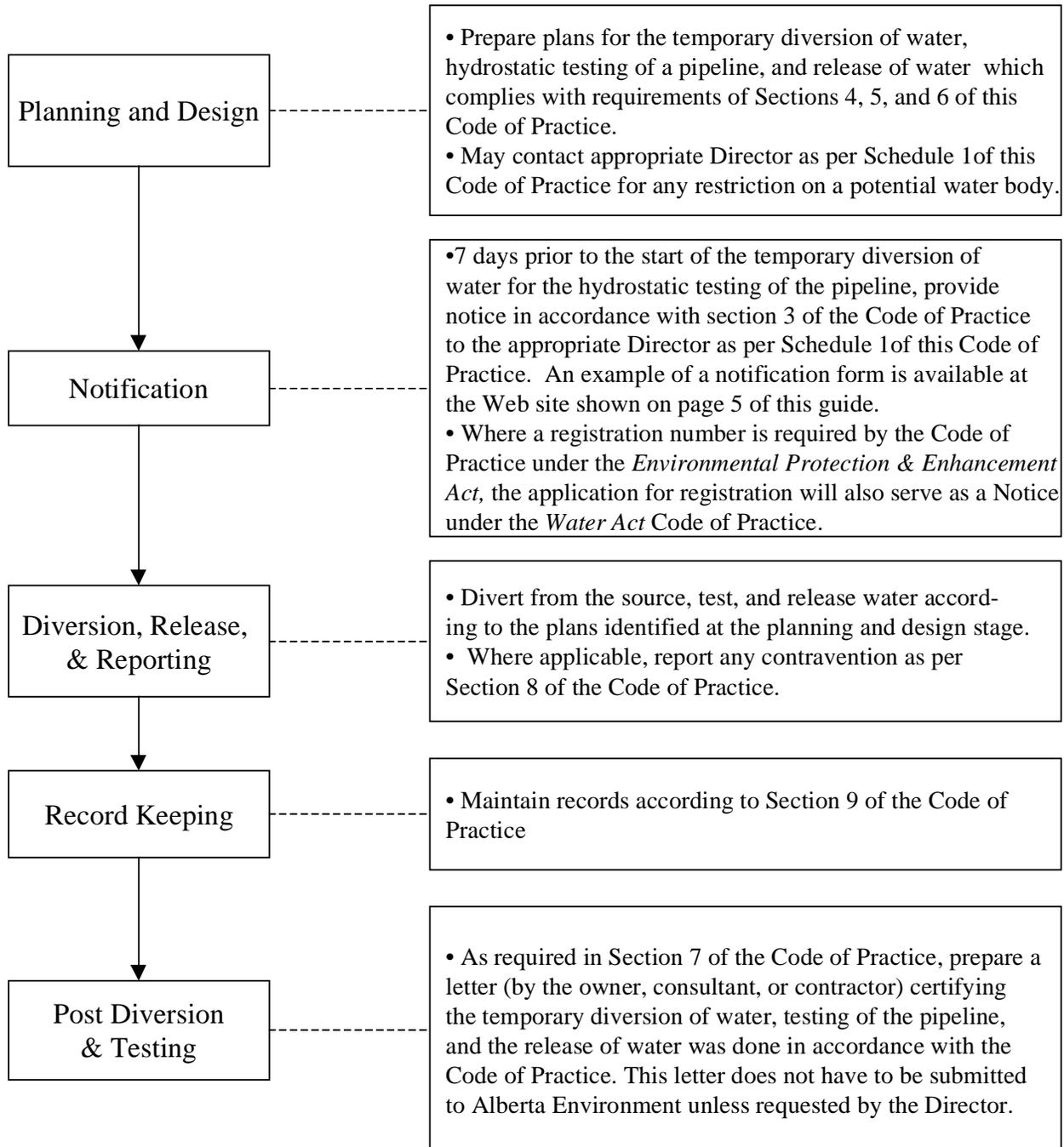
<b>Region</b>	<b><i>Water Act Code of Practice</i></b>	<b><i>Environmental Protection and Enhance Act Code of Practice</i></b>
Prairie	(403) 381-5396	(403) 381-5512
Bow	(403) 297-6582	(403) 297-7948
Parkland	(403) 340-7654	(403) 340-7744
Northeast Boreal	(780) 427-5296	(780) 427-7617
Northern East Slopes	(780) 963-6131	(780) 723-8395
Northwest Boreal	(780) 624-6167	(780) 624-6402

## 6.0 Alberta Environment Corporate Regions

Appendix B identifies the basic corporate region boundaries

## Appendix A Flow Chart

The *Water Act* Code of Practice applies when a volume of water to be diverted is up to 30,000 cubic metres, used as a test medium for pressure testing a pipeline, and will be released after the pressure test.



# Appendix B

Alberta Environment corporate regions

