

# Licensing a Groundwater Supply

All groundwater diversion projects in Alberta require a licence under the provincial *Water Act*, with the exception of water diverted for statutory household use, traditional agriculture use (original landowners), fire-fighting and hand pump water wells.

## Helping You Through the Licensing Process

With over 750 water wells licensed to date, HCL has the expertise and experience you need to streamline your application to the regulator. HCL's highly qualified staff will be happy to assist you with the entire process, from finding and developing a new groundwater source to preparing your application, and managing the terms and conditions of your licence once your project is approved.



## HCL groundwater licensing and monitoring services include:

- Groundwater prognosis, including the selection of drilling location(s)
- Water test hole drilling supervision
- Aquifer testing and groundwater sampling
- Long-term yield determinations
- Impact analyses on the aquifer and existing users
- Descriptions of local and regional hydrogeology
- Field-verified water well surveys
- Groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDI) analysis
- Preparation and submission of technical reports required under applicable regulations
- Publication of public notices as required by the regulator
- Responses to any statements of concern

## Groundwater Licensing for Oilfield Activities

Oil and gas companies require a licence under the *Water Act* to use water for energy development. Applications for waterflood projects also must be prepared in accordance with the *Water Conservation and Allocation Guideline for Oilfield Injection* (2006). HCL's specialists can ensure that your application meets all Guideline requirements, including the completion of a cumulative effects assessment and environmental net effects assessment, and an evaluation of technical alternatives to the use of non-saline groundwater.

## Licensing of Groundwater Volumes <10 m<sup>3</sup>/day

HCL can simplify your application for small allocations of groundwater that are subject to licensing.

## Field-Verified Water Well Surveys

Field-verified water well surveys are conducted as part of the licensing process to identify groundwater users in areas around a proposed development, collect background groundwater information from landowners, and inform landowners about the application to divert groundwater in the area.

HCL technical personnel are specially trained to conduct these surveys and collect the necessary information needed for a complete *Water Act* application.

## Statements of Concern

Anyone who believes that their groundwater supply may be affected by a proposed groundwater diversion can file a "statement of concern" objecting to the issuing of a licence under the *Water Act*. All persons living in the geographic vicinity of the activity will be considered directly affected. For small facilities with minimum potential for off-site impacts, the geographic vicinity may be limited to the immediate radius of the site. However, an individual may also be considered directly affected if the approval or licence would negatively impact their livelihood or their health.

HCL has the expertise to respond in detail to these concerned residents. Responses cover the likelihood and the amount of any groundwater interference, in addition to an explanation of the licensing procedure.

## Managing Your Licence

Once a licence has been issued by the regulator, HCL can also help you satisfy any compliance monitoring and reporting requirements included as terms and conditions of the licence.

Groundwater and Surface Water Solutions for a Changing Environment