



Reference: 46021

June 25, 2025

VIA EMAIL: Huguette.Allen@gmail.com

Dear Huguette Allen:

Thank you for your letter of June 5, 2025, that is a follow-up to my letter of June 2, 2025. I understand that you have some additional questions and concerns as it relates to water licensing, potential impacts to ecosystems, the consultation process for water licence amendment applications, and waste discharge under the *Environmental Management Act*. I have outlined my response to these concerns below.

As identified in my previous correspondence, the landowner has an existing water licence to divert 450-acre feet per annum (555,066m³) for irrigation from April 1st through September 30th. I understand that the amendment application is to upgrade the existing diversion structure and provide for a balancing reservoir on their property in support of their existing licenced water quantity.

As previously mentioned, the application is currently under review at FrontCounterBC and has not yet been forwarded to the Water Authorizations team for consideration. At present, we are prioritizing files that align with key government initiatives such as housing, connectivity, electrification, and public health and safety. Applications outside of these areas may experience long wait-times.

When the application is forwarded to Water Authorization staff, the statutory decision maker will review the amendment application, including considering water availability, impacts to aquatic ecosystems (e.g., an ecological review), consideration of environmental flow needs, dam safety (if applicable), and any required updated terms and conditions necessary to mitigate against potential impacts. At that time, First Nations Consultation will be completed as constitutionally required. As this is not an increase in licenced water quantity, there is no legal requirement under the *Water Sustainability Act* to notify any Legal objectors. Legal objectors are typically those who can demonstrate that a proposed water authorization (e.g., in this case, a change in diversion structure) would negatively impact their property or existing water rights. The landowner has chosen to take on the risk to begin construction on a balancing reservoir prior to receiving an authorization to divert and fill the reservoir with water.

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Regarding your concerns of waste discharge non-compliance and associated follow-up from the Ministry of Environment and Parks, I am unable to comment on any issues related to the *Environmental Management Act* and I encourage you to follow-up with that ministry directly.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact me directly by phone at 250-312-7308. I would be happy to provide more clarity to my response above.

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Toews', with a stylized, cursive script.

Michael Toews
Director, Authorizations
Thompson Okanagan Region