BACKLOG ELIMINATION PROJECT – MAY TO SEPTEMBER 2020
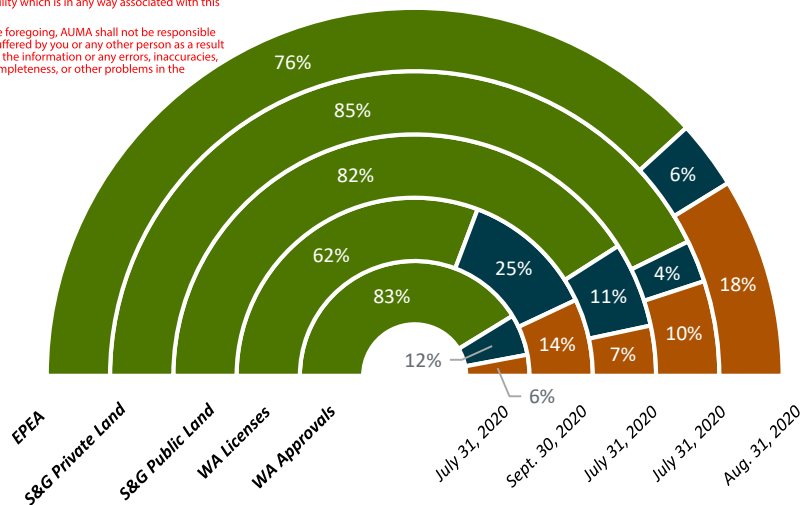
Alberta Environment and Parks

BACKLOG ELIMINATION SUMMARY STATISTICS
(CONCLUSION OF ALL PROJECTS)

May/20 — **2,264** Files awaiting decision
Department initiated Emergency Backlog Elimination project

Sept/20 — **547** Files require ongoing management
Await time-bound legislative obligations, info from proponent, or are under review

Backlog reduced by **76%** for all backlog projects

1,717 Decisions made to date

39,679 Personnel hours invested in backlog reduction
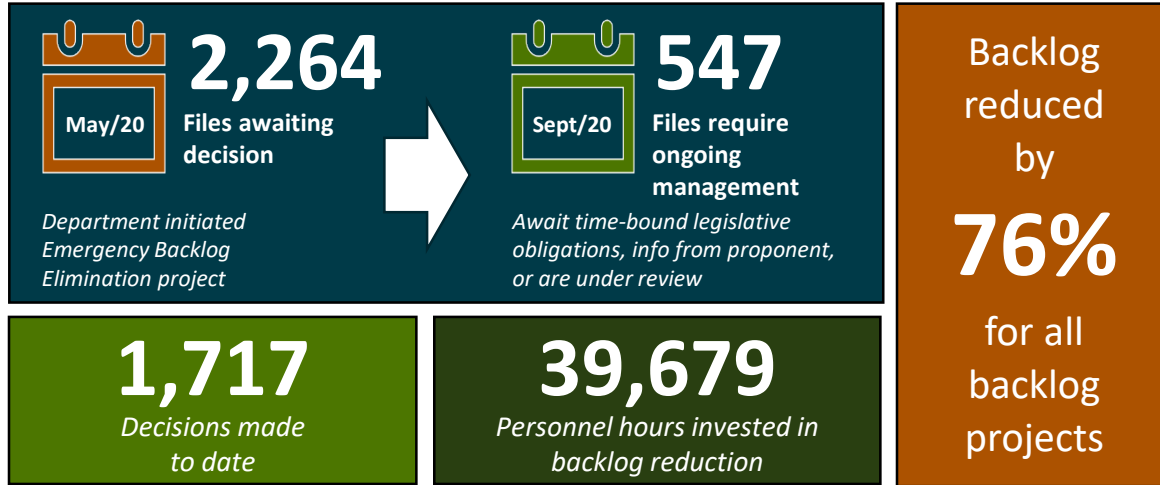
- ■ % Complete
- ■ % Awaiting Information
- ■ % Under Review

76%
85%
82%
62%
83%
12%
6%
25%
14%
7%
11%
4%
10%
6%
18%

EPEA — July 31, 2020
S&G Private Land — Sept. 30, 2020
S&G Public Land — July 31, 2020
WA Licenses — July 31, 2020
WA Approvals — Aug. 31, 2020

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

The Backlog Elimination Projects not only addressed over 1,700 files, they also acted as a catalyst for impactful process improvements that have transformed our approval process.

There were three key wins achieved from these projects, in addition to reducing backlog:

1 **Reduction of backlog has enabled economic stimulus.**
These significant reductions have allowed staff to focus their efforts on critical applications that ultimately support economic stimulus projects in the province.

2 **Long-term, sustainable process improvements have been made.**
Applications are now processed in batch, rather than individually. This means that applicants are seeing faster time to decision and equitable approval criteria.

3 **The project has validated the system improvements and will inform our regulatory transformation.**
The application of these key learnings will be a critical component in the development of the Digital Regulatory Assurance System.

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MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

By re-aligning staff and introducing elements of our forthcoming updated business processes, we were able to significantly reduce the backlog in three areas:

SAND AND GRAVEL (May 4 – Jul 30)

83%
Reduction in sand and gravel backlog

2,567
Hectares of sand and gravel dispositions issued (1424 prepped for issuance)

342
Paper applications reviewed and transitioned to electronic records

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT (EPEA) (July 13 – Aug 31)

76%
Reduction in EPEA backlog

31
New authorizations incl. stormwater ponds that enable community development

47
Renewals issued for facilities providing essential services

WATER ACT APPROVALS AND LICENCES (May 4 – Sep 30)

71%
of all files had decisions made (87% reduction of non-complex *Water Act* files)

9.4 billion
Litres of water allocated – enough to fill 3,760 Olympic-sized swimming pools

7,221
Albertans with access to safe and secure potable water through water treatment systems projects

KEY OUTCOMES

Red tape removed from authorization processes to empower staff

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New process and referral guidance documents provide clear decision-making authority

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Batch decision making has ensured consistent, fair, and transparent treatment of all applications; decisions are also made faster

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Industry has certainty and trust in the regulatory system