

Frequently asked questions:

## Transforming Alberta's Regulatory System with Alberta Municipalities

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Alberta Environment and Parks hosted a session with Alberta Municipalities. The following questions were asked and follow-up was required to get the most accurate information back to participants.

We are looking forward to Water Act amendments to accommodate water reuse/stormwater use.

There are no changes being contemplated to the Act at this time, which would be required to fully address the reuse aspect, but engagement happening this spring on regulatory changes to address stormwater use – can expect to see those forthcoming, if supported.

- Under the current system, a *Water Act* licence is required for stormwater use. This prevents many low risk projects from proceeding.
- Environment and Parks is working to increase the ability for Albertans to use stormwater by exempting the *Water Act* licensing requirement in regulation.
- Public engagement is underway to ensure that the policy is implemented in a way that balances the needs of Albertans with environmental considerations.
  - <https://www.alberta.ca/stormwater-management-engagement.aspx>
- Engagement will wrap up this spring 2022 to help inform potential recommendations later this year.

Do you anticipate an updates to the COPs for Watercourse crossings? Several years ago this was rumoured.

Unlikely to see any COP amendments soon. Internal GOA discussions are currently narrow in scope. There may be some opportunity for policy clarification outside of COP changes.

Environment and Parks would engage with Alberta Municipalities if and when any proposed amendments or changes may be under consideration.

Updates to COP for road widening?

As part of red tape reduction, Environment and Parks streamlined the approval process for road widening under the [Alberta Wetland Policy](#).

Applicants can now use the Wetland Assessment Impact Form (WAIF) for road maintenance and widening within an existing road right of way. As a result:

- Wetland assessment work can be completing using a desktop method instead of a field assessment; and
- The requirement to submit a Wetland Assessment and Impact Report is removed, which required more work and costs.