

Water Sustainability Act
Definitions for Water Use Purposes and Categories of Water Use Purposes
Effective February 29th 2016

Instructions for applicants – please read

When filling in an application for an authorization, the application will ask for the following:

“Step 1 – What purpose do you want to use the water for?” →
These are the water use purposes from the Definitions below in **black text** (beginning on page 2)

“Step 2 – Please select one of the following purpose uses?” →
These are the water use subpurposes in **blue text** below (beginning on page 2)

Please note that there are a wide variety of water uses that fall under the different water use purposes, in particular “industrial” water use (e.g., watering livestock) – the example list to the right is what you will see in the on-line application.

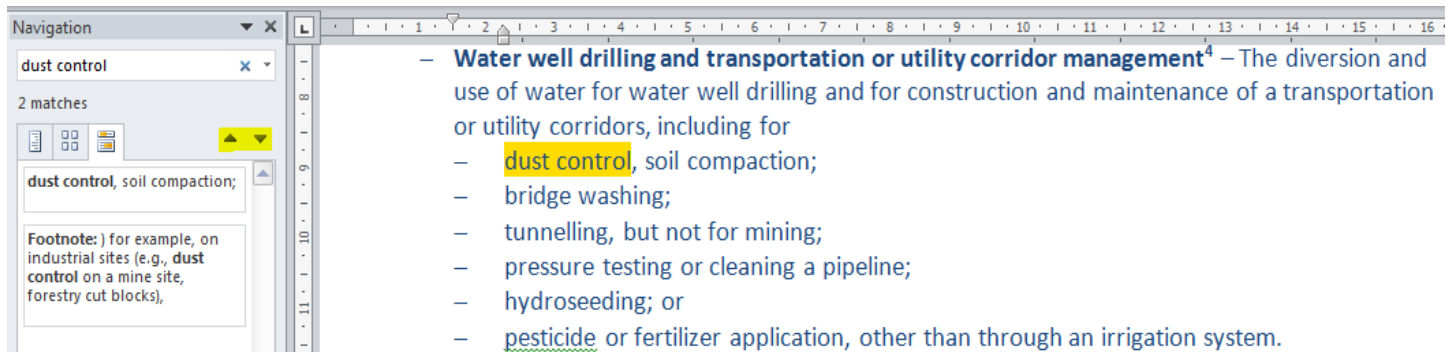
Please contact FrontCounter BC with any questions:

- By phone toll-free at 1.877.855.3222 (within North America) or +1.778.372.0729 (outside of North America).
- By email at FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca.
- In person across BC at one of the many [FrontCounter BC locations](#)

Please ensure that you know the correct water use purpose for your application. If you cannot find what you are looking for, please use a ‘Ctrl F’ search within this word document.

For example when you hit the ‘Ctrl’ and ‘F’ buttons on your keyboard a box will open where you can type. If you type in ‘dust control’ you can use the highlighted arrows to scroll through all instances of those words within the document:

- (None)
- Aquifer Storage: Non-Power
- Aquifer Storage: Power
- Camps & Public Facilities
- Commercial Enterprise
- Conservation: Construct Works
- Conservation: Storage
- Conservation: Use of Water
- Cooling
- Crop Harvesting, Protection & Composting
- Domestic (WSA01)
- Fish Hatchery
- Fresh Water Bottling
- Greenhouse & Nursery
- Heat Exchanger, Indl & Comm
- Heat Exchanger, Residential
- Ice & Snow Making
- Industrial Waste Mgmt
- Irrigation: Local Provider
- Irrigation: Private
- Land Improvement: General
- Land Improvement: Ind'l for Rehab or Remediation
- Lawn, Fairway & Garden
- Livestock & Animal
- Mineralized Water: Bottling & Dist
- Mineralized Water: Comm. Pool
- Mining: Hydraulic
- Mining: Placer
- Mining: Processing Ore
- Mining: Washing Coal
- Misc Indust
- O & G: Oil Fld Inject. (non-deep GW)
- Oil & Gas: Drilling
- Oil & Gas: Hydraulic Fracturing other than deep GW
- Oil & Gas: Hydraulic Fracturing, Deep GW
- Oil & Gas: Oil Field Injection, Deep GW
- PCL/Dam
- PCL/Permit
- Permit to Occupy Crown Land
- Pond & Aquaculture
- Power: Commercial
- Power: General
- Power: Residential
- Processing & Manufacturing
- Pulp Mill
- Swimming Pool
- Vehicle & Equipment
- Waterworks (other than LP)
- Waterworks: Local Provider
- Waterworks: Water Delivery
- Waterworks: Water Sales
- Well Drill/Transprt Mgmt



Definitions for Water Use Purposes and Categories of Water Use Purposes

Conservation Purpose – "conservation purpose" means the diversion, retention or use of water for the purpose of conserving fish or wildlife and includes the construction of works for that purpose (Section 2, WSA)

Sub purposes

- **Conservation – construct works** – associated with conservation purpose - Works are constructed for conserving fish or wildlife.
- **Conservation – stored water** – Water is stored for conserving fish or wildlife.
- **Conservation – use of water** – Water is used for conserving fish or wildlife.

Domestic Purpose – "domestic purpose" means the use of water for household purposes by the occupants of, subject to the regulations, one or more private dwellings, other than multi-family apartment buildings, including, without limitation, hotels and strata titled or cooperative buildings, located on a single parcel, including, without limitation, the following uses: (Section 2, WSA)

(a) drinking water, food preparation and sanitation;

(b) fire prevention;

(c) providing water to animals or poultry kept

(i) for household use, or

(ii) as pets;

(d) irrigation of a garden not exceeding 1 000 m² that is adjoining and occupied with a dwelling, [note that a 'garden' includes a lawn]

Sub purposes

- Note that there is only one sub purpose for domestic, 'domestic' – please choose that for domestic water use.

Industrial Purpose – "industrial purpose" means a use of water designated by regulation as a use for an industrial purpose, but does not include the use of water for any other water use purpose (Section 2, WSA)

Sub purposes

- **Camp and public facility** – The diversion and use of water for the operation of
 - (a) a church, community hall, school, hospital or other public institution,
 - (b) public facilities such as drinking fountains, washrooms or public water parks, or
 - (c) public exhibition grounds, residential camps for workers or recreational camps¹, but excluding public or commercial campgrounds, except campgrounds that are part of a recreational camp.
- **Commercial enterprise** – The diversion and use of water
 - (a) for the operation of apartment buildings, hotels, motels, restaurants, service stations, mobile home, trailer or manufactured home parks, public campgrounds, including campgrounds in public parks, and commercial campgrounds, other than campgrounds associated with recreational camps, marinas, commercial amusement parks, including water parks, or commercial enterprises, or
 - (b) in a food and beverage processing plant.
- **Cooling** – The diversion and use of water for cooling purposes in any manufacturing, processing or industrial operation.
- **Crop harvesting and processing** – The diversion and use of water to clean or wash crops, to prevent crops from reaching maturity or to delay maturation of crops, to protect crops or seedlings from frost, to harvest crops, such as cranberries or wild rice, by flooding or in agricultural vegetative waste composting operations. [Note, see 'Waste management' below for water use in an industrial composting facility.]

¹ "recreational camp" means a camp that provides one or more of the following: (a) recreational experiences; (b) educational experiences; (c) rehabilitative or therapeutic experiences for persons with disabilities or chronic or life-threatening illnesses; (d) religious instruction; (e) leadership training. [Section 1, Water Sustainability Regulation]

- **Fish hatcheries** – The use of water to produce fish eggs and to propagate fish by hatching fish eggs, rearing fry or sustaining brood stock under controlled conditions in a containment facility.
- **Fresh water bottling** – The diversion and use of water for the bottling, for commercial distribution, of fresh water, including the bottling of carbonated water and water fortified with vitamins, but not including mineralized water or fermented or other processed beverages.
- **Greenhouse and nursery** – The diversion and use of water in a facility for the indoor propagation of fruits, vegetables or other plants, or at a facility for the propagation of trees, plants or turf.
- **Heat exchange** – The diversion and use of water in industrial and commercial operations to extract or dissipate heat by passing water through an open loop system.
- **Ice and snow making** – The diversion and use of water for the commercial production of ice or for making snow or ice for a recreation facility or area.
- **Lawn, fairway and garden** – The diversion and use of water for watering a golf course, sports field, park or similar property, as well as watering a commercial lawn, an ornamental garden that is not adjoining and occupied with a dwelling and the portion of an ornamental garden that is adjoining and occupied with a dwelling which garden is larger than 1 000m².
- **Livestock and animal** – The diversion and use of water to provide drinking water and sanitation requirements in the operation or maintenance of a kennel, an animal shelter or boarding facility, a ranch or feedlot operation, or a game farm², dairy farm, pig farm or poultry farm, or similar enterprise for rearing livestock.
- **Miscellaneous industrial** –
 - The diversion of water to dewater a construction site, mine or similar excavation;
 - The diversion and use of water for a standby system for fire protection;
 - The use of a streambed for overburden disposal;
 - The diversion and use of water for driving, booming and storing logs or other timber products; [Note, see ‘Pond and aquaculture’ for water use related to floating logs.]
 - The clearing or excavation of the stream channel, including for river improvement;
 - The impoundment of water in a settling pond for sediment control.
- **Pond and aquaculture** – The diversion and use of water for floating logs, fur farming³, fish farming or keeping fish for recreational purposes, but does not include a fish hatchery.
- **Processing and manufacturing** – The diversion and use of water for the operation of a sawmill, shipyard, factory or other manufacturing facility or for the operation of a wharf, and includes the use of water in a gravel washing plant or the use in an industrial context of water to prevent a fire.
- **Pulp mills** – The diversion and use of water in the production of pulp and paper products or in the operation and maintenance of a pulp mill.
- **Residential heat exchange** - The diversion and use of water to extract or dissipate heat, by passing water through an open loop system, for one or more private dwellings, other than multi-family building, located on a single parcel.
- **Swimming pool** - The diversion and use of water for the operation and maintenance of a public or private swimming pool by a person that does not hold a licence for another industrial water use to which the swimming pool is incidental.
- **Vehicle and equipment** – The diversion and use of water to wash trucks, other vehicles or equipment, operate equipment to explore for, take samples or quarry rock, or to cool the brakes on logging trucks or other vehicles.
- **Waste management** – The diversion and use of water for diluting or treating effluent and sewage, for the operation of a landfill or industrial composting facility or for the washing and cleaning of water intake screens. [Note, see ‘Crop harvesting and processing’ above, for water use related to agriculture vegetative waste composting operations.]
- **Water well drilling and transportation or utility corridor management**⁴ – The diversion and use of water for water well drilling and for construction and maintenance of a transportation or utility corridors, including for

² “game farm” has the same meaning as in the Game Farm Regulation [Animal Health Act] [Section 1, Water Sustainability Regulation]

³ “fur farming” has the same meaning as in the Fur Farm Regulation [Animal Health Act] [Section 1, Water Sustainability Regulation]

- dust control, soil compaction;
- bridge washing;
- tunnelling, but not for mining;
- pressure testing or cleaning a pipeline;
- hydroseeding; or
- pesticide or fertilizer application, other than through an irrigation system.

Irrigation Purpose – "irrigation purpose" means the use of water on cultivated land or hay meadows to nourish crops or on pasture to nourish forage; (Section 2, WSA)

Sub purposes

- **Irrigation** – Water is used for irrigation purpose, other than provided by a local provider.
- **Irrigation – water conveyed by a local provider for irrigation purpose** – Water is supplied by a local provider for irrigation purpose within the local provider’s service area. See the definition of ‘**local provider**’ in the Water Sustainability Fees Rentals and Charges Tariff Regulation.

Land Improvement Purpose – "land improvement purpose" means the diversion or impounding of water to (Section 2, WSA)

- (a) protect land,
- (b) facilitate the development of a recreational facility or of a park or other protected area,
- (c) facilitate the reclamation, drainage or other improvement of land, or
- (d) carry out a project of a nature similar to a project described in paragraph (b) or (c);

Sub purposes

- **Land improvement – general** – Water is diverted or impounded to protect land, to facilitate the development of a recreation facility or of a park or other protected area or the reclamation, drainage or other improvement of land. **Ponds** for aesthetic purposes are included in this purpose.
- **Land improvement – industrial rehabilitation or remediation purposes** – Water is diverted or impounded to protect, reclaim or drain land zoned or used for industrial purposes.

Mineralized Water Purpose – "mineralized water purpose" means (Section 2, WSA)

- (a) the bottling and commercial distribution of water so impregnated with mineral salts, elements or gases as to potentially give the water therapeutic properties, or
- (b) the use in commercial bathing pools of water that is
 - (i) impregnated with mineral salts, elements or gases, or
 - (ii) naturally at a temperature suitable for that use;

Sub purposes

- **Bottling and commercial distribution** – Mineralized water is used for sale in bottles or other containers, but does not include fresh water bottling.
- **Commercial bathing pools** – Mineralized water is used in commercial bathing pools.

Mining Purpose – "mining purpose" means (Section 2, WSA)

- (a) the use of water, including the use of water under pressure, for recovering minerals from the ground or from ore, or
- (b) the use of water under pressure to move earth, sand, gravel or rock;

⁴ Note, this category of industrial water use purpose is for water use associated with water well drilling, transportation corridors, for example road rights of way, trail corridors, railway rights of way), boat launch areas, or utility corridors (can be interpreted broadly) for example, on industrial sites (e.g., dust control on a mine site, forestry cut blocks), pipeline corridors, power lines corridors.

Sub purposes

- **Mining – hydraulic** – Water is used in mining operations in which the force of the water is used to expose the minerals.
- **Mining – placer** – Water is used in the operation and/or maintenance of placer mining operations.
- **Processing ore** – Water is used in the operation and/or maintenance of ore processing operations.
- **Washing coal** – Water is used in the operation and/or maintenance of coal washing operations.

Oil and Gas Purpose – "oil and gas purpose" means the use of water in the development of petroleum or natural gas wells or the production of petroleum or natural gas resources (Section 2, WSA)

Sub purposes

- **Oil and Gas – drilling** – Water is used for drilling activities related to oil and natural gas development or production.
- **Oil and Gas – oil field injection – other than deep groundwater**⁵ – Water that is not deep groundwater is pumped into the subsurface to assist in the recovery of oil or natural gas. [Note, 'other than deep groundwater' includes groundwater that is not 'deep groundwater' as well as stream water.]
- **Oil and Gas – oil field injection – deep groundwater** – Deep groundwater is pumped into the subsurface to assist in the recovery of oil or natural gas.
- **Oil and Gas – hydraulic fracturing – other than deep groundwater** – Water that is not deep groundwater is injected under high pressure to fracture a subsurface formation to assist in the recovery of oil or natural gas. [Note, 'other than deep groundwater' includes groundwater that is not 'deep groundwater' and stream water.]
- **Oil and Gas – hydraulic fracturing – deep groundwater** – Deep groundwater is injected under high pressure to fracture a subsurface formation to assist in the recovery of oil or natural gas.

Power Purpose – "power purpose" means the use of water in the production of electricity or other power (Section 2, WSA)

Sub purposes

- **Power Commercial** – Water Fees, Rentals and Charges Tariff Regulation Section 16 – "**commercial**" means the use, other than residential, of the capacity and energy generated from one or more power developments owned by the licensee, or of the entitlement to capacity and energy derived from water licences held by the licensee,
 - (a) by the licensee, or if sold by the licensee to immediate family members, employees or tenants of the licensee, by those persons, if the sum of the construction capacity and operating capacity of the licensee's power development, or if the licensee has more than one power development, the sum of the construction capacity and operating capacity of the licensee's power developments, does not exceed 499 kW,
 - (b) for the extraction or processing of natural resources, or the manufacturing of products, in a primary industrial facility in which the licensee has an interest of more than 50%, or
 - (c) in a facility that is adjacent to and integrated with a primary industrial facility in which the licensee has an interest of more than 50%, but only to the extent that the capacity and energy used in the adjacent and integrated facility is for the production of output consumed in or for the use of the industrial processes of the licensee;
- **Power General** – Water Fees, Rentals and Charges Tariff Regulation Section 16 – "**general**" means
 - (a) the use of the capacity and energy generated from one or more power developments owned by a public utility regulated by the British Columbia Utilities Commission under Part 3 of the *Utilities Commission Act*,

⁵ "**deep groundwater**" means the following: (a) unless paragraph (b) applies, groundwater that is found in the subject area at a depth greater than 600 m below the earth's surface; (b) groundwater that is found in the subject area

(i) below the base of fish scales marker, or if there is no base of fish scales marker, below strata that are older than the base of fish scales marker, and

(ii) at a depth greater than 300 m below the earth's surface; [Section 51, Water Sustainability Regulation]

- (b) the use of the capacity and energy generated from one or more power developments of an amount of capacity and energy in excess of the amount necessary to supply the licensee's commercial category requirements, or
- (c) the use of the capacity and energy generated from a power development, which use is not residential or commercial;
- **Power Residential** – Water Fees, Rentals and Charges Tariff Regulation Section 16 – “**residential**” means the use of the capacity and energy generated from a power development if
 - (a) the sum of the construction capacity and operating capacity of the power development does not exceed 50 kW, and
 - (b) that capacity is used to supply the household requirements of the licensee, including the requirements of any outbuildings, and may also be used in part to participate in the BC Hydro Net Metering Program.

Storage Purpose – "storage purpose" means the impounding and retention of water for subsequent use for a water use purpose (Section 2, WSA)

Sub purposes

- **Stream Storage – non power** – Water from a stream is stored so that it can be used for purposes other than power production.
- **Stream Storage – power** – Water from a stream is stored so that it can be used for power production.
- **Aquifer Storage – non power** – Water from an aquifer is stored so that it can be used for purposes other than power production.
- **Aquifer Storage – power** – Water from an aquifer is stored so that it can be used for power production.

Waterworks Purpose – "waterworks purpose" means the carriage or supply of water by one person or entity for the use in British Columbia of another person or entity (Section 2, WSA)

Sub purposes

- **Water sales** – Water is sold to customers by the authorization holder, other than water delivery.
- **Waterworks others** – Water is conveyed by someone other than a local provider for waterworks purpose, but does not include water delivery.
- **Waterworks - water delivery** – Water is transported to customers by tanker truck, in bottles or similar containers.
- **Waterworks - local provider** – Water is conveyed by a local provider for waterworks purpose. See the definition of ‘**local provider**’ in the Water Sustainability Fees Rentals and Charges Tariff Regulation.