

# Transforming Alberta's Regulatory System

## Changes to *Water Act* Licences

As of November 15, 2021, the Digital Regulatory Assurance System (DRAS) now manages some *Water Act* surface water and groundwater licences regulated by Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP).

### The Digital Regulatory Assurance System (DRAS)

DRAS will support AEP in modernizing its regulatory system, which will make reviewing applications more transparent and efficient — all while maintaining high environmental standards.

Designed to provide clear, upfront expectations to applicants, the digital single system will manage the entire lifecycle of a project from application to authorization, monitoring and compliance reporting, to remediation and closure.

Rolled out in stages until 2023, DRAS will eventually move all applications online, supporting all authorization types managed by AEP under the *Water Act*, *Public Lands Act*, and *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

The first stage of DRAS was successfully launched in June 2021 with the migration of *Water Act* approval applications, approval amendment applications and Code of Practice notices.

### *Water Act* Licences moving to DRAS

As of November 15, 2021, some *Water Act* surface water and groundwater licences are now managed in DRAS. The following licence applications and requests are included:

- All new applications for *Water Act* surface water and groundwater licences will need to be submitted and managed via DRAS, including any reporting requirements.
- All applications for amendments, amalgamations and requests for transfers for existing licences will need to be submitted and managed going forward via DRAS, including any reporting requirements.

**Note:** All existing *Water Act* surface water and groundwater licences and temporary diversion licences (TDLs) will continue to be managed in existing systems in the near

future. All reporting requirements for licences stored in existing systems will also continue to be submitted via current processes.

There is upcoming work planned in early 2022 to migrate all existing *Water Act* licences and reporting requirements to DRAS. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

**Note:** These changes only apply to activities regulated and systems managed by Alberta Environment and Parks.

### DRAS Information and Training

Visit the [DRAS](#) page on Alberta.ca for more details about the system and links to register for upcoming virtual information and training sessions.

Information sessions provide an overview of DRAS and the expected changes, whereas training sessions provide detailed instruction on using the system to submit and manage your *Water Act* licences.

Information and training sessions are open to the public and registration is limited.

### Contact Information

If you have questions about any of the information included in this document, please contact [AEP.OST@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AEP.OST@gov.ab.ca).