

**From:** Tyler Mattheis [tmattheis@northernrockies.ca]  
**Sent:** April-29-10 3:35 PM  
**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
**Cc:** Stacey Loe; Heather Cosman (work); Randy McLean; Kathi Dickie; Pimm.MLA, Pat LASS:EX; Wilkinson, Jennifer L LASS:EX; Minister, EMPR EMPR:EX; robert.spitzer@apachecorp.com; Hall, Paula  
**Attachments:** NRRM\_Water\_Act\_Response.pdf

Please accept our comments with respect to the Water Act Modernization discussion paper, and our request for a 60 day extension.

Regards,  
Tyler Mattheis

**Tyler Mattheis, Community Development Officer**

*Northern Rockies Regional Municipality*

Tel (250) 774-2541 ext 2043 | Fax (250) 774-6794

Municipal web page: [www.NorthernRockies.ca](http://www.NorthernRockies.ca)

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5319 - 50th Avenue South | Bag Service 399 | Fort Nelson, BC | V0C 1R0

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*Northern Rockies Regional Municipality*

*Town Square, 5319-50th Ave. S. Bag Service 399,*

*Fort Nelson, BC, Canada V0C 1R0*

*Tel (250) 774-2541 Fax (250) 774-6794*

*www.NorthernRockies.ca*

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Water Act Modernization Submission  
Ministry of Environment  
Water Stewardship Division  
PO Box 9362,  
Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9M2

**RE: BC Water Act Modernization – request for extension to submission deadline**

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Northern Rockies Regional Municipality would like to extend its support of the Ministry of Environments initiative to modernize the BC Water Act. With the impacts of changing populations, pollution and changes to process in natural resource extraction, it is imperative that the Water Act be updated to ensure the continued sustainability of our water.

As an isolated, resource based community, the NRRM is very interested in participating in the modernization process; however, unfortunately we have just recently become aware of the discussion paper and the associated deadline for comments.

From our brief, initial review of the documents, it is clear that the NRRM has a vested interest in this initiative, as the water requirements of the Horn River Basin unconventional gas play in our Municipality are beyond any demand ever seen in our region and perhaps the province. Some estimates indicate that 10 to 20 thousand wells could be drilled, with approximately 20 zones fractured per well, and about 4,000m<sup>3</sup> of water needed for each zone – an expected demand of between 800 million and 1.6 billion m<sup>3</sup> of water. As well, in some cases, only 20% of the water used in the process is likely to be recovered.

Because of the potential for massive demands for water in our region, the NRRM is respectfully requesting a 60 day extension to the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for comments.

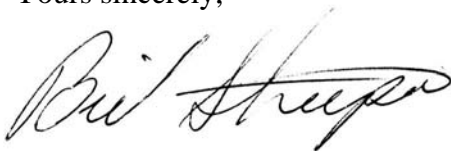
In attempting to understand the challenge that water poses, the NRRM has participated in a water workshop in the fall of 2009, and is working to host a panel discussion this spring with Fort Nelson First Nation.

Through these small initiatives, a few key points have been identified, which we would appreciate the opportunity to expand upon in a formal submission:

- 1) Ground and surface water regulation must be integrated and protected from commoditization
- 2) Cumulative effects to surface and ground water must be adequately researched and reasonably known prior to the provision of water use permits or licenses
- 3) Naturally flow sensitive areas, as defined lately by the Ministry of Environment, must require specific priority area allocation plans
- 4) The new Water Act must provide for meaningful First Nation and Regional shared governance in defined priority areas
- 5) Recycling and reuse of large industrial water allocations must be a priority of the new Water Act
- 6) Local governments must have authority to manage the watershed to protect the region's drinking water supply.

We thank you for giving consideration to our unique situation with respect to the use of water resources in our region and our subsequent request for an extension.

Yours sincerely,



Mayor Bill Streeper  
Northern Rockies Regional Municipality

CC

Chief Kathi Dickie  
Fort Nelson First Nation

Pat Pimm  
MLA, Peace River North

The Honourable Blair Leakstrom  
British Columbia Minister of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources

Rob Spitzer  
Chair, HRB Producers Group