

127658

Warren Huffman
Committee Clerk
Legislative Assembly of Alberta
3rd Floor, Queen Elizabeth II Building
9820 - 107 Street
Edmonton AB T5K 1E7
warren.huffman@assembly.ab.ca

Dear Warren Huffman:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written response following the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on April 29, 2025, in relation to the Office of the Auditor General's audit report on Surface Water Management.

In response to the questions regarding compliance related to surface water, I want to reiterate that our compliance program relies substantially on risk-based inspections, public complaints and self-reporting.

In 2024/25, Environment and Protected Areas completed 252 Water Act surface water licence inspections, with 76 per cent having a minor non-compliance associated with a licence condition. The most common reason for non-compliance was failure to retain records or report on water use.

Inspections are used as opportunities to assist water licensees to come into compliance. In addition, the online system upgrades discussed during the meeting will further assist water licensees in reporting water use into the future.

I trust this information is helpful. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Clarke
Deputy Minister

cc: Ryan Fernandez, Assistant Deputy Minister
Financial Services, Environment and Protected Areas

Travis Ripley, Assistant Deputy Minister
Regulatory Assurance, Environment and Protected Areas