



Ministry of Water, Land and
Resource Stewardship

Permitting Transformation

Mailing Address:
PO BOX 9367 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9L6

Tel: 778-698-3290
Website: www.gov.bc.ca
WLRS

Reference: 46021

June 2, 2025

VIA EMAIL: Huguette.allen@gmail.com

Dear Huguette Allen:

Thank you for your email of May 24, 2025, to the Honourable Randene Neill regarding your concerns of the construction of a water storage pond on private property in Cherryville BC. As the Director of Authorizations, I have been asked to respond on behalf of the minister.

The landowner has an existing water licence issued on November 1, 1977, to divert 450-acre feet per annum (555,066m³) for irrigation from April 1st through September 30th. The technical and environmental reviews conducted at the time of the existing licence's adjudication would have followed all necessary policy and procedures applicable at that time.

The landowner has applied for an amendment to their existing licence. The application is currently under review and has not been forwarded to the Water Authorizations team for consideration at this time. Currently, applications that align with government priorities such as housing, connectivity, electrification, or public health and safety are being prioritized. Applications that fall outside of these government priorities may experience longer than normal wait times and processing times may vary across regions.

I understand that the amendment application is to store water on their property in support of their existing water licence. There has been no requested change to the allocated water quantity. Provided the excavations are outside the riparian area, there is no authorization required to construct the excavation, however, the filling of a newly constructed storage pond with water has not yet been authorized through the amendment request. At the time the amendment application is reviewed, the First Nation Consultation process will be conducted.

I understand a qualified environmental monitor has been retained on behalf of the applicant to oversee any works and to ensure compliance with local and provincial regulations. If you have future concerns on any compliance and enforcement matters, please submit your concerns to the Natural Resource Officer Service at the following link: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/natural-resource-law-enforcement/report-natural-resource-violations>

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Toews', written in a cursive style.

Michael Toews
Director, Authorizations
Thompson Okanagan Region