

## WATERCOURSE CROSSINGS

In Canada, there exists an [extensive network of watercourse crossings](#) that span across various industrial sectors and regulatory authorities. A significant number of these crossings in western Canada do not allow for the passage of fish. While there are multiple factors contributing to the decline of fish populations, one of the most concerning risks lies in the fragmentation of aquatic habitats caused by problematic crossings, particularly culverts. This poses a substantial threat to the sustainability of fish populations in flowing waters. Consequently, a number of fish species find themselves in population decline, leading to their federal or provincial listing and ultimately triggering the urgent development of recovery plans. In addition to habitat and wildlife concerns, exposed pipelines also pose a safety risk for wildlife and humans alike. This can put companies at risk for non-compliance.

[Despite the need for recovery plans, most provinces have only inacted voluntary programs.](#)

What does this mean for your business?

In Alberta, to comply with the majority of directives, crossing owners must:

### [Inspect](#)

Crossing owners must have an inspection program including an environmental assessment (EA) for the watercourse crossings that they own. These inspections are subject to audit from the appropriate regulator.

### [Report](#)

Watercourse crossing inspection data must be submitted to the applicable regulator by November 30 each year.

### [Remediate](#)

Crossing owners must submit a plan to address non-compliant crossings by March 31 (of the year following their reporting).



Considerations for the aquatic environment include:

- [Habitat structure and cover](#)
- [Sediment concentrations](#)
- [Water temperature](#)
- [Fish migration](#)
- [If the watercourse crossing method is trenched or trenchless](#)



# Experts in Environmental Planning and Management

## ALBERTA WATER ACT:

Before any construction activity can occur in a waterbody or watercourse a water Act approval and/or license needs to be obtained. The approval comes from a governing body which gives authority for construction to occur within a waterbody. Once the approval is obtained, conditions and actions will need to be taken for the construction to take place.

Regulations can be confusing with many governing bodies and updates. Our experts can guide or completely manage through the processes to ensure compliance.



## WHAT INFORMATION IS REQUIRED?

Depending on the difficulty of the project specific information is required:

- Construction specification
- Water requirements
- Construction schedule
- Construction methods
- Operation schedule
- Reclamation Schedule

## WAIR VS WAIF:

A Wetland Assessment and Impact Report (WAIR) is required for high-risk activities within wetlands. A WAIR will require a professional to complete a field assessment of the wetlands. The field-based component must be completed during the growing season using Alberta Wetland Rapid Evaluation Tool-Actual (ABWRET-A), which is required by the Alberta Energy Regulator. A Wetland Assessment Impact Form (WAIF) is required for lower risk activities within a wetland, such as widening, improvements or maintenance of existing roads. AEPA and AER do not further require the completion of an ABWRET-D (desktop) for WAIF applications.



# Industry Leaders in Abandonment and Decommissioning Services

## PIPELINES AND WATERCOURSE CROSSINGS

Due to the alluvial nature of river and stream beds the amount of earth cover over pipeline watercourse crossings can constantly be in a state of flux from year to year. When erosion is combined with the dynamic nature of evolving regulations throughout the lifetime of these legacy pipelines, a percentage of these watercourse crossings will become exposed.

Watercourse crossings for buried pipelines can also pose non-compliance issues. Under part 2 of the Alberta Pipeline Rules:

"29(1) Unless otherwise required by the Regulator, and subject to subsection (2), the minimum earth cover for any operating or discontinued pipeline must be the greater of

- (a) the earth cover specified in CSA Z662,
- (b) the applicable specified minimum of (i) 1.4 metres within the entire right of way of a highway, (ii) 1.2 metres within the entire right of way of a road, and (iii) 0.8 metres in any other place, and
- (c) the earth cover necessary to sufficiently protect the pipeline, as demonstrated by an engineering assessment."

Exposed pipelines can pose significant environmental issues such as spills if not addressed.



### Inspect

Summit can help you inspect the watercourse crossings to determine whether any pipelines have become exposed.

### Remediate/Remove

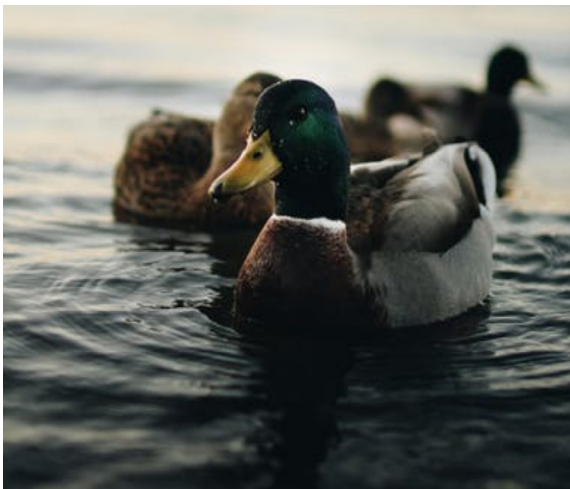
Our decommissioning team can advise on the best methodology to pig/purge exposed pipelines and remove the exposed pipeline through the watercourse crossing to mitigate the non-compliance issue and adverse environmental impacts.

### Reporting

Our comprehensive reporting and QA/QC program will provide you all the information required to demonstrate to AER that the non-compliance has been rectified.

# Evolving, to exceed your expectations.

## From insight to on-site.



### HOW WE CAN HELP

In addition to our environmental planning and permitting, and our decommissioning expertise, the final stage of a project may require reclamation, remediation, and restoration. Summit also provides expertly executed services such as:

- ✓ Reclamation plans and monitoring
- ✓ Landscape Contouring and Restoration
- ✓ Seed establishment
- ✓ Vegetation and Weed Assessment and Management
- ✓ Erosion and Sediment Control
- ✓ Detailed site assessments
- ✓ Site Reclamation & Restoration Applications

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- DRILLING WASTE MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS
- PIPELINE, FACILITY AND WELLHEAD DECOMMISSIONING AND ABANDONMENT
- ICT, WATERJET AND CONVENTIONAL CUT AND CAPS
- HYDROGEOLOGY & WATER MANAGEMENT
- SPILL RESPONSE & REMEDIATION
- SITE REHABILITATION & ARO SERVICES
- HDD/HDB ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND MANAGEMENT
- SUMMIT CONNECT, FIBREOPTICS INSTALLATION, CONSTRUCTION & MANAGEMENT

### HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

Summit is committed to protecting the health and safety of our employees, contractors and the public in the communities in which we work and live. Our Work Smart, Work Safe focus is integral to our day-to-day business practices.

Safety is a Summit core value that is integrated into our culture at every level. We not only practice and focus on safety daily in our operations; we strive to educate, continuously improve and evolve our policies and practices.



For additional information visit our website at [summitearth.com](https://summitearth.com), call your Summit representative or reach out directly to the contact information below.

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