

TABER IRRIGATION DISTRICT APPROACH TO TEMPORARILY RECEIVING PUMPED WATER INTO OUR WORKS

Update April 17, 2018: As a proactive response to assist those with flooded lands associated with the current State of Local Emergency for the M.D. of Taber and Town of Taber, TID has obtained a 'blanket' Approval through Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) to authorize temporary pumping of flooded areas into our works from TID water users on our assessment roll. All others are required to obtain a separate Approval from AEP. Most TID canals have reduced capacity because of high amounts of accumulated snow and ice, so there are significant limitations on the incoming flow rate we can receive. TID will coordinate receiving drainage under written consent granted to individual landowners for each flooded area to keep incoming flows within our banks, and to protect the quality of water entering our system. Unauthorized discharge puts our ability to keep flows within our system at risk. Overbank flows can transfer one issue upstream, to a potentially damaging situation downstream.

The following is Taber Irrigation District's approach for accepting temporary pumped or drained water from fields into our irrigation works:

1. Fill out a consent form at the TID office, on the TID website (www.taberirrigationdistrict.ca) or the MD of Taber website (www.mdtaber.ab.ca), and return to the TID office.
2. Barry Jensen (District Superintendent) will assess the request and determine site specific conditions.
3. If there is a water quality concern, testing will be required from a qualified lab for nutrients and E. coli. Best management practices to minimize impact to our infrastructure and water quality are required.
4. Barry will authorize individual consents in writing as we are able to receive the water.
5. Anyone conducting pumping activities on their land must have emergency authorization or have a copy of a TID authorized consent in their possession, or risk being reported to Alberta Environment and Parks (1-800-222-6514).

There are no exceptions to this process.

As of April 17th, and until further notice, for lands that drain to our internal storage system (Horsefly, Taber and Fincastle Reservoirs), TID is only accepting **emergency** pumping authorized under the MD of Taber priorities associated with the current State of Local Emergency. Consent for lands draining through TID works to the river are being considered on a case by case basis, subject to the capacity of the downstream works at the time. When TID's internal storage system has balanced inflow/outflow we will start issuing consents for remaining areas as capacity allows.



Christopher Gallagher, P.Eng.
District Manager