



for Professional Responsibilities in Completion and
Assurance of Wetland Science, Design, and
Engineering Work in Alberta

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| Title: | Transition Period Directive for Professional Responsibilities in Completion and Assurance of Wetland Science, Design and Engineering Work in Alberta |
| Number: | AEP, Water Conservation, 2017, No. X |
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Purpose

The purpose of this Directive is to enact a transitional period for professionals seeking to function as authenticating professionals in the fields of wetland science, design and engineering.

Policy Context

This Directive supports *Professional Responsibilities in Completion and Assurance of Wetland Science, Design, and Engineering Work in Alberta*.

Reference Documents:

- Professional Responsibilities in Completion and Assurance of Wetland Science, Design, and Engineering Work in Alberta.
- Alberta Wetland Policy

Enforcement/Compliance

Adherence to requirements put forth in this Directive is mandatory.

Citation

Government of Alberta. 2017. Transition Directive for Professional Responsibilities in Completion and Assurance of Wetland Science, Design, and Engineering Work in Alberta., Water Policy Branch, Alberta Environment and Parks. Edmonton, Alberta.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Directive is to enact a transitional period for professionals seeking to function as authenticating professionals in the fields of wetland science, design and engineering. During this transitional period, work experience gained prior to acquisition of professional designation will, under the conditions of this Directive, be viewed as valid experience toward fulfilment of requirements set forth in *Professional Responsibilities in Completion and Assurance of Wetland Science, Design, and Engineering Work in Alberta* (the Practice Standards).

This Directive is a temporary supplement to the Practice Standards. Professionals interested in this field of work should read the Practice Standards in their entirety to acquire an understanding of the purpose and function of Professional Regulatory Organizations in Alberta.

2. Timelines

This Directive is effective May 1, 2017, and expires March 31, 2023.

Practitioners seeking to avail themselves of this Directive must be eligible to register with one of the ten Professional Regulatory Organizations identified in the Practice Standards, and must register prior to March 31, 2018.

After March 31, 2018 all professionals wishing to authenticate documents as part of a regulatory submission under the Alberta Wetland Policy must meet all requirements set forth in the Practice Standards.

3. Rationale

Section 4.4 of the Practice Standards states:

“To authenticate wetland science, design, and engineering documents as part of a submission under the Alberta Wetland Policy, the professional must demonstrate a total of five years of professional experience, with a minimum of three years of professional wetland experience. It is possible to complete the three years of wetland experience as part of the total of five years of professional experience. The professional experience should be completed under the direct supervision of a wetland science, design, or engineering practitioner.”

In the Practice Standards, professional experience is defined as:

“Work conducted by a registered professional practitioner during which the individual is subject to the act, regulations, bylaws, practice standards and code of ethics of his or her professional regulatory body.”

The Practice Standards do not recognize experience gained by the individual prior to obtaining professional designation. However, Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) recognizes the existence of competent individuals who have obtained some or all of their experience outside of a professional designation, especially for professions without mandatory registration. The following section outlines an interim process through which these individuals can become qualified to authenticate regulatory documents under the Alberta Wetland Policy.

4. Transition Directive

- A. Education and competency requirements established through the Practice Standards (sections 4.1 and 4.2) remain unchanged.
- B. Professional experience gained prior to registration with a Professional Regulatory Organization may be accepted as part of the experience requirements, provided that the following conditions are met:
 - I. The individual has registered with one of the ten Professional Regulatory Organizations identified in the Practice Standards between the dates of April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2018.
 - II. The individual submits proof of high quality, verifiable, relevant experience to AEP at AEP.wetlands@gov.ab.ca between the dates of April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2018. The documentation must capture dates and timelines verifying number of years of experience. It is strongly suggested that the submission contain the following:
 - (a) A copy (or copies) of a wetland-specific regulatory submission to AEP under the provincial *Water Act*. A copy of previously completed and submitted Wetland Assessment and Impact Report and/or a completed an ABWRET-A assessment is strongly suggested.
 - (b) A detailed resume clearly outlining environmental and/or wetland experience, with references. The Practice Standards require a total of five years of professional experience with a minimum of three years of wetland experience. The three years of wetland experience can be part of the overall five years of professional practice.
 - (c) Any other supporting, relevant and verifiable documentation.

The proof of experience will be reviewed and verified by AEP. If accepted, the years of experience will be logged. The individual and their Professional Regulatory Organization will be notified of the outcome.

5. Legislative Context

The ten Professional Regulatory Organizations identified in the Practice Standards, and all Professional Regulatory Organizations in Alberta, are enabled through legislation (section 4.1.1 of the Practice Standard). In the case of conflict between the Practice Standards, this Directive and any Act, the Act shall prevail.

Contact Information

Any comments, questions, or suggestions regarding the content of this document may be directed to:

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Authorities

Original signed by: _____

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