

Proposed Disturbance Standard for Temporary Seasonal Docks for Recreation Purposes

Overview

Alberta Environment and Parks is proposing to implement a Disturbance Standard under the Public Lands Administration Regulation (PLAR). The purpose is to better manage the placement of temporary seasonal docks and associated structures on the beds and shores of Crown-owned water bodies that are subject to the *Public Lands Act*.

The proposed Disturbance Standard would create a general permission for “waterfront holders”, “semi-waterfront holders” and “municipal waterfront holders” as defined, to place a temporary seasonal dock, lifts and buoy anchors on the beds and shores without the need for a Temporary Field Authorization.

The proposed Disturbance Standard will have the following impact on dock users:

- Waterfront holders would have the ability to place a temporary seasonal dock on the bed and shore adjacent to their property for personal recreational use as they have always done, however this activity would now be authorized by the Disturbance Standard, as long as all of its requirements are complied with, instead of being authorized by a Temporary Field Authorization.
- Similarly, semi-waterfront holders whose properties border a municipally owned reserve would also be allowed to place a temporary seasonal dock for their personal recreational use, by accessing the waterbody through the reserve parcel, subject to the requirements of the Disturbance Standard and any municipal bylaws.
- Construction, placement and use of temporary docks or mooring structures on Crown-owned bed and shore that does not comply with the requirements of the Disturbance Standard is unauthorized unless and until the Department issues a Temporary Field Authorization for such activities.
- Stakeholder groups who wish to place community or other multi-user docks, or a mooring field onto the beds and shores of a waterbody for seasonal use, will continue to require a disposition from the Department as before, as will permanent anchors for navigational aids used by recreational boating groups.

Alberta Environment and Parks is seeking input on the proposed Disturbance Standard regarding the following aspects:

- Is the maximum size of 12m² for a boat dock’s terminal platform reasonable for the average “waterfront holder’s” or “semi-waterfront holder’s” use?
- How many boat lifts should be allowed under the general permission associated with a recreational dock? The proposal suggests either two boat lifts or one boat lift and two smaller lifts for personal watercraft.
- The proposed disturbance standard is suggesting a grandfather clause be in place to allow 5 years to transition to meet the requirements. Is this a reasonable timeframe?
- Should a dock owner be required to identify the dock’s ownership on the structure? This would help determine and confirm who is allowed to have a dock at that location and on what legal authority.

If you would like to provide written input into the standards being proposed within the Disturbance Standard or to share concerns related to the implementation of the Disturbance Standard, please provide your input to - AEP.info-centre@gov.ab.ca by May 25, 2020.