

From: [Pauline Scoffield](#)
To: [Brett Boukall](#)
Subject: FW: Fortress Mountain Holdings Ltd. - Water Act Referral to Wildlife Biologist - Licence Amendment Request
Date: Thursday, September 12, 2019 8:46:17 AM

Brett:

Please see Geoff's response below.

Pauline

From: Geoff Smith <Geoff.Smith@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 7:56 AM
To: Pauline Scoffield <Pauline.Scoffield@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: RE: Fortress Mountain Holdings Ltd. - Water Act Referral to Wildlife Biologist - Licence Amendment Request

Thanks Pauline.

To answer Brett's question, the pipeline is underground.

Geoff Smith RPFT
Land Management Specialist
Alberta Environment and Parks
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(403) 297-8591

From: Pauline Scoffield <Pauline.Scoffield@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 4:06 PM
To: Geoff Smith <Geoff.Smith@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: FW: Fortress Mountain Holdings Ltd. - Water Act Referral to Wildlife Biologist - Licence Amendment Request

Geoff,

Here is the referral response I recently received from Brett. Just thought that I would share this with you.

Pauline

From: Brett Boukall <brett.boukall@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 3:27 PM
To: Pauline Scoffield <Pauline.Scoffield@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: RE: Fortress Mountain Holdings Ltd. - Water Act Referral to Wildlife Biologist - Licence

Amendment Request

Hi Pauline,

The presence of a commercial truck fill itself from a Water Act perspective, should present a low risk to wildlife, as the areas where the truck –fill will be located is on previously disturbed site (e.g. near existing human infrastructure). The proposed water storage and use facility represents a low risk to wildlife as the actual structure occurs on or adjacent to existing disturbed or altered sites, with lower potential to impact wildlife.

I cannot tell whether the pipe exists to transport the water to the truck fill or whether one needs to be created. If the pipe needs to be built, will this be underground, or above ground? This may have implications for wildlife, increasing risk to wildlife by providing a barrier (if above ground), or through sensory disturbance of the construction.

If construction is to occur, I would recommend it occurs in late August to early October to avoid breeding season, and prior to winter.

The transfer of water, however, via trucks during the summer represents a bigger concern with constant travel on the Fortress road. The road closure was maintained in part due to disturbance to wildlife. This issue has not been brought up in Fortress application and must be raised and appropriately addressed. Road traffic can cause disturbance and avoidance of areas by wildlife. The following are strategies that should be considered:

- Public access must still be constrained
- This occurs in Mountain Goat and Sheep Zone, as well as Grizzly bears. Trucks should consider some restraints during late spring and summer (for wildlife birthing).
- A speed limit should be enacted to prevent wildlife collisions
- Limit truck traffic to daylight hours (e.g. 8am to 5pm)
- If possible, a limit on number of trucks may benefit wildlife.

Cheers

Brett Boukall, Msc. P.Biol

Bow-Crow District Senior Wildlife Biologist

Environment and Parks

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"If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there" — Lewis Carrol

From: Pauline Scoffield <Pauline.Scoffield@gov.ab.ca>

Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 4:18 PM

To: Brett Boukall <brett.boukall@gov.ab.ca>

Subject: Fortress Mountain Holdings Ltd. - Water Act Referral to Wildlife Biologist - Licence Amendment Request

Brett:

Fortress Mountain Holdings Ltd. (FMH) was issued a licence under the Water Act in 1982 which authorized the diversion of 98,679m³ (80 acre-feet) of water from an unnamed tributary of Galatea Creek at NE 32-021-09-W5M. The licence was granted for the use of water for Municipal (ski hill potable water supply) purposes. The licence does not stipulate the requirement for water to be returned to the watershed.

Fortress Mountain Holdings Ltd. has submitted an application for Licence Amendment and has requested that the purpose be changed from Municipal to Municipal and Commercial (truck fill). Of the 98,679m³ of water allocated under the existing licence, FMH is proposing to divert 50,000m³ annually from the source for a truck fill station and which will see water taken off site by way of water trucks.

Attached is information that was submitted in support of the application and is as follows:

- Licence and Amendments
- Water Act Application for Licence Amendment
- Photo
- Sets of Plans

Given the information provided above, can you please provide comments regarding the potential impacts an active truckfill may have on wildlife.

I look forward to your response. Please let me know if you need additional information or have any questions.

Regards, Pauline