

From: [AEP SSRFisheriesReferral](#)
To: [Pauline Scoffield](#)
Subject: RE: Water Act Licence Amendment Request - Fortress Mountain Holdings Ltd.
Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 2:18:54 PM

Good afternoon Pauline,

Thank you for the summary of the project in addition to the documentation. It made it much easier to review.

The historical nature of this water licence (and the unquantified rate of return) means that it is impossible to assess the potential impact of a reduction in water return on fish and fish habitat in the Kananaskis River system. As a result Fisheries Management can only categorise the potential impacts to spawning, migration, and habitat suitability as unknown.

Regards,

Linda Winkel

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From: Pauline Scoffield <Pauline.Scoffield@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 11:03 AM
To: AEP SSRFisheriesReferral <SSR.FisheriesReferrals@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: Water Act Licence Amendment Request - Fortress Mountain Holdings Ltd.

Linda,

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. The source is a non-fish bearing watercourse.

Through an authorization under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, FMH is authorized to discharge approximately 7,000m³ of wastewater from a lagoon system in E1/2 28-021-09-W5M overland, ultimately reaching the Kananaskis River. The distance from the point of discharge to the Kananaskis River is approximately 1.7km. It remains unconfirmed if historically any of the discharged wastewater from the lagoon reached the confluence of the Kananaskis River.

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.

Based on data provided by the applicant, the source (unnamed tributary of Galatea Creek) produces an estimated 1.7-1.9 billion litres of water. Therefore, the existing allocated volume of 98.679m³ is 5.19%-5.80% of the annual flow volume in the source and 0.22% of the Kananaskis River average annual flow volume at Barrier Lake outlet. The proposed commercial use volume of 50,000m³ is approximately 2.63%-2.94% of the annual flow volume of the source and 0.011% of the Kananaskis River average annual flow volume at the Barrier Lake outlet.

Given the information provided above, any comments or questions you may have regarding the potential impacts downstream on fish population would be welcomed. In particular, your comments on the potential impacts on fish population should there not be a return of 50,000m³ annually from the watershed (in particular, Kananaskis River).

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

Regards, Pauline