



Dawson Creek Water Supply System Project - FAQ

Last Updated: June 15, 2026

Q: How is this project different than the Emergency Overland Water Transfer System?

A: The Emergency Overland Water Transfer is a temporary system to protect the community during severe drought or low river flow. The transfer involves running a temporary water line overland from the Peace River to the City's raw water reservoir system to enable the City to pump water from the Peace River if and when it is needed.

The Water Supply System Project is about creating a long-term solution with a new permanent water source to secure Dawson Creek's water future.

Q: When will the City have a new source of drinking water in place?

A: Long-term projects such as pipelines and watermains require extensive planning, permitting, and funding collaboration. This work is actively underway, with engagement phases and regulatory preparation already in progress. The project timeline depends on many factors, and it's too early to confirm specific dates. We expect to have a better understanding of timelines by summer 2026, once the feasibility and work programming activities are further advanced.

Q: What is the actual timeline for this project?

A: In early 2024, the community entered a prolonged state of drought. This spurred a series of preliminary conversations with community groups, Indigenous communities, industry and government agencies over the following year and a half. These conversations culminated in the early engagement process with the EAO, which led to the formation of a renewed project team with a broader perspective.

With the severe water shortage experienced in the fall of 2025, along with the feedback received during the early phase engagement process, the City reaffirmed the need to secure a reliable water source for future generations. The next phases of the project include research, detailed studies and analysis, evaluation, and implementation planning.

Q: Will the new Water Supply System Project withdraw water from the Peace River?

A: While the initial project description identified the Peace River as the preferred source, the project team is now evaluating all potential sources for viability and best use.

This assessment was undertaken with a limited scope during the development of

the initial project description and is now being revisited with a much broader and more comprehensive scope to strengthen the support for the source that is ultimately selected.

We are also broadening the criteria used to evaluate potential sources to ensure the best possible solution for the community, informed by and responsive to the feedback received through engagement.

Q: Where will the new water supply infrastructure be built? Will it affect my home/business/farm?

A: There are a number of sites and routes still being evaluated as part of the feasibility planning work that is underway. Once potential routes and/or sites are identified, property owners in the area will be personally contacted by the project team to discuss the details. As the project evolves and options are evaluated and short-listed, the public will continue to be informed through project updates.

Q: How much will this project cost?

A: The overall project cost will be determined based on the final solution selected. The project team plans to have high-level costing available by Fall 2026. Financial funding models will be determined during the feasibility, engagement, and collaboration sessions with interest holders. The project team is working hard to ensure that the solution is financially sustainable for the city, residents, and businesses alike.

Q: What are the environmental impacts of withdrawing more water from a different location other than the Kiskatinaw?

A: Taking water from another watershed can have impacts, and it's important to understand and manage them carefully. Withdrawing water from a natural source can lower water levels, which can reduce available habitat and put stress on fish and other aquatic ecosystems. It can also lead to warmer water temperatures and higher concentrations of pollutants, affecting water quality.

Reduced water flows may also affect downstream users, including communities, agriculture, and industry. Over time, taking too much water can reduce groundwater levels and interfere with natural recharge cycles. These impacts can add up, especially during drought conditions and affect environmental health, local economies, and long-term water security. We are carefully considering all these factors as we work toward a final solution.

Q: What will happen if the Kiskatinaw River freezes again?

A: The City's reservoirs and emergency plans (including potential emergency overland water transfers) are designed to maintain supply even if the river cannot be accessed directly.

Learn more at www.dawsoncreek.ca/drought.

Q: Where can I find more information about the project?

A: Detailed project information and all past and upcoming community updates for this project can be found online at www.dawsoncreek.ca/water-supply.

Q: I did not get a chance to provide my input during the early engagement in 2025. Will there be future opportunities to provide feedback?

A: Engagement is ongoing. Reach out to watersupply@dawsoncreek.ca or call 250-784-3619 with any questions or concerns regarding the project. with any questions or concerns regarding the project.