



The LNID board recently reviewed planning and procedures to be prepared for and execute startup efficiently and fairly and developed a formal policy to ensure accountability. This explanation is provided to help you understand the process and how it affects your first water of the irrigation season.

PLANNING

Capital projects are typically larger rehabilitation projects designed and constructed through LNID's engineering and construction departments. Maintenance activities are all repairs or component replacements not identified as capital projects. The policy prefers in-house assignments of people and equipment, with consultants and contractors engaged as required for expertise or additional capacity.

The policy requires realistic timelines that allow flexibility to insert or defer projects and maintenance in a prioritized schedule so that the operations team can commission new works and start water on time.

Water Coordinators are to be provided sufficient time to prepare annual parcel and system tracking information ahead of the irrigation season and to follow pre-check inspections in their service areas.

STARTUP

The advertised startup 'week' is the target 10-day period from the introduction of water from headworks sources (Lethbridge Northern Headworks Canal, Keho Reservoir Outlet) to normal irrigation operations. Based on early indications and in consultation with the LNID Board, LNID Operations coordinates timing of first opening of headworks sources with the Water Infrastructure Operations Branch (WIOB) of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI). This is confirmed by resolution at the April board meeting and advertised at the Annual General Meeting, by email to water users and posted to the LNID website.

Commissioning, Flushing and Filling

Water Coordinators are to prioritize the commissioning of new works, flushing canals and pipelines, and then checking/filling canals and pipelines in all areas. Engineering and Construction are to support commissioning and complete repairs and adjustments as required.

Water Order Requests

Water Coordinators will not fill any water order requests prior to the advertised startup week, except where an early pond fill agreement is in place. Water order requests will not be filled for a parcel until the system serving that parcel has been flushed, checked up/filled, and a sustained supply (flow in \geq flow out) is available. If water is available to fulfill requests during startup week, this is at the discretion of, and prioritized by, the Water Coordinator. Unauthorized taking of water will not be tolerated.

Updates

LNID will post the status of startup daily on the LNID website until all areas are running.

The LNID board and staff thank you for your cooperation as we implement this new policy!