

**Colorado-Big Thompson Project Water Tracking**  
**Revised Accounting Procedures**  
**(Effective Date: June 11, 2026)**

1. Accounting Requirements for Storage of C-BT Project Water – The information in Section 1 of these Procedures shall be provided to Northern Water if untreated C-BT Project water is stored longer than 72 hours in a reservoir that has a decreed storage right. The accounting shall be submitted as required in Section 1.5 of these Procedures.
  - 1.1. The daily amount of C-BT Project water delivered to each reservoir, including the diversion location and place of storage.
  - 1.2. The daily amount of C-BT Project water lost from each reservoir due to combined evaporation and seepage. The methodology used to estimate these values must be acceptable to Northern Water. If requested, Northern Water may assist in developing an acceptable methodology. A disproportionately high percentage of evaporation or seepage from reservoirs may not be assumed to be C-BT Project water. For example, if 20 percent of the total water stored on a given day is C-BT Project water, not more than 20 percent of the evaporation or seepage can be assumed to be C-BT Project water on that day.
  - 1.3. The daily amount of C-BT Project water delivered from each reservoir, and the location where the released C-BT Project water is beneficially used, including the location of any point(s) of re-diversion if released from storage to the stream or if used as part of an exchange.
  - 1.4. End of day storage of C-BT Project water in each reservoir.
  - 1.5. The responsible party shall provide daily accounting submitted within 30 days of the end of the accounting month of the items in Section 1 beginning September 30, 2018 for diversions into storage beginning on or after August 1, 2018. The responsible party shall be the Account Entity that makes the order for C-BT Project water from Northern Water unless the party who will take responsibility provides notice to Northern Water in writing. The responsible party must be an Allottee and/or Account Entity. Accounting shall be sent to [CBTAccounting@northernwater.org](mailto:CBTAccounting@northernwater.org) or as directed by Northern Water.
  - 1.6. If daily accounting records are submitted monthly to the Division of Water Resources that otherwise meet the requirements in this section of these Procedures, Northern Water will make reasonable efforts to obtain such records directly from the Division of Water Resources.
  
2. Accounting Requirements for Delivery and Exchange of C-BT Project Water – When ordering delivery of C-BT Project water to the river, the Account Entity shall provide to Northern Water the location where the water will be diverted directly or by exchange from the river. Examples

of C-BT Project water exchanges, as defined in the Rule, are attached to these Procedures. If an exchange results in the storage of C-BT Project water (see Exchange Example 2, 3, and 4), then the provisions in Section 1 of these Procedures shall apply.

3. Accounting Requirements for Commercial or Industrial Non-Allottee Water Supply Entities – The Commercial or Industrial Non-Allottee Water Supply Entity that provides or uses untreated C-BT Project water for commercial or industrial purposes shall submit accounting as directed in Section 3.5 of these Procedures, unless this information is submitted by the Account Entity. The accounting shall include:
  - 3.1. the Account Entity(ies) or Utility(ies) delivering the C-BT Project water received from Northern Water,
  - 3.2. the location(s) of beneficial use of the C-BT Project water (for example, the location of the oil and/or gas well site),
  - 3.3. a description of the use of C-BT Project water, and
  - 3.4. the daily amount of delivery of C-BT Project water at each location.
  - 3.5. the daily accounting shall be submitted within 30 days of the end of the accounting month of the items above. Accounting shall be sent to [CBTAccounting@northernwater.org](mailto:CBTAccounting@northernwater.org) or as directed by Northern Water.
  
4. Accounting Requirements for Municipal/Industrial Use of C-BT Project Water – A Utility that supplies treated C-BT Project water for municipal, domestic, commercial, or industrial use shall provide the information in Section 4.1 of these Procedures to Northern Water using criteria described in Section 4.2 and 4.3. The accounting shall be submitted as required in Sections 4.4, and 4.5 of these Procedures.
  - 4.1. The Utility must document:
    - 4.1.1. The total amount of water and the amount of treated C-BT Project treated at the Utility’s water treatment plant(s).
    - 4.1.2. Total effluent discharged at that Utility’s wastewater treatment plant(s).
    - 4.1.3. If the wastewater from the C-BT Project water provided by the Utility is treated by a different Utility, the total amount of treated C-BT Project water delivered into the service area of each Utility treating wastewater and into areas served by on-lot individual wastewater treatment systems. Northern Water will work to obtain information on different Utilities’ wastewater service areas if this information is not readily available to the Utility providing treated water. If daily meter measurements of flows into service areas are not available, Northern Water may approve another method of determining daily deliveries into service areas.
    - 4.1.4. The location(s) of beneficial use and total amount of treated C-BT Project water delivered daily to each Commercial or Industrial Non-Allottee Water Supply Entity

(1) for use for oil and gas well development at each well drilling site, both inside and outside, the Utility's service area and (2) for each delivery site for all other uses outside the Utility's service area. If daily meter measurements of flows into service areas are not available, Northern Water may approve another method of determining daily deliveries into service areas. The Utility shall also provide contact information of the entity diverting C-BT project water in all instances described in this Section 4.1.4.

4.2. A Utility must assume the same percentage loss of C-BT Project water and Non-C-BT Project water in treatment, conveyance, and delivery of treated water.

4.3. The following water accounting requirements for treated C-BT Project water use and return flows will apply when Non-CBT Project water is commingled and delivered with C-BT Project water through the same delivery infrastructure on the same day:

4.3.1. A Utility may account for delivery of a different percentage of C-BT Project water and Non-C-BT Project water in order to deliver:

- an Allottee's C-BT Project water back to the Allottee through a master meter after treatment,
- Non-C-BT Project water to customers outside the boundaries of Northern Water,
- Non-C-BT Project water for a use that is prohibited for C-BT Project water,
- Non-C-BT Project water to areas that the Water Court has designated to be served with Non-C-BT Project water prior to the effective date of this Rule, or
- C-BT or Non-C-BT Project water to a new subdivision on previously undeveloped land that a Utility has made a commitment to serve based on a specific source dedicated by a developer or by that Utility. Documentation of such dedication must be provided to Northern Water.
- C-BT or Non-C-BT Project water to a use described in Section 4.1.4.

4.3.2. Except as provided in Section 4.3.1. above, a Utility may not account for delivery of a different percentage of C-BT Project water than Non-C-BT Project water to a customer if it results in generation of a lower percentage of C-BT Project water return flows than would be generated by accounting for delivery of C-BT Project on a pro rata volumetric basis. For example, a Utility may not deliver C-BT Project water to:

- water a municipal park while delivering Non-CBT Project water to a housing development with limited or no landscape,
- a consumptive industry like a dairy while delivering Non-CBT Project water to a housing development with limited or no landscape, or
- a housing development with landscaping while delivering Non-C-BT Project water to an apartment complex without landscaping.

- 4.4. A Utility must begin providing daily accounting of the items in Sections 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 in accordance with Section 4.5 once Northern Water has an opportunity to review the accounting to assure the accounting provides necessary information as described in these Procedures. Northern Water will provide entities timely notice, of no less than three months, when necessary accounting must be available for review and submittal if it does not already exist. If such accounting does not meet Northern Water requirements, Northern Water will inform the Utility of what changes are necessary and provide the Utility at least three months to amend the accounting to meet such requirements. Northern Water will generally prioritize review of accounting by volume of delivery of C-BT Project water. Northern Water may deviate from this approach for efficiency. For instance, Northern Water may look at accounting for two Utilities at the same time, even though one Utility diverts much more C-BT Project water, because of the interconnection between the Utilities.
- 4.5. Daily accounting records sufficient to meet the requirements in Section 4 of these Procedures must be kept in an electronic format acceptable to Northern Water. Submittals shall be made in a manner timely enough to allow for the daily administration of C-BT return flows.
- 4.6. Northern Water will provide notice 90 days before a change in timing of accounting submittals is required for the daily administration of C-BT return flows.
- 4.7. Until Northern Water requires submittals as described in 4.5, daily accounting shall be provided by a Utility on a monthly basis consistent with the following rules:
  - 4.7.1. Daily accounting records for each month sufficient to meet the requirements in these Procedures must be kept in an electronic format acceptable to Northern Water and be submitted within 30 days of the end of the accounting month.
  - 4.7.2. A Utility must begin providing daily accounting of the items in Section 4 immediately after the effective date of these Procedures.
- 4.8. Northern Water will, as far as possible, adhere to a Utilities' decreed return flow calculations.

5. Accounting Requirements for Return Flows Resulting from Municipal/Industrial Use of C-BT Project water - A Utility shall provide Northern Water accounting for return flows resulting from municipal, domestic, commercial, or industrial use of C-BT Project water in accordance with Section 5 of these Procedures. The accounting shall be submitted as required in Sections 5.5 and 5.6 of these Procedures.

- 5.1. If a Utility delivering treated C-BT Project water (1) treats wastewater (see Example 1 and 2 for Section 5.1); or (2) accounts for wastewater return flows from either C-BT and/or Non-CBT Project water, (see Example 3 and 4 for Section 5.1), the Utility must provide

Northern Water daily accounting for:

- 5.1.1. C-BT Project water return flows being discharged from the wastewater treatment plant(s). If available and applicable, a methodology accepted in Water Court decree(s) or accepted by Colorado Division of Water Resources may be used for this determination. If no applicable methodology is available, the Utility shall develop a methodology acceptable to Northern Water for complying with these Procedures. If requested, Northern Water will work with the Utility to develop such a methodology.
- 5.1.2. C-BT Project water outdoor water use return flows. If the Utility has developed a methodology acceptable to the Water Court for determining lawn irrigation return flow and other outdoor returns, the Utility shall provide to Northern Water daily accounting for return flows resulting from outdoor use of C-BT Project water. If such a methodology does not exist, the Utility shall provide water usage information assisting Northern Water in developing such a methodology if and when Northern Water determines this is necessary to compute C-BT Project water return flows from outdoor water use.
- 5.1.3. C-BT Project water on-lot treatment return flows. If the Utility has developed a methodology acceptable to the Water Court for determining return flows from on-lot treatment, the Utility shall provide to Northern Water daily accounting for resulting return flows. If such a methodology does not exist, the Utility shall provide water usage information and assist Northern Water in developing such a methodology, if and when Northern Water determines this is necessary to compute C-BT Project water return flows from on-lot treatment.
- 5.2. A Utility must assume the same percentage of C-BT Project water and Non-C-BT Project water supplied for a customer's use are also returning from that customer's use.
- 5.3. A Utility must assume the same percentage loss of C-BT Project water and Non-C-BT Project water in conveyance and in treatment of its wastewater.
- 5.4. A Utility must begin providing daily accounting of the items in Section 5 in accordance with Sections 5.5 and 5.6 once Northern Water has an opportunity to review the accounting to assure the accounting provides necessary information as described in these Procedures. Northern Water will provide entities timely notice, of no less than three months, when necessary accounting must be available for review and submittal if it does not already exist. If such accounting does not meet Northern Water requirements, Northern Water will inform the Utility of what changes are necessary and provide the Utility at least three months to amend the accounting to meet such requirements. Northern Water will generally prioritize review of accounting by volume of delivery of C-BT Project water. Northern Water may deviate from this approach for efficiency. For instance, Northern Water may look at accounting for two Utilities at the same time, even though one Utility diverts much

- more C-BT Project water, because of the interconnection between the Utilities
- 5.5. Daily accounting records sufficient to meet the requirements in Section 4 of these Procedures must be kept in an electronic format acceptable to Northern Water. Submittals shall be made in a manner timely enough to allow for the daily administration of C-BT return flows.
  - 5.6. Northern Water will provide notice 90 days before a change in timing of accounting submittals is required for the daily administration of C-BT return flows.
  - 5.7. Until Northern Water requires submittals as described in 4.5, daily accounting shall be provided by a Utility on a monthly basis consistent with the following rules:
    - 5.7.1. Daily accounting records for each month sufficient to meet the requirements in these Procedures must be kept in an electronic format acceptable to Northern Water and be submitted within 30 days of the end of the accounting month.
    - 5.7.2. A Utility must begin providing daily accounting of the items in Section 4 immediately after the effective date of these Procedures.
  - 5.8. Northern Water will, as far as possible, adhere to a Utilities' decreed return flow calculations.