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January 4, 2021

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Sent via email to: Matthew.Hebert@gov.ab.ca

SUBJECT: Public Comment Period on the Draft Environmental Assessment Report and Potential Federal Environmental Assessment Conditions for the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project

On January 4, 2021, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) announced the commencement of a comment period for the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Report and potential federal EA conditions for the proposed Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project (the Project).

The draft EA report includes the Agency's conclusions and recommendations regarding the significance of the adverse environmental effects of the Project, technically and economically feasible mitigation measures that would mitigate any significant adverse effects, and the requirements of a follow-up program that would be implemented should the project proceed. The Agency has carefully selected the key mitigation and follow-up measures to confidently draw conclusions and recommendations for the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change. Based on these measures, the Agency is considering potential federal EA conditions for the Project as recommendations to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change to support his EA decision.

The draft EA Report includes the Agency's summary of public and Indigenous comments received during the EA process as well as mitigation and follow-up measures to address potential environmental effects and impacts on Indigenous peoples including to Aboriginal or Treaty rights as protected under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

After reviewing all comments, the Agency will revise the draft EA report and potential federal EA conditions as appropriate before sending them to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change for consideration in making his EA decision under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*.



During this time, the Agency may request information from you to address any concerns related to environmental effects of the Project. In the event that the Agency requests information, the legal timeframes will be paused.

If the Minister of Environment and Climate Change issues an EA decision statement that would allow the Project to proceed, the federal EA conditions would become legally binding on the Government of Alberta.

Important Note

In accordance with CEAA 2012, comments received and other documents submitted or generated to inform the environmental assessment are part of the project file. Accordingly, information submitted to the Agency that is relevant to the environmental assessment of the project is available to the public upon request and may also be posted on the online public registry under reference number 80123. The Agency will remove information, such as signatures, prior to public disclosure. Should you provide any documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that you believe should not be made public, please contact me.

The documents are available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/137327?culture=en-CA>. The Agency encourages your review and comment on the draft EA Report and the potential federal EA conditions by **February 3, 2021**. Please send your comments to:

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Should you have any questions about this request, please contact me at (780) 224-0267 or via email at Jennifer.Howe@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Howe
Project Manager
Prairie and Northern Region