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April 30, 2018

Syed Abbas
Alberta Transportation
3rd Floor Twin Atria Building
4999 98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3

Sent by E-mail

SUBJECT: Commencement of federal technical review of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project

Dear Mr. Abbas:

The Agency reviewed the revised Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (March 28, 2018) to determine whether it conforms to the *Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 for the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project* (EIS Guidelines), which were issued to Alberta Transportation on August 10, 2016.

The Agency has concluded that the EIS and EIS Summary of March 28, 2018 conform to the EIS Guidelines and hereby advises you that it is commencing the technical review of the EIS as of April 30, 2018. Conformance with the EIS Guidelines does not imply that the information provided is adequate to support the completion of the environmental assessment and the Agency, with input from federal authorities, the public, the Technical Advisory Group, and Indigenous groups, will request further information after the public comment period has ended.

Concurrent with the technical review, the EIS summary will be posted on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry Internet Site and the Agency will commence a public comment period starting April 30, 2018 and ending on May 31, 2018.

On April 28, 2018, the federal legal timeline within which the Minister's decision must be made resumed. In accordance with subsections 27(6) and 23(2) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012), the period that is taken by a proponent to comply with the Information Requirements, when there is not sufficient information available for the purposes of conducting the environmental assessment, is not included in the calculation of the time limit within which the Minister must make a decision. Therefore, should additional information be required following the technical review of the EIS, the Agency will request the material from the proponent which will stop the federal legal timeframe. For more information on the approach to managing federal environmental assessment timelines, please consult the Agency's "*Operational Policy Statement: Information Requests and Timelines, February 2016*" at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environmental-assessment-agency/news/policy-guidance/information-requests-timelines.html>.

Should Alberta Transportation have any questions regarding the technical review of the EIS, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Howe
Project Manager
Prairie and Northern Region
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

cc:

Meaghan Jurijew, EA Coordinator, Alberta Environment and Parks
Anna Kessler, Project Manager - Consultation, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Seamas Skelly, Senior Water Projects Technologist, Alberta Transportation