

UPDATED DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND DIRECTION FOR FUTURE LAND USE
PROPOSED SPRINGBANK OFF-STREAM RESERVOIR PROJECT

Introduction

The Elbow River flood of 2013 was a devastating event both socially and economically for many Albertans. The flood tragically resulted in 5 deaths and forced the evacuation of over 80,000 people (one of the largest evacuations in Canadian history). Billions of dollars were spent on recovery and lost following this significant event.

For reference, the 2013 flood was the most significant flood of record in Alberta on the Elbow River and had an estimated peak flow of 1,240 cubic meters per second (m³/s). Statistically, the 2013 flood has been estimated to be slightly greater than a 1:200-year flood. To put it another way, there is 0.5% chance of a similar flood occurring each year on the Elbow River.

Following the flood of 2013, the Government of Alberta undertook an assessment of mitigation strategies that could be used to reduce the risk of future floods. Communities in Calgary along the Bow and Elbow rivers were among the most heavily impacted. The proposed Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir (SR1 or the Project) was identified as the preferred option to mitigate flooding upstream of Calgary along the Elbow River.

The Project is located 15 km west of Calgary in Rocky View County in the Province of Alberta (Township 24, Range 04/03 W5M) and is predominately situated on private land that has been used for ranching and agriculture since the late 1800s. There are also several acreages and commercial developments within the Project area. There is a small portion of the Project that is currently located on Crown land; it includes rights-of-way (ROWs) for roads and road allowances and the bed and banks of the Elbow River and its tributaries. The Project consists of the construction and operation of an off-stream reservoir to divert and retain a portion of Elbow River flows during a flood and release the water in a controlled manner after the threat of flood has subsided. The reservoir will not hold a permanent pool of water.

The primary Project components are:

1. a diversion structure on the main channel and floodplain of the Elbow River
2. a diversion channel to transport diverted floodwater into the reservoir
3. an earthen dam to temporarily contain the diverted floodwater
4. a low-level outlet in the dam to return retained water back to the river after the flood subsides through an existing unnamed creek channel.

The off-stream reservoir will work in tandem with the Glenmore Reservoir to limit flood flows downstream of the Glenmore Reservoir in Calgary to less than 160 m³/s, for floods up to the design flood (2013 flood), or equivalent. The Project has the capacity to divert up to 600 m³/s of flow from the Elbow River to the off-stream reservoir, which can hold 77,771,000 m³ of water as active flood storage. There are no plans to expand the Project or to decommission it.

The construction and management of a dry reservoir presents a unique opportunity with the conversion of private land to Crown land. If the proposed project is approved, upon commissioning of the

Springbank dam and diversion, Alberta Environment and Parks will be responsible for management and operation of the Project infrastructure, and management of the associated Crown land.

This land is currently not accessible to the public without permission from the landowners. This document provides direction around government intentions related to future land use if the Project proceeds.

Alberta Transportation is seeking regulatory approval of SR1, which will require the Crown to acquire private land for the Project. Alberta Transportation has discussed and will continue to discuss desired future land use and access with First Nation groups and other stakeholders. This document is intended to provide a framework for the Government of Alberta in the implementation of future land use of the SR1 Land Use Area (LUA). The draft Land Use Plan will outline the details of proposed land uses for the LUA and will be based upon the principles outlined in this document. Upon approval of the Project and acquisition of the lands, the land use planning process will be continued by Alberta Environment and Parks who will conduct further consultation to finalize and implement the Land Use Plan based on the principles and commitments made in this document.

Guiding Principles for Future Land Use

1. The primary and overarching use of the Crown land within the project footprint is for flood mitigation. No activities may limit or otherwise hinder the ability of the reservoir to fill to full supply level for the purpose of flood mitigation within the watershed.
2. The reservoir may fill at any point in the year without warning, including during periods below peak floods and may be inaccessible for an undetermined amount of time, post release, due to silt and debris buildup or other unintended consequences requiring monitoring and mitigation.
3. The Government of Alberta will take reasonable steps post flood, in compliance and consistent with the regulatory approvals for the Project, to ensure that the reservoir is safe so that secondary uses can resume.
4. Compensation will not be provided by the Crown for any impacts to land use activities resulting from operation of the Project infrastructure.
5. Safety is paramount in any decisions that allow for access onto the project lands. Restrictions on some or all land uses will be issued during specified periods of the year, as required, to reduce risks to safety and property from flooding.
6. There will be no access permitted on or across the Project infrastructure at any time or for any purpose (see Figure 4-05.1, dark pink areas). Project infrastructure includes the diversion structure on Elbow River, diversion channel, off-stream dam, emergency spillway and outlet channel to the Elbow River.
7. Use of the lands by First Nations will be a priority outside of flood and post-flood recovery periods in order to enable the exercise of Treaty rights and traditional uses, such as hunting.
8. Non-motorized recreational access (e.g. hiking, biking or cross-country skiing) will be permitted in some areas of the LUA, in accordance with approved land uses.
9. Access for specific purposes such as grazing will be used as a tool to manage and maintain the grassland landscape in the LUA.
10. No non-flood related permanent or temporary infrastructure will be permitted in the reservoir.
11. The final Land Use Plan will be developed with meaningful consideration of input received from First Nations. Alberta Environment and Parks will work with First Nations to develop a First

Nations Land Use Working Group to guide and facilitate the principles of the Land Use Plan and enable the exercise of Treaty rights and traditional uses in the LUA.

12. Operations and management of the LUA should include opportunities for meaningful First Nation participation and monitoring activities.

Direction for Future Land Use Planning

These land use planning principles will be implemented using the land management tools available to the Government of Alberta, in accordance with legislation applicable at the relevant time.

The purpose of conducting engagement is to inform and gather input to be incorporated in the development of future land use plans for the LUA. Land use planning principles will be implemented using the land-management tools available to the Government of Alberta, in accordance with legislation applicable at the relevant time. It is the intention that the final Land Use Plan will be developed with meaningful consideration of input received from First Nations. The Government of Alberta is interested in using an iterative and collaborative approach in the development of the Land Use Plan.

1. Primary Use - Flood mitigation

Outcome: The land use is managed for the primary purpose of providing temporary storage of water for flood mitigation to communities and infrastructure downstream of SR1.

Strategies:

1. SR1 will be used to divert and store water from the Elbow River for the purpose of flood mitigation.
2. The timing and volume of water both stored and released from the SR1 reservoir will be coordinated with the larger water management system in the watershed.
3. AEP will be responsible for ongoing operation, management and maintenance of the reservoir footprint and flood management infrastructure.
4. AEP will engage with First Nations, local landowners, communities and other stakeholders as per the facilities communication plan.
5. The Government of Alberta will take reasonable steps post flood in compliance and consistent with the regulatory approvals for the Project, so that the reservoir area is safe and secondary uses can resume.

2. Secondary Uses

In light of the Primary Use, the safety of anyone with access or land users will be an overriding factor in permitting secondary uses.

A. First Nation Use

Outcome: Traditional First Nation use is supported by access and use of land is informed by the "Guiding Principles" outlined in this document.

Strategies:

1. The exercise of First Nations' Treaty rights, such as hunting and use by First Nations for traditional activities, will be enabled.

2. The Government of Alberta will create a First Nations Land Use Working Group which will meet on a regular basis to guide and facilitate the principles of the Land Use Plan and enable the exercise of Treaty rights and traditional uses in the LUA.
3. The Government of Alberta will work with First Nations to identify a portion of land near the LUA that can be used by First Nations as a staging area (e.g. parking, setting up temporary campsites) or for activities, such as cultural ceremonies, transmittal of traditional knowledge to the youth, traditional activities. The staging area would be accessible to all First Nations engaged on the Project throughout the year except during the flood season when access to the area may be prohibited for safety reasons.

B. Other activities

Outcome: Other uses and activities will be considered where they align and are compatible with the overarching management intent of flood mitigation, First Nation traditional use and, the Guiding Principles outlined in this document.

Strategies:

4. Vegetation and habitat management as well as any post-flood reclamation actions will be in compliance and consistent with the regulatory approvals for the Project. Opportunities for Indigenous participation in these activities are addressed in the project's draft Indigenous Participation Plan.
5. In general, only uses and activities that have a minimal impact on the land will be allowed. Therefore, the availability of surface dispositions will be limited.
6. Grazing permits will be issued for pasture land within designated zones, and at certain times after the flood period, where determined by AEP, with input from the First Nation Land Use Working Group. Grazing permits will be issued on an as required basis; it may not be necessary to graze the reservoir every year. Grazing leases will not be contemplated.
7. Non-motorized recreational access (e.g. hiking, biking or cross country skiing) will be permitted in some areas of the LUA, in accordance with approved land uses.

Land Use Planning Process

During the Project application period, Alberta Transportation will continue to explore opportunities and desired uses of the lands should the lands be acquired by the Crown and SR1 be approved. This will include meetings with First Nations, local landowners and other stakeholders during the engagement process to discuss desired uses.

If the Project is approved and the land is acquired by the Crown, AEP will lead the land use planning process and will engage in further consultation with First Nations and stakeholders to finalize and implement the Land Use Plan consistent with the commitments made in the *Updated Draft Guiding Principles And Direction For Future Land Use*. AEP cannot finalize land use planning until the Project receives all necessary provincial and federal approvals.