



CENTRAL PEACE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

PROJECT OVERVIEW

September 07, 2022

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING OVERVIEW

1. Status of preliminary engineering includes the following:
 - .1 The Geotechnical Engineer has compiled all the recommendations and review comments into the geotechnical report for final review by the Senior Geotechnical Engineer.
 - .2 Site drawings for the Raw Water Pumping Station location continue to be developed.
 - .3 The County shall continue to liaise with landowners along the revised pipeline route to obtain permission for entry onto their lands for surveying access in advance of MPE Engineering undertaking the new survey for the adjusted pipeline alignment.
 - .4 Support for the regulatory approval applications remains on-going. The next meeting date with Alberta Environment and the Project Team from Saddle Hills County and MPE Engineering is scheduled for September 19, 2022, to provide and to obtain updates and to continue discussions on the applications for the Public Lands Act and Water Act approvals.
 - .5 The Open House public information session for the Central Peace Regional Water Supply project occurred on August 18, 2022 at the Spirit River Centennial Hall. The event was well attended and provided opportunity for the general public to obtain information and ask questions related to the project. The proceedings of the Open House were documented by Saddle Hills County and have since been forwarded to Alberta Environment as part of the Water Act application public notification requirements for the project.

2. **Raw Water Pumping Station Land Acquisition:** TransAlta has forwarded a much revised version of the previously drafted Land Purchase and Sales Agreement for the Raw Water Pumping Station property that is currently being reviewed by the County. The Agreement has been reviewed by the Land Agent, Scott Land and Lease, and their review comments provided to the County. The Mutual Early Resolution and Access Agreement (that includes provisions for support by the G5 Municipalities for any future hydroelectric project that may be pursued by TransAlta) is being circulated by the County to the G5 Municipalities for execution. The finalization of the land purchase appears to be moving forward with these two recent documents brought forth by TransAlta.
3. **Municipal Consent for Land Acquisition:** Consent has been acquired by Saddle Hills County from the following Municipalities:
 - M.D. of Fairview, for Saddle Hills County to acquire the lands required for the River intake structures within the municipal boundaries of the M.D. of Fairview
 - Birch Hills County, for Saddle Hills County to acquire the lands required for the Raw Water Pumping Station facility within the municipal boundaries of Birch Hills County
 - M.D. of Spirit River, for Saddle Hills County to acquire the lands related to the future Regional Hub Water Treatment Plant site within the municipal boundaries of the M.D.
4. **Future Regional Hub Water Treatment Plant Site Land Acquisition:** Saddle Hills County has made offers to purchase two separate quarter section parcels for the future Regional Hub Water Treatment Plant potential sites. Adjustments to the raw water pipeline alignment will be incorporated to intercept the future Regional Hub locations. MPE Engineering is undertaking the detailed review of the proposed sites for the Regional Hub. The environmental review for the sites has been completed by Fiera Biological Consulting, and the geotechnical reviews are being coordinated.
5. **Public Lands Act Dispositions:** The applications for approval are being reviewed by Alberta Environment. Submission of the Disposition application packages required for the permanent occupation of Crown land by the River Intake systems and the Raw Water Pipeline were previously completed by The Land Agent, Scott Land and Lease.
6. **Pipeline Revised Alignment Land Agreements:** The Land Agent has commenced the process of approaching the affected landowners about acquiring easements across their properties for the revised pipeline alignment from the top of the River valley to Spirit River and Rycroft. The Individual Ownership Plan drawings are being drafted for each of the easement parcels in advance of approaching the landowners.
7. **Geotechnical Investigation – Subconsultant:** The Geotechnical Subconsultant for the Peace River valley hill, Thurber Engineering, has completed the additional engineering to modify the no drill zone delineated areas of the finalized HDD design by Blue Fox Engineering that has been re-adjusted for the steel pipe section of the pipeline alignment that climbs out of the Peace River valley.
8. **Environmental Assessments - Terrestrial:** The Terrestrial Biologist, Fiera Biological Consulting has completed the environmental reviews on the two parcels that are being purchased by Saddle Hills County for the Regional Hub site. The environmental assessment information is being incorporated into the overall technical review for the Regional Hub sites. The final version of the Environmental Study for the full pipeline project was previously completed by Fiera Biological. Fiera has recently provided the environmental support for the disposition applications required by Alberta Environment under the Public Lands Act and will provide any follow up disposition support for the environmentally sensitive areas (garter snake hibernacula) along the steel pipe HDD installation route up the Peace River valley hill. Coordination to facilitate winter construction for the steel pipe installation on the hill that respect the hard dates for the Restricted Activity Periods (RAP) will require support from Fiera to avoid the period for the construction RAP window stipulated by Alberta Environment.

9. **Environmental Assessments - Aquatic:** The Principal Biologist for Mainstream Aquatics has retired as of July 31, 2022, so any additional Aquatic Biological work that is required after that date will have to be with another Biological Subconsultant. The Fish and Habitat environmental assessment report completed by the Aquatic Biologist, Mainstream Aquatics was included in the application package for the Water Act Approval. The report was also the primary supporting documentation for the DFO application.
10. **River Engineering:** The Hydraulic Subconsultant for the River Intake, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants (NHC), continues to provide engineering support related to the intake and pumping station design. The completed report by the Hydraulic Subconsultant was included in the application package for the Water Act Approval and some of the follow up questions from Alberta Environment shall be clarified by the River Engineer. The Hydraulic Subconsultant's report was also requested by the Aboriginal Consultation Office for the First Nations Consultation application.
11. **DFO Approval Application:** The application for the River intake was previously submitted to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for approval and acknowledgement from the Department was received for the submission. The project application has been forwarded by the Department to the Fisheries Protection Program Regulatory Review unit in Winnipeg for site specific review. No comments yet received from DFO for the submitted information.
12. **Water Act Approval Applications:** The Water Act applications were submitted through the new Alberta Environment Digital Regulatory Assurance System (DRAS) for online submissions, with Saddle Hills County designated as the managing partner on behalf of the Central Peace Region G5 Municipalities. The follow up request for supplemental information received from Alberta Environment is being fulfilled by MPE Engineering. Much of the requested information has been provided to Alberta Environment and the balance of the outstanding information is being compiled for submission. The required public notification for the Water Act Licence application was posted by Alberta Environment this week and the 30-day public comment period ends on October 06, 2022. The public notification for the Water Act Approval application will also be posted by Alberta Environment later this month. That Approval application has a shorter notice period of only 7-days. The approvals required under the Water Act include the Approval to Construct for the River Intake systems and the Water Diversion licence for withdrawal of water from the Peace River.
13. **Historical Resources Act Approval Application:** The Archaeological Subconsultant, Circle CRM, is proceeding with the Historical Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA) stipulated by the Province for selected sections of the project for both archaeological resources and palaeontological resources. The High Potential Areas of interest for the HRIA are located at the north end of the project along the River and at the top of the River valley. Circle CRM had initially scheduled their site reviews to be completed in September 2022 but is awaiting approval from TransAlta to conduct exploratory excavations on their property at the River intake and Raw Water Pumping Station location. The approval from TransAlta at this time is pending execution of the Mutual Early Resolution and Access Agreement by the G5 Municipalities which would provide the access approval for Circle CRM to proceed.

14. **Indigenous Consultations:** First Nations Consultations submissions are being coordinated by Scott Land and Lease's Indigenous Consultation department for the Consultations required by the Public Lands Act Disposition application and the Consultation stipulated by the Federal Grant requirements for the project. Initial submissions to the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) for Pre-Consultation Assessment for the Public Lands Act applications resulted in the following:

- DLO, Dunvegan Creek – no consultation required
- DLO, Peace River Intake – no consultation required
- DLO, SE 12 – Level 1: Standard Consultation with Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Peerless Trout First Nation.
- RDS (road plan) – Level 1: Standard Consultation with Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Peerless Trout First Nation.

For the Water Act Pre-Consultation Assessment, ACO confirmed adequacy and no additional consultations required.

Scott Land distributed to the three First Nations, a notification letter which was reviewed by the County and MPE Engineering to address all consultation items. The 15 day comment period lapses on September 08, 2022. A question related to water diversion volume from the River has been asked by Horse Lake First Nation, which shall be answered. We have received a generic form response from Duncan's First Nation, and have not yet received response from Peerless-Trout First Nation. The objective shall be to address all consultation requirements in the same effort to reduce duplication of work.

15. **Steel Pipe Design for Peace River Valley Hill:** The specialized HDD design details undertaken by Blue Fox Engineering for the pipeline that climbs out of the Peace River valley has incorporated the geotechnical information at the top of the hill and has incorporated the geotechnical no-dig zone information that has been revised for the finalized alignment by Thurber Engineering.

16. **Pre-Qualification of Specialist HDD Contractors:** To ensure the capabilities of contractors for the specialized HDD installation of the steel pipe section of the Raw Water Supply Line that climbs out of the Peace River valley, contractor pre-qualification should be completed in advance of tendering the work. The size of pipe shall be 350 mm (14") diameter and the continuous length of the drill installation for the pipe shall exceed one mile. A Request for Qualification document is being drafted for this contractor pre-qualification purpose by MPE Engineering.

17. **Electrical Service to the Pumping Station:** It has been confirmed with ATCO Electricity, that the likely route for servicing of the Raw Water Pumping Station facility shall be from the Village of Rycroft which is the nearest connection point for the required three-phase power supply. Preliminary coordination of servicing has been initiated and a new project number has been assigned to the project by ATCO.

NEXT STEPS

18. Complete the preliminary engineering and continue with the detailed design for the project including the changes required for the pipeline revised alignment implementation, complete survey along revised pipeline alignment following landowner access signoffs, work with County Staff and Land Agent on landowner agreements for pipeline easements, continue with finalizing the Pumping Station land purchase from TransAlta with the Land Agent utilizing the direct assistance and supplemental resources provided by Saddle Hills County, continue to hold subsequent meetings with Alberta Environment to provide updates for the project and answer questions related to the approval submissions, continue with the river intake and pumping station design, conceptual wet well installation design, and shoring details for the excavation with the geotechnical group, continue with environmental assessments and corresponding regulatory approval applications, coordinate scheduling of steel pipe HDD winter construction to adhere to the hard dates imposed by Alberta Environment for the Restricted Access Period for garter snake hibernacula, Water Act applications supplemental information requested by Alberta Environment, revision and drafting of plan and profile drawings for the pipeline, First Nations Consultations for Public Lands Act Dispositions and Federal grant requirements, continue to work with the Archaeological Subconsultant for the Historical Resources Impact Assessment approval.

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