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CENTRAL PEACE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM PHASES 1 & 2

PROJECT OVERVIEW

November 23, 2022

ENGINEERING OVERVIEW

1. Status of preliminary engineering includes the following:

   .1 The geotechnical report for the river intake and raw water pumping station has been completed by the Geotechnical Team and is being reviewed and digested by the other members of the Project Team. A copy of the report has been forwarded to Alberta Environment as requested in support of the Water Act Approval application.

   .2 Support for the regulatory approval applications remains on-going. The most recent meeting between the Project Team and Alberta Environment occurred on November 21, 2022. MPE has compiled and forwarded more of the supplemental information that was requested by the Approvals Team in support of the applications for the Public Lands Act and Water Act approvals. The next meeting with Alberta Environment is scheduled for December 12, 2022.

2. **Raw Water Pumping Station Land Acquisition:** Documents have been executed by TransAlta, the Central Peace Regional Water Municipalities, and Saddle Hills County. Subdivision approval process is underway for the final land transfer of the Raw Water Pumping Station parcel. This starts with approval by Birch Hills County administration, and will require approval by Alberta Transportation because of proximity to the Highway, before the Legal Surveyor can file the subdivision with Alberta Land Titles for final registration.

3. **Municipal Consent for Land Acquisition:** The consents that have been acquired by Saddle Hills County from the other Municipalities include:

   - From M.D. of Fairview, to acquire the lands required for the River intake structures within the municipal boundaries of the M.D. of Fairview
   - From Birch Hills County, to acquire the lands required for the Raw Water Pumping Station facility within the municipal boundaries of Birch Hills County
   - From M.D. of Spirit River, to acquire the lands related to the future Regional Hub Water Treatment Plant site within the municipal boundaries of the M.D.

   Saddle Hills County will also require consents from the M.D. of Spirit River for the executed Utility Right of Ways acquired by the County for the raw water pipeline from the private landowners along the alignment. This Municipal Consent can be procured from the M.D. when the substantial portion of the private land Utility Right of Way agreements have been obtained.

4. **Future Regional Hub Water Treatment Plant Site Land Acquisition:** The finalized assessment report providing technical review of the land purchase has been forwarded to the County. Of the two separate quarter section parcels for the future Regional Hub Water Treatment Plant potential sites that Saddle Hills County has made offers to purchase, MPE Engineering has identified the west quarter section as being the slightly more preferable location for the future Water Treatment Plant.

5. **Public Lands Act Dispositions:** The disposition application packages required for the permanent occupation of Crown land by the River Intake systems and the Raw Water Pipeline previously submitted in July 2022 are in review by the Province. Formal acknowledgement from the Province was received by the County on November 23, 2022 that the application information requirements meet the Department's completeness criteria for applications.

6. **Pipeline Revised Alignment Land Agreements:** The Land Agent is meeting with the affected landowners about acquiring the right of ways across their properties for the revised pipeline alignment from the top of the River valley to Spirit River and Rycroft. Following the initial meeting with one of the major Landowners, the Landowner had some questions that he required clarification on prior to accepting the compensation offer. The Land Agent has obtained some clarification from the County and the Engineer to answer some of the Landowner questions.

7. **Geotechnical Investigation – Subconsultant:** The Geotechnical Subconsultant for the Peace River valley hill, Thurber Engineering, is providing geotechnical support for the HDD installation of the steel pipe section of the pipeline alignment that climbs out of the Peace River valley.

8. **Environmental Assessments - Terrestrial:** The environmental assessment information compiled by the Terrestrial Biologist, Fiera Biological Consulting for the Regional Hub land parcels has been incorporated into the overall technical review for the Regional Hub sites. Fiera will provide support for any of the supplemental environmental information requests raised by the Water Act Approval application review for the project. Fiera will also provide any follow up disposition support for the environmentally sensitive areas 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:** At the November 21, 2022 project meeting with Alberta Environment, the Department's Senior Fisheries Biologist inquired on a specific supplemental information request following his review of the previously submitted Fish and Habitat environmental assessment report, related to monitoring of the possibility for fish entrainment by the river intake system. The formal inquiry from Alberta Environment when received shall be referred to our Aquatic Biological Subconsultant. The Fish and Habitat environmental assessment report completed by the Mainstream Aquatics was the primary supporting documentation for the Provincial Water Act Approval as well as the Federal DFO application. The Principal Biologist for Mainstream Aquatics has retired as of July 31, 2022.

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, most recently for frazil ice effects on the screens that would be located in the Raw Water Pumping Station wet well. The completed report by the Hydraulic Subconsultant was included in the Navigable Waters application for the river intake. The submitted report is a major component that supports the application package for the Water Act Approval, and NHC is assisting to provide some of the supplemental information that has been requested by Alberta Environment in the follow up to the original application submission.

11. **DFO Approval Application:** The application for the River intake was previously submitted to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for approval in March 2022 and was subsequently forwarded by the Department to the Fisheries Protection Program Regulatory Review unit in Winnipeg for site specific review. A scheduled meeting on the application was held with DFO on October 20, 2022 to review the Approval application and we are awaiting further comments from the Department. Following our most recent meeting with Alberta Environment earlier this week, the Alberta Environment Senior Fisheries Biologist may be reaching out to the DFO Fisheries Biologist to coordinate review of the river intake.

12. **Water Act Approval Applications:** The Water Act applications for the Approval to Construct for the River Intake systems and the Water Diversion licence for withdrawal of water from the Peace River were previously submitted and are in review by Alberta Environment. The follow up requests for supplemental information received from Alberta Environment are being completed by MPE Engineering. The Project Team's most recent meeting with Alberta Environment was on November 21, 2022.

13. **Historical Resources Act Approval Application:** The Archaeological Subconsultant, Circle CRM, has completed the balance of the site reviews for the Historical Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA) stipulated by the Province for both archaeological resources and palaeontological resources. The draft of the Historical Resources Assessment Report has been completed by Circle CRM and a copy has been forwarded to the County. Following review by the Project Team, the Archaeologist will finalize the HRIA and will proceed with submission of the report to the Provincial Regulator.

14. **Navigable Protection Act Application:** The Notice of Works application for Navigable Waters was previously submitted to Transport Canada for the river intake structure and a formal letter was received by the County from Navigable Waters on the public notification requirements for the temporary coffer dam during the construction and the permanent river intake. The County proceeded with posting of the notice on October 28, 2022, in two local newspapers, along with on site signage, and posting on the County website, in order to comply with the Notice of Works application requirements. The 30 day response period for the public notification is approaching its end date.

15. **Indigenous Consultations:** The Scott Land Indigenous Consultation group has received an Adequacy Assessment Decision for the previous Consultation submissions. First Nations Consultations were 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. For the Water Act Pre-Consultation Assessment, the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) confirmed adequacy and no additional consultations required. From the Pre-Consultation Assessment that was provided by the ACO for the Public Lands Act applications, a notification letter to address all consultation items was distributed to the three First Nations (Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, and Peerless Trout First Nation) by Scott Land and Lease. Following the consultation period, the Scott Land Indigenous Consultation group applied for Consultation adequacy status and has now received an Adequacy Assessment Decision.

16. **Steel Pipe Design for Peace River Valley Hill:** The HDD Specialist Subconsultant, Blue Fox Engineering, is providing assistance with the steel pipe installation contract and is providing assistance with preliminary cost estimates for the construction. Blue Fox shall provide engineering support for the steel pipe HDD tender specifications, review of tender submissions, and during construction review. The draft set of design drawings for the Steel Pipe HDD has been forwarded to the County for review.

17. **Pre-Qualification of Specialist HDD 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 is an option that could be completed in advance of tendering the work. A Request for Qualification (RFQ) document has been developed for this contractor pre-qualification purpose by MPE Engineering with input from the HDD Specialist, Blue Fox Engineering incorporated into the RFQ document. There were some reservations from the County on whether to proceed with the RFQ process in the current market with rising construction cost due to concerns over the possibility of limiting bidder competition if some qualified contractors either did not meet the RFQ requirements, or could be caught in a timing conflict that may inhibit later decision to bid. So at this time the RFQ remains on hold.

18. **Electrical Service to the Pumping Station:** Quotation for servicing has been requested from ATCO by the Electrical Engineering Team. 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. The question of whether fiber optic lines could also be installed on the power poles together with the electrical cables was raised by the County and this question was referred to ATCO for response. ATCO has acknowledged the request and are reviewing for response. Upon follow up with ATCO, the Utility Provider had some additional questions for the Electrical Team. A meeting over the fiber optic partnership is being proposed to ATCO by the Electrical Team.

NEXT STEPS

19. Complete the preliminary engineering and continue with the detailed design for the project including the alignment changes drafting of revised plan and profile drawings for the pipeline, work with Land Agent and County Staff on landowner agreements for pipeline right of ways, complete the finalization of the Pumping Station land transfer and subdivision registration with the Land Agent, continue to hold subsequent meetings with Alberta Environment for the project and 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 Federal and Provincial regulatory approvals, RFQ of contractors for steel pipe HDD installation on hold for now, 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, continue to work with the Archaeological Subconsultant for the Historical Resources Impact Assessment approval.

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