

ENVIRONMENT

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Subject:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR
BUFFALO LAKE STABILIZATION PROJECT

Environment Minister Honourable Ralph Klein, today announced that Environmental Management Associates of Calgary has been appointed to conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the Buffalo Lake Stabilization Project.

"An independent EIA will be undertaken to identify the impacts of this proposed project," said Mr. Klein. "This enables us to assess the environmental impacts and benefits of stabilizing Buffalo Lake."

In response to local requests, the government is working to improve water management in the Parlbay Creek/Buffalo Lake area for multi-purpose use. The Parlbay Creek/Spotted Lake channelization is one component which is ongoing and is providing agricultural benefits. The objective of this next phase is to stabilize water levels of Buffalo Lake to enhance recreation and to provide an assured water supply to the villages of Alix and Mirror.

Environmental Management Associates' responsibilities include scoping the Terms of Reference for the EIA, reviewing and assimilating existing information for the study area, preparing a draft EIA document for public and regulatory review, and a final EIA document for review by an independent panel. The independent panel will be appointed at a later date to review the EIA document and make a recommendation to the Minister of Environment for consideration.

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"Public input is essential at all stages of the EIA process," added Mr. Klein. The public will be invited to participate in determining the scope of the EIA, reviewing the Terms of Reference and will also be involved in the actual assessment of the project.

Environmental Management Associates has assembled a study team to complete the EIA process. The objective of this project is to provide an independent, scientifically credible assessment of the environmental impacts associated with the stabilization of Buffalo Lake. The final EIA document will be completed by February 1990.

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For more information contact:

Rod Love, Executive Assistant
Minister's Office
Alberta Environment
427-2391 (Edmonton)

Darlene Dickinson
Communications Division
Alberta Environment
427-6267 (Edmonton)

David A. Fernet, Principal
Environmental Management Associates
245-1623 (Calgary)

*Called Nov 15 +
asked to be put on
mailing list for EIA*