

PARLBY CREEK-BUFFALO LAKE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

BUFFALO LAKE STABILIZATION COMPONENT

Since the first newsletter, the Buffalo Lake EIA team has been busy gathering information. And we have heard from you! This second newsletter will bring you up-to-date on recent events as well as inform you of upcoming events.

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IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Status report of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
- What lake level is being evaluated?
- Community Open House; and
- What's next.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) STATUS REPORT

During the past several months, the team of consultants and professional scientists

have been working on the EIA. As we indicated in the first newsletter, the EIA will determine if there are significant environmental impacts on the area from stabilizing the lake.

The EIA team has been analyzing the many previous studies done on Buffalo Lake and the Red Deer River water. Recognizing water quality is of importance to everyone, special emphasis is being placed on this area in the EIA. Thus comprehensive hydrological and water quality analysis have been conducted on the proposed conveyance route and lake. The EIA team also has investigated groundwater - lake water interaction.

The wildlife component of the EIA is complete. This includes a review of the potential positive benefits and potential negative impacts on waterfowl, colonial-nesting and shorebirds, furbearers and ungulate populations along the conveyance route and Buffalo Lake. A review of the aquatic vegetation and fisheries is also complete.

The socio-economic component is close to completion. Many residents and organizations in the study area, including Mirror and Alix, have contributed valuable information to this aspect of the assessment.

The findings of the various components are now being integrated. The impact assessment will be made in light of the area's natural features and based on balancing the probability, severity and durations of impacts. Mitigative strategies or habitat enhancement alternatives will be identified based on the available data. Any data gaps will also be identified.

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WHAT LAKE LEVEL IS BEING EVALUATED?

In the early 80's, residents around Buffalo Lake decided that lake levels should be stabilized between 780.5 and 781.0 meters above sea level to best meet the widest public needs. The EIA team has been reviewing all data and modelling the water quality and quantity using this previously agreed upon range as the bench mark. At present the lake level is at 780.0.

To help illustrate what the lake shore would look like at the proposed maximum high water level, Alberta Environment has developed a set of maps taken from aerial photos of the lake. As well, and in response to the many requests from residents, Alberta Environment will be putting in stakes after March 1st to mark

the proposed range of water levels, in the following locations: White Sands, Rochon Sands' marina and golf course, Pelican Point and at Scenic Sands.

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WHAT'S NEXT?

Once the draft EIA is completed we will send out the summary to all people who have put their names on our mailing list. Full copies of the EIA and maps showing the maximum high water level will be available for viewing after March 1st, at the following locations:

- Village Office of Alix
Box 87, Alix, AB T0C 0B0
(403) 747-2495
- Bashaw Town Office
P.O. Box 510,
Main Street and 52nd Avenue
Bashaw, AB T0B 0H0
(403) 372-3911
- County Office of Stettler
5006 - 47 Avenue
P.O. Box 1270
Stettler, AB T0C 2L0
(403) 742-4441
- Village Office of Mirror
5019 - 50 Avenue
Box 130, Mirror, AB TOB 3C0
(403) 788-3011

- **The Village of Rochon Sands**
Marina - (403) 742-5953
16 Sands Street (Lori Frank)

An open house will be held to provide you with an opportunity to speak with the EIA team and discuss the findings. After the open house, and the comments by the public are addressed, a final EIA will be submitted to Alberta Environment. The EIA will then be submitted to an independent panel to make recommendations on the suitability of the project.

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HOW TO KEEP IN TOUCH:

Do you want more information? Do you have questions, concerns or suggestions? Please write or call EMA collect:

**Environmental Management
Associates**
1510 Tenth Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB T3C 0J5
Bus: 245-1623 Fax: 245-6634

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COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, March 10th
Erskine 100F Hall
12 to 5 p.m.

The EIA team wants you to be fully informed on the project and to have an opportunity to express your views. That's why we are encouraging you to:

- read copies of the EIA Summary;
- attend the open house where the scientists will be available to discuss the EIA;
- submit a written brief to the EIA team by March 20th.

Announcements of the Open House will be posted in the local papers.

If you want to keep receiving this newsletter, please fill out this form and mail it to Environmental Management Associates. If you have already mailed a form from the first newsletter you will receive the EIA summary and newsletters.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ (Postal Code)

_____ (Telephone Number)

BUFFALO LAKE MONTHLY MEAN ELEVATIONS

