

June 06, 2018

Via E-mail: CEAA.Springbank.ACEE@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Canada Place
9700 Jasper Avenue, Suite 1145
Edmonton, AB T5J 4C3

To Whom This May Concern:

We are writing this letter in response to the invitation for public comments regarding the Environmental Impact Statement that has been prepared for the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project.

We have owned homes in the City of Calgary since 1982, most recently in the communities of East Elbow Park and Roxboro, and had the great misfortune to have been victims of the 2013 flood. The experience is one we will always remember and hope never to relive. We saw the destruction of personal property and local businesses, and the emotional toll it brought to our neighbours and friends. Despite the devastation, the disaster did cause Calgarians to come together in a truly inspired effort to help the communities and people affected by the flood; regardless, it was an undeniable example of the vulnerability of citizens who live or work in proximity to the Bow and Elbow rivers.

The Alberta government of the day acted to explore how similar catastrophic events could be mitigated or avoided in the future. Then, the newly elected Alberta government vowed to continue to pursue that same goal, given that it was assuredly in the public interest to do so. After an inordinate amount of time spent conducting studies, evaluating and reviewing all relevant data, and finally issuing recommendations that supported the construction of the Springbank project, we are still awaiting commencement of construction due to the opposition mounted by several landowners in the Springbank area.

It seems somewhat absurd that a handful of private interests outside the city are holding an entire city hostage – what does “the public interest” imply, if not the protection of a large majority of tax-paying citizens and businesses?

We have not, until this point, considered the need to personally advocate for such a seemingly logical solution to this clear, ongoing threat to public safety. However it appears that current governments at all levels are now subject to the influence of any (i.e. minority) interests where public infrastructure projects are concerned, so we must now ensure that we will be heard; or more aptly put, “counted” in this new forum of public opinion.

So for clarity, and in conclusion, we fully support and endorse the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project , and urge the CEAA to act quickly to prepare the draft Environmental Assessment Report in order to elicit Ministerial approval of this project.

Sincerely,