

July 20, 2021

Greg Bosse  
Project Manager, Prairie & Northern Region  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
Canada Place, Suite 1145, 9700 Jasper Ave.  
Edmonton, AB T5J 4C3

Dear Greg Bosse:

**RE: Request for Provincial Input Regarding a Designation Request for the Proposed Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Expansion Projects under the *Impact Assessment Act***

Thank you for your letter dated June 30, 2021, seeking provincial input regarding a designation request for Phases 1 and 2 of the Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Expansion Project (the projects), under Section 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). The following information and attachments are provided in response to your request.

**Provincial Environmental Impact Assessment**

To date, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (ENV) Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch has not received an application for review of the projects under *The Environmental Assessment Act* (Saskatchewan) (the Act). As the provincial environmental assessment review has not commenced, ENV is unable to assess the potential impacts to the environment as a result of the projects at this time.

Once an application is received, a screening will be conducted to determine whether either of the projects meet the definition of “development” in the Act, and would therefore be required to conduct an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and submit findings in an environmental impact statement. At that time, the duty to consult and accommodate would also be assessed.

Should the Minister of Environment (the Minister) determine either of the projects are not a “development”, the proponent may then proceed to obtain the required licenses and permits, subject to any terms and conditions the Minister considers necessary.

The proponent also has the option to voluntarily self-declare a project as a “development” and proceed to initiating the EIA process rather than waiting for a determination from ENV.

... 2

---

### **Duty to Consult**

Where the Minister's decision to approve or refuse a development may lead to actions that have the potential to adversely impact Treaty and Aboriginal rights and the pursuit of traditional uses, the ministry has a duty to consult (DTC) with First Nations and Metis communities in advance. The Government of Saskatchewan *First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework* establishes the province's policy on consultation with First Nations and Métis communities.

### **Provincial Regulatory Process**

In addition to the EA process in Saskatchewan, there is an extensive provincial regulatory framework that will provide oversight through all phases of the projects. Included with the ministry's submission are detailed submissions from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Water Security Agency, who will play a key role in regulating the projects.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss or require further clarification as part of this review.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Brady Pollock  
Executive Director, Environmental Assessment and Stewardship  
Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment

cc: Wes Kotyk, Environmental Protection Division, Ministry of Environment  
Brianne England, Environmental Assessment and Stewardship, Ministry of Environment  
Steve Wilkie, Environmental Assessment and Stewardship, Ministry of Environment

### **Attachments:**

- 1) Provincial Advice Record - ENV
- 2) Provincial Advice Record – Agriculture 1
- 3) Provincial Advice Record – Agriculture 2
- 4) Provincial Advice Record - Water Security Agency