

ATTACHMENT: November 8, 2021

Federal Authority Advice Record

Response due by November 28, 2021

Horsefly Regional Emergency Spillway Project – Municipality of Taber

Agency File: 005811

Department/Agency	Indigenous Services Canada - First Nations & Inuit Health Branch
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1. Is it probable that your department or agency may be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project to enable it to proceed?

ISC/FNIHB is not responsible for approving or issuing licences, permits or authorizations for the assessments of the proposed large project.

2. Is your department or agency in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge that may be relevant to the conduct of an impact assessment of the Project?

ISC/FNIHB shares specialized knowledge with regard to First Nations, in the following subjects: provision of health services, community health and wellness programs, quality of drinking water on First Nations reserves and social determinants of health.

3. (a) Has your department or agency considered the Project; exercised a power or performed a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project; or taken any course of action that would allow the Project to proceed in whole or in part?

No

4. Has your department or agency had previous contact or involvement with the proponent or other party in relation to the Project? (for example, enquiry about methodology, guidance, or data; introduction to the project)

ISC/FNIHB has not had previous contact or involvement with the proponent or other party in relation to the project.

5. Does your department or agency have additional information or knowledge not specified, above?

ISC-FNIHB has no specific information or knowledge

6. From the perspective of the mandate and area(s) of expertise of your department or agency:

- I. Indicate whether the description of potential effects presented in the Initial Project Description sufficiently characterizes potential project effects— including direct and incidental effects, and effects within federal jurisdiction. Provide advice on whether these effects may be adverse and whether your regulatory instruments could be used to address these effects.
 - II. Identify any additional potential adverse effects of the Project that are not described in the Initial Project Description and their linkage to effects, effects within federal jurisdiction, and direct and incidental effects
 - III. Indicate any issues that should be addressed in the detailed project description that would inform a full understanding of how the Project's potential effects to areas of federal jurisdiction are effectively being mitigated and managed. Please be as specific as possible and include a description of any anticipated residual and/or potential significant adverse effects.
 - IV. Indicate the issues that should be addressed in the impact assessment of the Project, should the Agency determine that an impact assessment is required.
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- The Municipal District of Taber (MDT) is proposing to expand the *existing emergency spillway* that will divert overland floodwaters and stormwater runoff within the St. Mary River Irrigation District to the Oldman River. Once built, the Horsefly spillway will give the St. Mary's River Irrigation District the ability to divert water to the Oldman River rather than flowing into the downstream main canal or the Seven Persons Creek.
 - The project is on private land, and is located within Treaty 7 and Metis Nation of Alberta, and the distance of First Nations communities closest (within 100 Km) to the project are: Blood Tribe/Kanai First Nation (57 Km), Siksika Nation (99 Km), and Pikani Nation (102 Km).
 - The various Indigenous communities in the area have been consulted and from the IPD, there are no concerns overall from these communities, though some Indigenous groups have indicated the potential effects on medicinal plants and undiscovered archaeological sites. In addition, Siksika Nation has indicated an interest in viewing the site, while Blood Tribe/Kanai has requested to be included in the list of bidders for contractor work.
 - While Indigenous communities have expressed no concerns overall, there may be some impacts on traditional food sources (project activities may change quality in water and soil which would affect fish, plants and wildlife), and further – food security. The Detailed Project Description should elaborate on the what type of hazardous spills/chemicals (ie run-offs due to irrigation) will result during the construction
 - In addition, even though Indigenous communities have expressed no concern, the proponent should continue to engage with the communities throughout the entire process.
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Constantine Tikhonov

Name of Departmental / Agency Responder

Manager, Safe Food Environments

Title of Responder

November 25, 2021

Date