

**Public Notice - St. Mary River Irrigation District
Chin Reservoir Expansion Project**



Proposed Terms of Reference for Environmental Impact Assessment

Chin Reservoir is an off-stream storage reservoir that is located roughly in the middle of St. Mary River Irrigation District (SMRID) irrigation network, approximately 30 kilometers (km) east of Lethbridge and 15 km south of Taber. The existing reservoir is located in Lethbridge County, the County of Warner, and the Municipal District of Taber, between NE-27-8-18-4 and SE-26-7-16-4. It is the largest off-stream reservoir within SMRID with a storage volume of 154,320 acre-foot (ac-ft). Chin Reservoir is located in a major glacial melt coulee known as Chin Coulee. The reservoir is impounded by two dams on its east and west ends: Chin 1 (West Dam), and Chin 2 (East Dam). The two dams were completed in 1955 and no major modifications have been completed since their construction.

The water impounded by the reservoir is vital to the economic activity in the Southern Alberta region and is relied upon as a source for drinking water, recreation, various industrial activities and for farm irrigation.

The Chin Reservoir Expansion Project (the Project) involves the construction of a new dam which will result in a larger reservoir. The new dam will be approximately 40 meters (m) in height and is expected to inundate (flood) approximately 650 hectares (ha) of privately held land within Chin Coulee. The new dam and eastern limit are within SW 23-7-15-W4 and NW-14-7-15-W4 in the MD of Taber and County of Lethbridge. There will be no change to existing SMRID water diversion licenses, the expanded Chin Reservoir volume can be filled within current diversion licenses.

The expansion of Chin Reservoir has the following goals:

- To enhance, and continue to support, the economic productivity of the Southern Alberta region;
- To build resiliency against future floods and droughts based on climate change predictions; and
- To upgrade critical infrastructure to modern design standards.

The Director responsible for Environmental Assessments has directed that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report be prepared for the Chin Reservoir Expansion Project. SMRID has prepared a proposed Terms of Reference for this Environmental Impact Assessment, and through this public notice, invites the public to review this document. **Your name and comments submitted will be accessible to the public.**

The proposed Terms of Reference and associated project information can be viewed at the following locations:

- St. Mary River Irrigation District
<https://smrid.com/>
- Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, Register of Environmental Assessment
<http://www.alberta.ca/environmental-impact-assessments-current-projects.aspx>

For further information on the Chin Reservoir Expansion Project or for copies of the proposed Terms of Reference and associated project information please contact:

Chin Reservoir Expansion Project
Address: 525 – 40 St South, Lethbridge, AB, T1J 4M1
Email: chin.expansion@smrid.com
Phone: 587.220.5652

Individuals wishing to provide written comments on the proposed Terms of Reference must submit them by January 3, 2023, to:

Director, Environmental Assessment, Regulatory Assurance
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
E-mail: environmental.assessment@gov.ab.ca

Privacy Statement

By providing your personal information and comments, you are consenting to the public disclosure of your name and comments. You should not include any information in your comments you do not want disclosed publicly. Other personal information, for example addresses, phone numbers and email addresses, will be removed. This personal information is being collected under the authorization of Sections 33(a) and (c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and is managed in accordance with Part 2 of the FOIP Act. Your name and comments are being disclosed under the authorization of Section 35(1)(a)(ii) of the *Environment Protection and Enhancement Act*. Your personal information will only be collected, used and disclosed for the purpose stated above and for no other purpose without your specific written consent or unless required to do so by law.

If you have any question about the collection, use and disclosure of your personal information, or should you wish to have your personal information removed, please contact the Environmental Assessment Registrar at 780-427-5828, environmental.assessment@gov.ab.ca.

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