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PLEASE REPLY TO EDMONTON OFFICE

January 18, 2021

Natural Resources Conservation Board
19th Floor, 250 5th Street SW
Calgary AB T2P AB T2P 0R4

Attention: William Kennedy, General Counsel

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

Re: Springbank Project Application No. 1701 – Topic-based Hearing

Pursuant to the Board's Pre-hearing Decision, the Board invited Alberta Transportation to comment on the proposed topic areas. Alberta Transportation has reviewed the Board's initial suggestion, and has calculated the number of witnesses required for the various topics and assessed the possible impacts of COVID restrictions on its arrangements.

In attempting to balance the topic areas and the restrictions, Alberta Transportation has attached a revised grouping of topics with some additional clarification for the Board and interveners' consideration.

Alberta Transportation submits that it would be most efficient to fully conclude a topic before moving to the next one. This would mean that in addition to the proponent's evidence and cross-examination, any intervener who also has evidence or a witness to present on that topic would also tender those witnesses and they would then be cross-examined. This format was applied in a recent significant "virtual" public hearing and proved to be successful and we assume most efficient for the Board so as not to have to return to a topic at a later date to hear from the interveners' witnesses.

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Should you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RMK', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RONALD M. KRUHLAK

RMK/blw

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Table 1: Proposed Topic Days

Topic	Points of Discussion
<i>Topic 1 – Project Need and Justification</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Purpose• Social and economic project costs and benefits• Reservoir capacity• Alternatives considered
<i>Topic 2 – Crown Consultation and Land Use</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crown consultation• Traditional land use by Indigenous Peoples• Future land use and land use plan for the project development area
<i>Topic 3 – SR1 Design and Operation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dam Safety• Flood water management• Operating plan• Risk management• Public safety, including emergency response
<i>Topic 4 – Aquatics</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elbow River water quality• Fish• Groundwater quality and quantity impacts• Hydrology effects
<i>Topic 5 – Terrestrial, Air Quality and Human Health</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air quality (dust)• Human health risk assessment, including effects on country foods• Vegetation (including noxious weeds and invasive species)• Wildlife• Soils• Biodiversity