

Feb 26th, 2021

Natural Resources Conservation Board
250 – 5th St SW
Calgary, AB
T2P 0R4

Attention: Laura Friend, Manager, Board Reviews

Re: Scott Wagner SR1 NRCB Submission SR1 Design, Safety and Risk (Public safety, including emergency response)

Please find below the submissions for the SR1 Review.

SR1 Design, Safety and Risk

Public safety, including emergency response.

The GOA announced SR1 in 2014 with a decision that was unstudied, uncommunicated, with zero public consultation ... therefore I give the Crown Consultation a failing grade. Couple the initial lack of any consultation or study by the GOA with an ongoing campaign of mis-information; I question the GOA's ability to ensure project success. I am amazed that in 1918 the Ghost dam was built with an understanding of flood water volume, however here we are today with computers, satellite maps, gps, 100 years of additional engineering experience and an army of consultants: I can't even get a defined water line on our front lawn.

Landowners have had one way communication with the GOA on several issues relating to the future land use and to date we have few answers or solutions. The GOA documentation states that, the Public will have access to the SR1 lands, which directly affects any occupant within our house and any visitor. We know that the public access to lands will be within Meters of our house (however the exact distance has yet to be communicated by the GOA), furthermore we are one of the landowners within the Rifle Hunting zone.

To give you background: Public Hunting season in our area is three months of rifle, two months of bow hunting with First Nations having 365 day hunting rights. Within the SR1 footprint the Elk population is vibrant and abundant, Elk is an especially coveted wild meat for Hunters. Landowners have had communications with the GOA at public venues and to date there have been no solutions forthcoming. Unfettered hunting terrifies me! Aside from have the real potential of an Elk Gutted within meters of our house by an individual I don't know, 365 days a year: we have the danger of sitting on our patio potentially dodging bullets. Not sure how I will be able to have friends over for a Barbeque ... maybe the GOA could provide flack jackets? The hunting season is Sept 1st to Jan 20th for the public on our property: we learned long ago that controlled hunting discourages poachers and has a very positive affect on wildlife populations. The GOA has to date not provided a solution to the hunting safety issue, nor in my opinion have they considered the implications on the Elk population. In fact, the GOA in the past has attempted to mis-lead the public by stating the SR1 area was less than desirable "ungulate"

habitat; they still have not responded to the Elk Calving photos nor pictures of large elk herds taken within the SR1 footprint.

Another issue arising from Public Access is fire. We as landowners use cattle for livelihood, but the cattle also serve a purpose as grassland fire control. Without cattle the grasslands are a three to four foot tinderbox by early August. Adding all the factors: public access, no plan for grass control, the local Fire Departments policy of not fighting off-road grass fires in our area and we are one cigarette away from a disaster. The GOA track record of controlling fires along highways is poor; last year alone there were serious grass fires in the news ... and these are without the risks stated above. It is not clear how the GOA will control individual smokers out for a weekend stroll, nor deal with increased fire risk within reach of the City of Calgary or the higher density Springbank communities.

I believe it is incumbent upon the GOA to address both issues stated.

Sincerely,

Scott Wagner

Reference Material:

- http://www.aema.alberta.ca/images/News/Provincial_Flood_Mitigation_Report.pdf