

February 26, 2021

To: Natural Resources Conservation Board
Attention: Ms. Laura Friend

**Re: NRCB Application 1701 - Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project FWMC
Request to Reconsider NRCB Pre-Hearing Conference Standing Decision (Melissa
Joy)**

Dear Ms. Friend,

I am writing to you as an active member of the Flood Water Management Council, a volunteer-based citizen group I have been a part of for several years now. I first became involved with the FWMC after hearing a presentation by group founder Dr. Emile Gabriel back in 2016. There were several others present at that presentation, that were also members of the group (or later became members), and continue to be, to this day. I continue to be amazed at the tireless dedication of the FWMC volunteers not only bring good research and critical analysis to the forefront of the flood mitigation issue(s) on our city, but to actively engage and provide this information to those impacted by the 2013 flood.

The flood of 2013 impacted my family directly, as we had just purchased our first home in the south-end of the city, while living in the North East quadrant (before the purchase) and working downtown. The flood wiped out our ability to access our home for over 10 days - we had no way to get there as bridges, LRT lines and other transportation routes were severely impacted, completely shutting down most of the city, including north-to-south routes from our location in the North East.

While we were extremely fortunate that the flood did not impact our new home in terms of property damage causing undo hardship, we had no way of knowing for almost 10 days. Thankfully, seepage and drainage issues, and unexpected yard maintenance (the grass was nearly two feet high), while labour intensive, were easily dealt with once we could access our home. We were unable to live there until transportation routes were repaired and we could begin our move. Working downtown was impossible at this time and directly impacted my ability to earn a living. The impacts of the 2013 flood were not resigned to those citizens living immediately next to the river(s), nor will they be resigned to those immediately near the Springbank Off-stream Reservoir Project (SR1) project area. The entire city of Calgary will be impacted, just as it was in 2013 - my family and I included. Any fallout from the proposed project has the potential to impact the safety of my family and loved ones, my ability to work/conduct business, travel, or even access my home and critical services, just as the flood did in 2013.

The entire city of Calgary, myself included, will be left with the impacts arising from a poorly devised project such as the SR1 and the cumulative impacts of other “flood mitigation” and major construction projects that have **enormously** eroded the ability of our city to weather the next major flood event. This dangerous combination will lead to the ultimate disaster - the loss of lives.

It is for this reason, that I choose to support the work and research of the FWMC. They are a multi-disciplinary group of concerned citizens, professionals and business owners from all backgrounds. Members who have been impacted by the 2013 flood. Members who have spent hundreds, if not thousands, of hours researching available information on flood studies, the 2013 event, as well as countless hours analyzing the SR1 proposal and all submissions provided, with a focus on **safety** and long term flood management solutions that will benefit the most Albertans, rather than the few that chose to rebuild in the worst flood-impacted areas. The FWMC has literally spent *years* researching this, writing countless well-referenced letters/reports, providing information to impacted groups, and has never applied for compensation in any regulatory process (until now). Funding is not what we seek - we do what we do because of the impact the flood has had on each of us, our families, neighbors and businesses, and the care we have for our respective communities and the city of Calgary. This is not a political or selfish ambition for us - this is a matter of accountability and responsibility. Who is standing up for those citizens in harm's way should the under-designed SR1 suffer a catastrophic failure? Who is standing for those indirectly affected, whether by loss of loved ones who live in a directly affected area, impact to business, recreation opportunities or long term environmental and health impacts (ie. impact to drinking water, ground water, air quality, etc). Experts and panels have been ignored; viable and reasonable project alternatives rejected out-of-hand. This particular proposed project has been rife with political interference right from the start; hundreds of people have challenged it, spoken out, written letters, and even campaigned for politicians promising to reject the proposal. Notable politicians that have since betrayed their constituents and flip-flopped on those very promises. The bidding process was circumvented; the very concept of SR1 came from a sole source contract which had several evolutions of publicly rejected concepts/designs. The project costs have become astronomical (and are still rising!) - and yet no amount of money provided in a settlement offer can change the deadly consequences that will certainly come from critical failures in design safety or operation, for those downstream of the proposed project, or for those still left unprotected by this proposal that meets the needs of so very few, while the majority pay the real cost for such a disastrous mistake.

The SR1 proposal has serious and dangerous flaws that have not been addressed. Pertinent geotechnical information is still missing. We may not be as politically connected as other groups that have been given standing at the proceeding are; we may not have lawyers navigating us through this process - yet we stand by the expertise and the research we have done, and are prepared to contribute to the Hearing to represent our membership,

as well as those citizens who do not yet know or understand the danger they may face from the proposed SR1 project.

While I personally may not live in what is considered the immediate project “danger zone” at this time, I have been personally impacted by the flood, and have many loved ones, friends and colleagues that would be devastated in the event of an SR1 failure. I fully support the FWMC in representing those voices who are so very under-represented in this proceeding. And I will continue to support the FWMC in asking uncomfortable questions until I’m satisfied they are resolved. No one else is asking these questions, and that is why it is critical for the FWMC to be given standing at the Hearing.

We have many dozens of members, from many areas directly impacted by the flood (both in and outside of the city); some of those members have since negotiated terms for their land if SR1 succeeds (and can no longer be named); as well as others immediately impacted by the SR1 proposal, including several members of the SR1 Concerned Landowners Group (SCLG). As an aside, we also have an active petition that has been signed by hundreds of Albertans (there are over 1000 signatures, though many are from outside the province too), urging the Government of Alberta to conduct a proper assessment on project alternatives to the SR1.

Following, is a list of our members that are providing representation and support through the current application process; less active members in this process are indicated with an asterisk * :

Noelle Read
David Read
Robert Madlener
Dr. Emile Gabriel
Melissa Joy
P. Lau*
J. Brookman*

I trust that this information will address the Board’s request for establishing membership and impact. If further clarification is required, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Melissa Joy, B.App. EnvSc (T2Y1Z2)
Flood & Water Management Council (FMWC)