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Subject: Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir
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Attachments: [elbow-river-mitigation-decisions-fact-sheet.pdf](#)

June 10, 2018

To: CEAA – Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Submission: Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project (SR1)

An area of great concern to me is water quality/contamination. I obtained a copy of the March 2018 EIS summary prepared by Stantec Consulting for Alberta Transportation.

The Summary states:

6.3 HYDROGEOLOGY

6.3.2.1 Construction and Dry Operations under Mitigation Measures (pg 6.16) 4th bullet
“Existing water wells within the PDA reservoir footprint will be decommissioned and plugged off to prevent groundwater contamination.”

6.4 HYDROLOGY

6.4.2.2 Flood and Post-Flood under Mitigation Measures (pg 6.22)
“However, because the Project is a mitigation for downstream flood damage, this hydrological interaction is intentional and required. Assessing the effect of the Project (or applying mitigation measures to change this effect) on hydrology under this context is not applicable because the Project is expected to operate whenever the hydrological conditions pose a downstream hazard.”

6.5 SURFACE WATER QUALITY

6.5.2.2 Flood and Post-Flood under Mitigation Measures (pg 6.26)
“No water-quality mitigation measures have been developed for the flood and post –flood phases of the Project.”

I was very surprised to see words such as “may” “could” and “might” throughout the document. These are not definitive words but rather words of uncertainty. As I continued to read the report it became clear Stantec and the Government of Alberta (GoA) are not sure of the environmental impact of the project and worse still, consider mitigation measures in Springbank not applicable (6.4.2.2). GoA justifies environmental damage to Springbank as necessary to prevent flooding reoccurring in Calgary as it did in 2013.

The SR1 project jeopardises the water quality in Springbank, Tsuu T’ina Nation, Kamp Kiwanis and surrounding area. GoA sacrificing these communities to protect Calgary is not acceptable! Fortunately there are other options available that will not destroy the environment or other communities.

Attached is a copy of the GoA’s 2015 Elbow River Flood Mitigation Projects Decision Fact Sheet. This is the document the GoA used to choose the Springbank Project over the McLean Creek Reservoir or the Glenmore Tunnel option. GoA has so little regard for the environment

in Springbank there was no budget for an environmental study in Springbank. The cost/benefit for the Springbank option was clearly underestimated to make it the best option.

Recent wildfires in the McLean Creek area have made it clear in addition to flood mitigation, water storage and fire suppression are high priorities. The SR1 project was hastily contrived and misguided. A complete water management strategy is required in Southern Alberta. The McLean Creek Option would offer flood protection, water storage for drought mitigation and wildfire suppression.

CEAA must stand up for all Albertans and not allow the Government of Alberta to continue with the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project.

Respectfully submitted,

B Copithorne

