

April 14, 2008

Natural Resources Conservation Board issues decision on revised Highwood Diversion Plan

Edmonton... The Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) has approved the application filed by Alberta Environment for a revised diversion plan for the Highwood River summer low-flow period, subject to authorization from the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The NRCB supports the revised diversion plan as being in the public interest.

The diversion plan was part of the original application to build the Twin Valley irrigation dam and reservoir. The NRCB approved the construction in 1998 but directed further study for the low-flow diversion plan. The Twin Valley irrigation dam and diversion works were officially opened in 2004.

In issuing its decision the NRCB commended the extensive work conducted by the Public Advisory Committee. The revised diversion plan addresses the needs of licensed users of the Highwood River and the Upper Little Bow, and takes into account habitat protection of fisheries.

A complete copy of the decision (NR 2008-01) is available at www.nrcb.gov.ab.ca.

The Natural Resources Conservation Board is an independent board of the Government of Alberta. It is responsible under the Natural Resources Conservation Board Act for conducting impartial reviews of projects that may affect Alberta's natural resources, in order to determine whether the projects are in the public interest.

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