

No. 00-041

For immediate release: Tuesday, May 16, 2000

"These terms of reference set rigorous conditions that Genesis Land Development must address before any development proposals will be considered in Spray Valley."

Gary G. Mar, Minister of Environment

### **Terms of reference finalized for Spray Valley Environmental Impact Assessment**

Calgary - Alberta Environment issued final terms of reference to Genesis Land Development Corp. for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that Genesis must prepare as part of the review process for its proposed developments in the Spray Valley of Kananaskis Country.

The terms of reference ensures a comprehensive review of all the environmental, social, economic and cultural consequences of the three Genesis proposals: a Heli-cat skiing operation at Mount Sparrowhawk, a four-season resort and downhill ski area at Tent Ridge, and a tour boat operation on Spray Lake. Spray Valley is about 100 kilometres west of Calgary.

Environmental concerns that Genesis must address include the potential impact on wildlife habitat, transportation routes into Spray Valley, water quality in Spray Lake and whether large-scale development is appropriate in Spray Valley. The EIA also requires Genesis to consult the public as part of the assessment process and to report on the results of the public consultation in the EIA report.

"I am satisfied that this terms of reference fully captures the concerns of over 1,000 Albertans who formally expressed their views about the Genesis Land Development proposals," said Environment Minister Gary Mar. "The overriding principle in Kananaskis Country is protection of the environment, and this terms of reference reflects that."

When Genesis finishes the EIA report, it will be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) for review. The NRCB, which typically holds public hearings and invites third-party submissions, will decide if the proposals are in the public interest.

The public may view the final terms of reference during normal business hours at the following locations:

- Calgary office of Alberta Environment: Suite 203, 2938 11 Street NE.
- Edmonton office of Alberta Environment: Approvals Centre, Main Floor Oxbridge Place, 9820 106 Street.
- Canmore office of Alberta Environment: Suite 201, 800 Railway Avenue.
- Public libraries in Canmore, Banff and Calgary (Main Branch).

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### **Attached**

: Fact sheet

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Outside of Calgary, dial 310-0000 for toll-free connection.

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## Genesis-Spray Lake Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Fact Sheet

- An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is ordered by Alberta Environment to identify and assess the environmental consequences of a proposed development. The EIA must describe the potential positive and negative environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts of the proposed activity. This also must include plans to mitigate any adverse impacts resulting from the proposal.
- Over 1,000 Albertans formally expressed their views about the Genesis Land Development Corp. Spray Lake proposals. Alberta Environment considered public comments in drafting the final terms of reference which Genesis must follow in preparing the EIA report. Public concerns included the potential impact on wildlife habitat, transportation routes into Spray Valley, water quality in Spray Lake and the appropriateness of large-scale development in Spray Valley.
- When Genesis finishes the EIA report, it will be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) for review. The NRCB will decide if the proposals are in the public interest. An NRCB review typically involves public hearings and third-party submissions.
- Government review occurs as part of the NRCB process. Following this review, Alberta Environment may take a position.
- The environmental assessment process is being carried out under the terms of the *Canada-Alberta Agreement for Environmental Cooperation* of June 1999. Because the Genesis proposals require federal government approvals under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* and the *Fisheries Act*, the final terms of reference for the EIA report includes a consideration of issues falling within federal jurisdiction. The federal government assisted in developing the final terms of reference for the Genesis EIA report.

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