

Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Black Mountain Reservoir Project

Open House *and* Invitation to Comment

Black Mountain Irrigation District (Proponent) is proposing to construct and operate an open surface raw water storage reservoir (and associated infrastructure) in Gopher Flats at the foot of Black Knight Mountain near the eastern boundary of the City of Kelowna (proposed Project). The proposed Project would provide approximately 4,600 megalitres (ML) of low elevation water storage for domestic and irrigation customers by constructing two earth embankment dams. The South Main Dam would be 33 metres high across the south end of Gopher Flats valley. The North Saddle Dam would be 25 metres high and located across the northwest valley opening of the Gopher Flats valley, north of Bell Mountain.

The proposed Project is subject to review under British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The Proponent must obtain an environmental assessment certificate before any work can be undertaken on the proposed Project. However, prior to submission of an application (Application) for a certificate by the Proponent, the Environmental Assessment Office of British Columbia (EAO) must first approve Terms of Reference.

The Terms of Reference will specify the studies to be conducted and the detailed information to be provided by the Proponent in its Application. The EAO has now received draft Terms of Reference from the Proponent and invites comments on this draft.

In order to provide information about the Terms of Reference, and to receive comments from the public, the EAO invites the public to attend an **Open House**. There will be one Open House, to be held as follows:

at: **Black Mountain Elementary School**
on: **February 10, 2009**
from: **4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

At **7:00 p.m.** there will be a presentation by the EAO on the process with an opportunity to ask questions about the process. A second presentation will also be given by the Proponent in relation to the proposed Project.

If you are unable to attend the Open House, you may still wish to make a written submission. There are 30 days for the submission of comments by the public in relation to the draft Terms of Reference. The comment period will begin on February 9, 2009 and end at midnight on March 11, 2009. All comments received during this comment period in relation to the Terms of Reference will be considered.

The intention of seeking public comments is to ensure that all potential effects – environmental, economic, social, heritage and health – that might result from the Project are identified for consideration as part of the assessment process. At this stage of the process, the primary intent is to receive feedback about the studies or information required for a comprehensive environmental assessment.

After taking public comments into account, the EAO will finalize the Terms of Reference and issue them to the Proponent.

Please submit your comments at the Open House or send your comments to:

Gerry Hamblin
Project Assessment Manager
Environmental Assessment Office
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Fax (250) 356-6448

Comments by e-mail may be directed to eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca

If you are unable to participate at this time, there will be an additional comment period during the Application review stage when you will also be able to provide comments to the EAO on the proposed Project.

An electronic copy of the Terms of Reference and information regarding the environmental assessment process are available at www.eao.gov.bc.ca. Copies of the Terms of Reference are also available for viewing at:

Okanagan Regional Library – Kelowna Branch
1380 Ellis Street, Kelowna, B.C.

Okanagan Regional Library – Rutland Branch
Plaza 33 Mall, #32 - 301 Hwy. 33 West, Kelowna, B.C.

NOTE: All submissions received by the EAO during the comment period in relation to the proposed Project are considered public and will be posted to the EAO website. If you do not want to have your name posted to the EAO website, please indicate this with your submission and your comments will be kept confidential.