

Update On Upper Qu'Appelle Water Supply Project

Since our stakeholder meetings in March the South Central Enterprise Region (SCER) has initiated many of the studies that were talked about at the time by engaging consultants with the required expertise.

An environmental baseline study was completed by Golder Associates of Saskatoon on the corridor from Lake Diefenbaker to Buffalo Pound Lake. Golder looked at vegetation, wildlife, fisheries, and heritage resources. They encountered numerous species at risk and discovered numerous new heritage resource sites. Their findings have been documented in their final report which was submitted to SCER in August. While they identified several potential concerns they indicated that with proper planning there is unlikely to be any environmental issues that would prevent project development.

Dr. Suren Kulshreshtha of the University of Saskatchewan's College of Agriculture and Bioresources has been conducting the water demand study to assist in projecting future water needs in the Qu'Appelle River Basin. During the course of his work he has been in touch with numerous government and non-government officials to obtain their input to his projections. He is also looking at the influence of climate change, water conservation and improved technology on future water use. Dr. Kulshreshtha's report to SCER is expected in September and will then be utilized in refining the conveyance system capacity and operation.

As part of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authorities' contribution to the project they have engaged Golder Associates to develop a computer model of the Qu'Appelle River system. The Authority will use the model to simulate operation of the river system during different types of years to predict the flows that will be required to meet the growing needs and to assess how delivery of the water through the system would be accomplished. The model is nearing completion and it is expected that the Authority will begin running the model in October to generate operation information.

Feasibility level design work is underway on the entire water supply project and is being conducted by AECOM Canada Limited and their sub-consultant Clifton Associates. They have completed field investigations for the pump station and spillway sites and are currently evaluating the canal route using the LiDAR survey information that was collected by Fugro Geoservices of Calgary and the environmental information provided by Golder Associates. It is expected that design work on the pump station and spillway will be completed later this year; while design of the canal and balancing reservoir will not be completed until May or June of 2012.

Later this year or early in 2012 SCER will be engaging a consultant who will utilize cost information from AECOM's work to assess the economic viability of this project.

SCER will be providing a final report and recommendation on the feasibility of this project to Enterprise Saskatchewan in September 2012.