

To: Government of Alberta  
From: J. Gilmour, Chair, LARP Review Panel  
Re: Information Request No. 9  
Date: November 18, 2014

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In accordance with Rule 28 of the *Rules of Practice for Conducting Reviews of Regional Plans*, the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP) Review Panel is seeking clarifying information related to the LARP which came into effect September 1, 2012.

Be advised that the Review Panel has carefully considered the objections to previous Information Requests set out in correspondence from counsel for Alberta Justice. In addition, the Review Panel has reviewed the Applications by the six First Nations for a review of LARP, the Response Submissions filed by Alberta on June 25, 2014 in relation to these applications, and the replies filed by five First Nations to the Alberta Response. The Review Panel has decided that it has jurisdiction to proceed with this information request. Under Rule 31 a full and adequate response is now required of Alberta.

The Review Panel requires the assistance of Alberta to identify, analyze and provide the information set out below which we understand to be in Alberta's possession.

**Information Request:**

1. With report to LARP Progress Report for 2013 ("the Report"), page 9, please confirm LARP plans and respective completion dates for the following frameworks/ strategies:
  - Air quality
  - Surface water quality
  - Biodiversity
  - Tailings
  - Surface water quantity
  - Groundwater
  - Strategy for reclamation

2. On page 3 of the Report, under the LARP Outcome heading “Air and Water are managed to support human and ecosystem needs”, it states that the Groundwater Management Framework is complete. On page 12 of the Report it notes that “the Regional Groundwater Monitoring Network is ongoing”.
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  - Please file a copy of the Groundwater Management Framework if it is complete.
  - Describe more fully the “Network” plans and the activities planned to enforce the Network.
  - Have the locations of the monitoring stations been determined? If so, provide the geographical location or legal land description.
4. On page 3 of the Report for 2013, it states that the Air Quality and Surface Water Quality Management Framework agreement implementation is still on-going. It is the Panels understanding that both of these documents have been implemented in 2013 and Annual Reports for 2012 were filed for both of these documents in March 2014. Please confirm.
5. In the “Executive Summary” of the Annual Report for 2012 for the above two Management Framework Agreements, it refers to “triggers” being initiated in ten monitoring air stations for NO<sub>2</sub> and for SO<sub>2</sub>.
  - How many air monitoring stations are there for the Lower Athabasca Region? Where are they located?
  - Describe the function of such stations to the Clean Air Strategic Alliance Data Warehouse;
  - What agency/agencies operates these monitoring stations?
  - On the basis of the Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives, could there be additional industrial pollutants in the air in the Lower Athabasca Region besides NO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>?
6. In the “Executive Summary” of the Annual Progress Report for 2012 for the Water Quality Framework Agreement it refers to three of the thirty-eight water quality indicators being triggered at the Old Fort Station.
  - Where is the Old Fort Station Located?
  - Is the Old Fort Station the old monitoring station for water quality in the Region? If so, why is there only one monitoring station for water quality in the Region?
7. Mention is made in the above Report that progress has been made on “Verification and preliminary assessments for both air and water quality and “investigation” has been initiated for air quality only.
  - When will the “interpretation” phase be completed for both air and water quality?

- The Report mentions that “ERSD will determine the need for further investigation to identify potential management actions”. Will this report be available in 2014?
  - If the 2012 progress reports for the above two management framework agreements were not published until March 2014, when will the annual reports for these two agreements be published for 2013?
8. The 2013 Progress Report for LARP in its introduction places considerable weight on the monitoring of the framework agreements. On page 65 of LARP, it decides the importance of government lead departments developing effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting with respect to the various strategies and outcomes they are responsible for. Page 67 of LARP in Part 8 of the document notes the “Regulatory Details Plan for Monitoring and Reporting”. Describe how such monitoring and reporting will be achieved by the GOA.
9. On page 9 of the Report, it notes that in 2013 the Alberta Environmental Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Agency (AEMERA) was created in legislation.
- Describe the enabling legislation which created this agency. Has it been proclaimed yet?
  - Describe the roles and functions of this agency and how after it reports to the GOA.
  - How this agency commenced to operate. If not when will it make its first report to the GOA?
10. On the same page of the above Report, it refers to the “Canada Alberta Oil Sands Environmental Monitoring Information Portal”
- What is this agencies mandate and responsibilities?;
  - Is this agency operating? When do you anticipate a report from them? If they have filed a report with the GOA, please file a copy with the Secretariat.
11. At the bottom of page 19 of LARP, it refers to “Monitoring, evaluation and reporting initiatives and programs in the region are conducted by the Government of Alberta as well as:
- Wood Buffalo Environmental Association;
  - The Lakeland Industry and Community Association;
  - Regional Aquatics Monitoring Program
  - Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute.
  - Describe how each of the above from organizations assist the GOA with monitoring, evaluating, and reporting the region’s air, water, land and biodiversity strategies described in LARP;
  - Besides AEMERA and the Canada-Alberta Oil Sands, and the four organizations described above, are there any other organizations or agencies which assist the GOA in monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the various air, water, land and biodiversity strategies described in LARP?

*Requested Dates for delivery to the LARP Review Panel:* December 8, 2014, for the information and use by the Review Panel.

In accordance with Rule 32 of the *Rules of Practice for Conducting Reviews of Regional Plans* should the other parties wish to respond to this Information Request, they are asked to do so by December 31, 2014.