

Lumsden Valley Community Association (LuVCA), Box 450, Lumsden SK S0G 3C0

April 15, 2019

Steve Wilkie
Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator
Ministry of Environment
environmental.assessment@gov.sk.ca

Dear Mr. Wilkie:

Re: CanPacific Potash Inc. Project Albany, near Sedley SK

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some input into the Albany assessment process. Although our mandate focuses on conservation and land use issues in the RM of Lumsden and area, we are part of the Qu'Appelle Watershed and are affected by many public policies.

LuVCA has done some research, especially relating to water security issues. As a result, we have a number of concerns that we'd like to raise, and we have some major questions we would like to ask regarding more solution mines in the province.

1. Water Supply & Demand

We understand that CanPacific would use raw water provided by the SaskWater Buffalo Pound Regional Non-Potable Water Supply System (as approved by the SaskWater Pipeline Project EASB3 2013-002), and its 93 km pipeline to the Kronau area. Lake Diefenbaker is the BIG water supply, as Minister Goodale implied in a recent speech. (He and the 2019 Federal budget talk about "water management strategies" and "transformational "big water infrastructure" to the tune of \$1.5B.) Aside from past variations in supply to Lake Diefenbaker, there will be major future pressures on the Lake by:

- increased evaporation, and less precipitation and run-off due to Climate Change
- increased demands due to population growth in Moose Jaw, Regina, and surrounding urban and rural areas
- increased demands for irrigation --- could be the biggest user of all! (Extensive pumping is required.)
- increased demand for potash mines (Billiton, Yancoal, etc.), and all industrial users. Is there enough water for all of these uses? How far into the future do we predict, if we consider our kids and their kids, OR the seven generations that the indigenous people seek? When do we apply the "Precautionary Principle"? What is sustainable?

Lake Diefenbaker began filling in 1967. More than 50 years later, how much of the Lake's reservoir has silted in, reducing its holding capacity?

With Climate Change, precipitation and run-off have already been affected; what will future run-off from the Rocky Mountains and foothills, and the prairie watershed be? (Glaciers which are already diminished contribute little to the South Saskatchewan River flow.)

What if Alberta demanded their full 50% allocation of the flow from the South Saskatchewan, and Manitoba wanted their full 50% of the flow? Could these demands be met today, and in the future?

Will there be reduced hydroelectricity production at Gardiner Dam? reduced recreational use along the system, especially the Qu'Appelle Valley and associated lakes?

Humans are not the only part of our communities that need water. How about the diverse life in the water and on the surrounding prairie lands? How will the needs of this wildlife be met?

2. Potash demand

Water used by solution mining and disposed of below ground is water lost from the water cycle. What is that impact over time on the regional water cycle?

Do we really need another potash mine, when Saskatchewan has had an over-capacity (global supply glut) problem for many years already? We appreciate that Saskatchewan has the largest potash reserves in the world; we need to sustain that for the benefit of future generations and make conservation a fundamental consideration, as well as short term social and economic gain.

At your earliest convenience, LuVCA would appreciate a reply to our concerns, and answers to our questions.

Sincerely,

Barry Mitschke
President, LuVCA

Cc: Honourable Dustin Duncan, Environment Minister (also Water Security Agency)
Honourable Ralph Goodale, MP Regina-Wascana
Honourable Cathy Sproule, MLA Saskatoon-Nutana, Environment Critic
Michael P. Champion, Head of Industry & Gov't Relations, Ducks Unlimited Canada