

THE PROPOSED NEW APPROACH TO NORMAL REGULATORY PROCESS.

[Regarding the meeting on the proposed Land Challenge Process held by the EUB at the MD Ranchland Administration building on December 3, 2007, and focused on a small geographic area around, and south of, the Chain Lakes]

The underlying concept of addressing “project development plan at an early level”, is untruthful, misleading and destructive. The project development plan has created arbitrary boundaries aimed at furthering industry goals exclusively. You are parachuting a deliberate narrow minded bias into an area that is as diverse and complex as any local in Alberta. The sad reality is that this process only reinforces the business as usual approach of the EUB and rules out any potential for a new start if you will for this area.

The “orderly production of the resource,” in this case ignores works that are being sponsored by local initiative and wisdom and which address the wide range of factors that contribute to accumulated impact. The structure of the process you have proposed will only perpetuate the status quo with regard to industry intrusion and with respect to the eventual dismemberment of Agriculture. In addition the liberty you have taken to ignore the role of environmental implications, watersheds, recreation, habitat continuity and in decision making only shows the industry influence on your thinking and method.

We demand that this process be terminated and a moratorium be installed on the East Slopes until an adequate, unbiased assessment can be made of industry intrusion that will take into account for once, accurate assessments of cumulative impact. The boundary you have selected is meaningless beyond the industry. The process you propose is only the initial step toward an operating plan and the reason you pursue such measures is that you are convinced that your assessment of the world is more valid than any other members of this society.

We remain as members of Agriculture willing to discuss plans with you in the future that incorporate realities of life in Alberta, not just the board room. We will be willing to meet when the Alberta Land Use Framework is presented and the findings of the Southern Foothills Study are complete. To engage past any such point now is a betrayal of the duties we have as stewards of our lands and managers of resources for human consumption.