

EPCOR WATER TREATMENT PLANTS



OUR SHARED OUTCOMES

In November 2020, EPCOR began planning for future work at our Rossdale and E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) in Edmonton. We invited community members, including Indigenous communities and First Nations, special interest groups, residents, recreational user groups, community league representatives and individuals who have interest in the WTPs. This community engagement work helped us to better understand how we can operate the plants in an environmentally and socially responsible manner that aligns with community interests.

During this engagement, EPCOR shared five goals, known as shared outcomes, as well as their corresponding design principles. Another way to think of these shared outcomes is a set of critical goals that will guide our work at the two WTPs. The design principles define how EPCOR will achieve the goals described in the five shared outcome statements and provide a framework to guide the evolution of the sites. The objective will be to deliver all work at the water treatment plant sites within these design principles, and to engage with stakeholders and regulators to explore options and trade-offs.



SAFETY

Community, public and worker safety and health are protected through our work at the water treatment plants.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

In its long-term plans, individual projects and ongoing WTP operations, EPCOR will:

Provide clean, safe drinking water. Continue to be a national leader in providing safe and high quality water services in the community that adhere to regulatory requirements. Take a proactive approach to protecting our potable water supply from extreme weather events and monitoring activities in our watershed.

Maintain and continuously improve safety performance. Continually assess current safety performance, evolving standards and emerging risks, and propose initiatives that maintain regulatory compliance, improve worker safety and protect the environment.

Protect public safety. Consider the impacts from construction, operational and maintenance activities, site-related traffic and other hazards. Communicate safety information to local and Indigenous communities.

Prepare for emergencies. Continue to ensure emergency response plans are in place for each plant that include regular risk analysis, exercises, training and emergency plan audits. Actively participate in municipal and provincial emergency planning processes as appropriate.



RELATIONSHIPS

Authentic, transparent and respectful long-term relationships are built with community members, area users and Indigenous peoples connected to the water treatment plants.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

In its long-term plans, individual projects, and ongoing WTP operations, EPCOR will:

Connect with our neighbours. Find and provide informal and formal opportunities to connect and build relationships with community members, Indigenous peoples and area users with an interest in the facilities. Build awareness of the services that the plants provide and how these services positively contribute to the broader community.

Communicate openly. Make communication about planning and development at the water treatment plants timely, open, complete, easy to understand, accessible and transparent.

Engage meaningfully. Involve local neighbourhoods and Indigenous Nations and communities in the early planning stages for projects that have potential to impact quality of life or have cultural significance and invite them to provide input. Create an environment where participants understand their role, feel heard and are empowered to share their thoughts, concerns and suggestions on an ongoing basis. Communicate back to participants about what was heard and how their input affected decision-making.

Prioritize reconciliation. Work collaboratively with Indigenous peoples to reconnect with their historic lands, by creating opportunities for monitoring archeological work, shared learning, conducting ceremony, and traditional plant harvesting. Honour our agreements with Indigenous Nations and communities that formalize commitments to working together in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration. Build cultural awareness by supporting EPCOR employees and representatives working at the plants to learn about and incorporate Indigenous worldviews in their work.

Share options and optimize designs. Share design criteria and options for projects that could impact quality of life for community members to provide feedback on. Use the input received to improve project design and finalize option selection.





ENVIRONMENT

Activities at the water treatment plants take a stewardship approach to environmental impacts, holding the air, land, water and ecosystems in trust for future generations.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

In its long-term plans, individual projects and ongoing WTP operations, EPCOR will:

Strive for leadership. Monitor the North Saskatchewan River watershed and measure its environmental performance. Aim to be a leader in environmental responsibility. Acknowledge that we are all connected by considering impacts and mitigating risks to plants and animals in all aspects of our work at the plants. Communicate environmental initiatives, successes and impacts to local and Indigenous communities.

Improve environmental performance. Continually assess current environmental performance, evolving standards and emerging risks, and prioritize investments and operating practices that maintain regulatory compliance, improve performance and water conservation at our facilities and reduce EPCOR's environmental and climate footprint.

Increase resiliency. Proactively work to protect the water treatment plants from the impacts of extreme weather, climate change and climate variability by implementing measures to make the plants more resilient. Support local and regional climate research related to water supply.

Respect cultural and natural resources. Recognize the historical and archeological importance of these sites. Enable the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the oversight of archeological work. Engage with Indigenous Peoples and experts in the field on projects requiring ground disturbance at the plants to identify potential impacts and solutions to those impacts.

Use species natural to the location. When new trees and vegetation will be planted at the site, work with experts in the field and interested Indigenous Peoples, where possible, to identify species that are natural to this area. Wherever possible, re-naturalize or replace trees and vegetation that are disrupted by utility work.

