

# 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.





## QUALITY OF LIFE

EPCOR water treatment plants are operated, maintained and updated in a way that continues to produce high-quality drinking water, considers community experience, and respects our shared history today and into the future.

## DESIGN PRINCIPLES

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



## RELIABLE, RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE

The water treatment plants are designed, maintained and operated in a prudent and responsible manner consistent with good utility practice that contributes to a reliable and sustainable resource for future generations.

## DESIGN PRINCIPLES

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

**Plan for the future.** Take a continuous approach to long-range planning that examines forecasted demand and treatment capacity as well as external factors such as changing regulations, populations, climate, corporate goals, community values and technologies. Explore ways to integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge into planning.

**Maintain reliable operations.** Continuously assess the condition of our facilities, and identify and prioritize the work required to rehabilitate or maintain infrastructure.

**Prudently manage impacts to ratepayers.** Develop options that result in reasonable costs for ratepayers, and which spread the rate impacts of investment over time.

**Consider the “triple bottom line.”** Make choices with regards to operations and projects that thoughtfully weight environmental, social and financial impacts to achieve a net benefit.

**Acknowledge the importance of water for us all.** Work to understand how our operations and planned work impact the quality of life for all who depend on the water, including animals and downstream users. Take a holistic approach to our work and understand our place in the water cycle.

**Be a good neighbour.** Create opportunities for members of our neighbouring communities and area users to connect with EPCOR and learn about the water treatment process (e.g. tours and engagement sessions), operations and conservation. Participate in, and contribute to, local events and other community-building activities.

**Embrace our unique and shared history.** Work to understand, preserve, amplify and celebrate the traditional and historical significance of the area through information sharing, signage and ceremony.

**Mitigate temporary impacts.** Anticipate impacts to neighbours and area users while planning to mitigate the impact of temporary construction, operations and maintenance activities both inside and outside the fence lines.

**Enhance recreational experience.** Find opportunities to enhance the experience of recreational users around the facilities, including landscaping, aesthetic considerations and educational signage. Support partners who are working to enrich recreational spaces around the facilities.

**Respect Indigenous Peoples’ connection to the lands, histories and culture.** Recognize that the land where each of the water treatment plants sit has been occupied, travelled and cared for by Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. Respect and listen to the histories, languages, and cultures of Indigenous peoples as they enrich our shared heritage.





## 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.

