


A NOTE TO OUR NEIGHBOURS



E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant
Summer 2022



Summer is here and as you are outside enjoying our Edmonton summer and beautiful river valley, you may see construction activities happening at the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant. Here's what's happening at our site, and how you can find out more.

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PROGRESS ON THE KĪSIKĀW PĪSIM SOLAR FARM

This past spring, we announced the new name of the solar project: the kīsikāw pīsim solar farm. The name kīsikāw pīsim, which was gifted to EPCOR by Enoch Cree Nation, means “day sun” in Cree. Spring also saw an important milestone in the solar project, with all 30,500 solar panels being installed. The remaining system components are being installed and commissioned this summer. We anticipate the solar farm will begin delivering clean power to help power the water treatment plant this fall.

UPDATE ON THE EDMONTON WATER TREATMENT PLANTS' FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT

Edmonton's water treatment plants are located in the North Saskatchewan River floodplain. EPCOR is taking action to protect the water supply for Edmonton and more than 65 surrounding communities in the event of a major flood, while also partnering with local communities on flood resilience.

As part of this project, EPCOR is planning to build flood barriers around the Rossdale water treatment plant. In the first half of 2022, we have been listening to community members and Indigenous Nations about the type and design of these barriers.

We also heard that residents are concerned about the potential impact of a major flood on their homes. EPCOR has programs to help protect Edmonton neighbourhoods from flooding, and is working to share information with you about those programs.

We are now compiling all of the input we heard about the proposed flood barriers, which will inform our project plans going forward. Thank you for your input. We look forward to sharing what we heard and what we're doing with your feedback soon.

For more information about the project, visit epcor.com/floodprotection.

WHAT TO EXPECT OVER THE SUMMER

Our construction hours are Monday to Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and all activities comply with the City of Edmonton's Community Standards Bylaw for noise control.

Filter upgrades – We are upgrading the water treatment plant filters to replace deteriorating components and to enhance the structural capacity. The filters are a key part of the treatment process that are used throughout the year. The upgrades will also support future plans to increase the plant's capacity to meet growing water demand. Construction is occurring entirely within the plant so no impacts to neighbours are expected.

Lead management strategy – In 2019, Health Canada recognized the serious health impacts of lead by lowering the maximum allowable concentration in drinking water. While there is no lead in drinking water when it leaves our treatment plants, lead can still leach from home fixtures and other plumbing surfaces.

EPCOR has developed a multi-pronged lead management strategy that includes controlling corrosion in water services, plumbing and fixtures. As part of this strategy, we are constructing special facilities where we will add orthophosphate to the treated water at both the E.L. Smith and Rossdale water treatment plants. While this work is happening entirely within our sites, residents may notice noise, traffic and other impacts typical to construction.

The new facilities are expected to be in service by early 2023. To learn more, visit epcor.com/ortho.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY

Annual community clean-up

On June 8, the plant staff cleaned up the area around the plant to contribute to keeping Edmonton's River Valley safe, clean and attractive. We picked up litter and made note of graffiti that needs to be cleaned up by the City.

Land transfer update

As part of the kīsikāw pīsim solar farm project, EPCOR committed to transferring 31.5 acres of mostly forested land to the City of Edmonton for conservation and Ribbon of Green trails. We are now working to finalize this land transfer, and anticipate it will be completed later this year.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

EPCOR's Edmonton water and wastewater treatment plants are all situated in the river valley, within the Ribbon of Green. As we complete projects in this region, we have a unique opportunity to improve the environmental quality of areas within our plant fence lines.

To realize these improvements, we have begun to develop a vegetation management plan to improve overall ecological structure and function by initiating habitat restoration on our sites. The initiation phase will involve mapping current vegetation at each site and outlining a plan to increase natural areas as part of long-term planning. This could include wildflower/pollinator gardens, developing a diverse undergrowth and forest succession strategy around already treed areas, and planting more trees to support city-wide goals toward improving the urban forest. Watch for more information as this plan develops.

Use the QR code to read more and sign up for email updates about the E.L. Smith water treatment plant.



LET'S TALK

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