

August 28, 2023

AR-80736

Ivan Friesen, Manager  
Tracy Hemsing, Chair  
Eastern Irrigation District  
Box 128, 500 Industrial Road  
Brooks, AB T1R 1B2  
[ivan.friesen@eid.ca](mailto:ivan.friesen@eid.ca)  
[tracy.hemsing@eid.ca](mailto:tracy.hemsing@eid.ca)

Dear Ivan Friesen and Tracy Hemsing:

Below average snowmelt this spring and hot dry conditions this growing season have led to lower-than-normal water supplies in the provincial headwater reservoirs this autumn. While it appears we will be able to complete the 2023 irrigation season without significant detriment, the situation could become more dire for the 2024 season if we do not receive a normal volume of spring snowmelt.

As a precaution, the Government of Alberta has two requests:

1. Please conduct fall operations with a spirit of water conservation. For example, please consider minimizing post-harvest irrigation for unseeded acres and discretionary water use, as well as other water-saving techniques.
2. Please attend upcoming planning sessions. Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) is working out a detailed plan to optimize our situation regardless of spring weather outcomes. They are organizing meetings over the coming fall and winter to discuss options for next season, and your leadership's participation would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time, understanding and co-operation on these important matters. EPA staff will reach out to Eastern Irrigation District in the coming weeks regarding the planned consultations.

Sincerely,



Jason Hale  
Deputy Minister

cc: Kasha Piquette, Deputy Minister, Environment and Protected Areas