

It's been years in the making, but on September 1, 2016, the Sheep River Regional Utility Corporation (SRRUC) began full operations.

The SRRUC was established through the Quad Regional Water Partnership (QRWP), a collaboration of four municipalities, including the Towns of Turner Valley and Black Diamond, the Municipal District (MD) of Foothills, and the Village of Longview.

The SRRUC is now responsible for supplying water to the Towns of Turner Valley and Black Diamond. The SRRUC sub-contracts the operations of the water supply and treatment facilities to the Town of Turner Valley. The MD has invested in the system and is working to supply water to its residents in the Millarville area. These three member municipalities receive an allocation of the available water supply based on their proportional investment in the assets that supply the water.

Longview has not invested in the water supply, but remains involved to provide potential options to the Village for future water supply needs.

Water System Update

Sheep River Regional Utility Corporation

How the Corporation Operates

A corporation was the preferred model for governing the regional water system. The SRRUC was established on June 30, 2013. A Board of Directors made up of appointments from Class A shareholders (meaning shareholders allocated and invested in water supply capacity from the system) includes three representatives from Turner Valley, three from Black Diamond and one from the MD of Foothills.

SRRUC scope of service is to provide water to the municipalities in what is called a "wholesale water supply". The corporation currently has only two customers – the Town of Turner Valley and the Town of Black Diamond. The MD of Foothills will become the SRRUC's third customer once the MD establishes a service connection for Millarville to the regional system.

The SRRUC has no employees but instead contracts out all services. The operation of the water supply and treatment system is contracted to the Town of Turner Valley, while corporate administration is contracted to the MD of Foothills. An Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) grant is being used during start-up to help fund start-up services, such as developing policies and determining the best on-going operating and management structure for the SRRUC.

In order for the SRRUC to begin operations, the assets had to be purchased by the shareholders and transferred into the Corporation. To date, assets include:

- Pipeline between Turner Valley and Black Diamond
- The water treatment plant in Turner Valley
- The raw water reservoir in Turner Valley
- All water supply infrastructure (including wells, vaults and infiltration gallery)
- Metering buildings

In order for the SRRUC to operate the infrastructure, the Province transferred the Alberta Environment Approvals for the facilities and infrastructure to the SRRUC. However, each member municipality retains its own water license and assigns diversion of its water supply to the water infrastructure located on the Sheep River at Turner Valley. This assures that the water going through the treatment plant being provided to the member municipalities is licensed and allocated equitably.

Thanks for Your Patience and Continued Commitment!

December Update

What Changes will you see?

As an end water user, you will not see any difference in the format of your bills or any change in the water service you receive.

As customers of the SRRUC, Turner Valley and Black Diamond, continue to be responsible for distributing potable water to residents within their municipalities. This responsibility includes delivering the water, metering and billing for the water service. These operations are governed by the Province of Alberta through a Code of Practice.

SRRUC - How we got here:

In 2008, Black Diamond, Turner Valley, Longview and the Municipal District of Foothills formed a partnership to look into the feasibility of establishing a regional water system for delivering a 25-year plan for potable water supply.

The focus of work drastically changed, however, when the unprecedented flood of 2013 destroyed major components of

the existing water system. You may remember the emergency fire hose that transported water to Black Diamond from Turner Valley as the first of many emergency measures needed to ensure residents continued to have water.

Eventually, though, permanent infrastructure such as a pipeline from Turner Valley to Black Diamond and various wells,

vaults and metering facilities were added to the existing Turner Valley Water Treatment Plant and raw water reservoir to ensure a dependable system. The SRRUC is still working on some final additions of water supply in order to bring capacity to where it was prior to the flood.



Village of Longview