

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **What is this project about?**

Prairie Thermal Treatment Ltd. (Prairie Thermal) is part of the G-M Pearson group of companies (gmpearson.ca) and is proposing to build and operate a state-of-the-art incinerator for non-hazardous waste. It will be used to safely treat non-hazardous waste that requires complete destruction, including clinical wastes and sensitive industrial, commercial, or institutional wastes.

### **Why is a thermal treatment plant needed?**

The G-M Pearson group of companies handles waste that must be incinerated (some wastes are required by law to be incinerated), and has customers who would choose incineration for security reasons if a reasonably-priced service was available. Incineration capacity in Alberta will not meet market needs unless a new facility is developed. The proposed project will provide a reliable, stable, and efficient waste incineration option to meet these needs.

### **What is a thermal treatment plant?**

A thermal treatment plant is a facility that heats material until it undergoes chemical, physical, or biological changes. Prairie Thermal's thermal treatment plant is an incinerator, in which waste is heated until it combusts and is turned to ash and gas. The ash will be cooled and disposed of in an authorized off-site landfill. The gas will be further heated to continue combustion and then cooled to allow for treatment involving additives and filtration prior to exhaust via a stack. Gas composition will be monitored both internally for process control and as part of environmental monitoring.

### **What makes for a good site location? Why Forestburg?**

Forestburg was selected from a number of interested communities based on its high degree of community support, central location (within Alberta), trained workforce, reliable power, and access to water (for cooling).

### **Why hasn't it been built yet?**

A municipal development permit has been issued by the Village. An *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* approval application has been submitted to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP). AEP is reviewing the application. Public input will be formally invited to ensure that all affected parties have an

opportunity for input. The facility can only be built once it is approved by AEP. It is a long process, but it is meant to ensure the facility will be protective of human and environmental health.

### **What is the proposed schedule?**

Prairie Thermal hopes that AEP will approve the project in 2022 so that construction can begin in 2023 and the facility can be commissioned in 2024.

### **How will public safety be assured?**

The environmental application included studies conducted by independent consultants to ensure that the facility will be safe for area residents and the surrounding environment. The human health risk assessment (HHRA) shows no risk to human health. Emissions from the facility will be very carefully monitored to confirm that facility is performing in accordance with the provincial approval and consistent with the HHRA.

### **Will this project create job opportunities?**

The project will create approximately 22 full-time jobs and various contract opportunities.

### **Will there be noise from the facility?**

Noise was recognized as a potential nuisance and the main source is the ID fan. The ID fan will be situated in a below-grade area of the facility and housed in a surround to lower the noise emitted from the fan. A noise impact assessment shows that the project-related sound levels will be well below pre-project sound levels in the area.

### **How much traffic will there be?**

On average two to three trucks with trailers and one or two cube vans per day, plus personnel and contract vendor vehicles are expected.

### **How will this project affect taxpayers?**

No taxpayer funds are involved; the project is fully privately funded by the G-M Pearson group of companies. The facility lifespan is approximately 30 years and it will contribute to the village's tax base throughout its lifespan. The facility provides economical advanced waste management service to public and private sector generators. This keeps the money in Alberta.

**As a private company, who is G-M Pearson accountable to?**

G-M Pearson is accountable financially to its shareholders, environmentally to the province (and its citizens), and municipally to the towns and cities where its facilities are located.

**What are the environmental impacts associated with this facility?**

The facility is designed to control impact to the environment and includes a state-of-the-art air pollution control system. Predicted emissions to the atmosphere were subject to air dispersion modelling and results show that the facility will meet the ambient air quality objectives set by AEP. A project-specific human health risk assessment (HHRA) was conducted and concluded no impact to the health of the people living, working, and playing in the community.

**What specifically will be incinerated?**

The facility will be allowed to incinerate non-hazardous waste, including sensitive wastes, and wastes mandated (by law) to be incinerated. This will include biomedical waste from the waste collection operation of the G-M Pearson group of companies.

**I own property adjacent to this property. What will I see?**

You will see a warehouse-style building with 2 stacks. In winter you may see heat (steam) from one of the stacks. Activities will be centered in and around the building. No waste will be visible to the public. Images are available in the Documents section of the website.

**What kind and how much water do you need?**

Water used in the facility will be taken from surface water run-off from the site (water that falls on the parking lot, etc.) and will be supplemented by water from the Village (an agreement is in place). The facility is expected to require an average of approximately 36 m<sup>3</sup> / day of water when operating at capacity.

**Who does provincial environmental studies—and who pays for the studies?**

Qualified experts complete the environmental studies, paid for by Prairie Thermal. This is standard practice for environmental applications in Alberta. These studies are reviewed by technical experts as part of AEP's application review process.

**Does this type of plant let off a smell?**

Problematic smells are not expected due to the high temperature of combustion (greater than 860°C in the primary chamber, greater than 1,000 °C in the secondary chamber).

**I have a concern/complaint or would like more information. Where can I go?**

There is a contact form on the website. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

**I live in the Village and grow vegetables in my garden. Will these be safe to eat?**

Yes. The results of the HHRA show that the facility will have no adverse effect on soil quality in the area, even after 30 years of operation.