

Dear Honourable Minister Grant Hunter and Dr. Sarah Elmelegi, Banff-Kananaskis MLA,

Elbow River Estates Co-op (ERE) provides the drinking water to the residents in the Elbow River Estates community. It is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors who rely on a water specialist company to maintain and service the various system equipment involved in pumping and treating this drinking water.

The AEPA is the legislative division that oversees and monitors the activities of water providers.

The members/owners of the ERE Co-op who receive their water are relying on the above entities to provide them with safe and reliable drinking water.

Over the course of this year, member/owners and residents have reached out to the ERE Board of Directors, and AEPA staff to address concerns primarily stemming from a well drilled in January of 2023 (Well #4). Subsequently, the actual location of the water wells vs, the government website locations raised further concerns about the water quality being negatively affected by the location of those wells on an active golf course in the flood plain of the Elbow River. This river having experienced a 1/100-year flood in 2013, as well as a flood this spring that required the first activation of the SSR1 flood mitigation system.

Ms. Sydnie Aarsby has provided a tranche of documents in her October 7, 2026, email to me that I have reviewed and those reviews are in the attached documents. They are divided into Overall issues, Water Quality issues and ERE AGM minutes reporting the information received by the member/owners.

The Overall issues show a pattern of information, data, and follow-up failures on the part of the AEPA staff involved.

The Water Quality issues show a pattern of recorded data errors, testing failures and random testing inadequacy on the part of the AEPA staff involved and the water specialist company.

The ERE AGM information shows the failures of the Board of Directors to adequately inform the member/owners about their water system.

The ERE Board's actions both current and historically have been a source of serious anguish for those concerned residents who have tried and failed to affect meaningful changes with the ERE Board. Among them is me, a 26 year long resident of this community, and a previous Board member. My experience in this capacity led me and my husband to withdraw our membership in the Cooperative.

As a former leader of the Alberta Green Party, I take my civic duties seriously. Throughout these years in this community, I have continued my efforts to ensure the water source is safe for my neighbours.

The residents in this community only know what they are told or shown and when they are not being told, as was the case with the Well #4, how can we expect them to do more.

Ms. Sydnie Aarsby has told me that they rely on the public to identify issues that contravene the Water Act. Her own department was aware of Well #4 in 2024 and did nothing to ensure compliance.

Mr. Craig Knauss has stalwartly refused to apply the latest flood plain maps to the well locations so as to verify whether or not the wells fall under the Ground Water Under the Influence category. He has continued to apply a like for like well situation based on 45-year-old circumstances both in terms of flooding and golf course chemical usage.

The water testing for the specific proprietary golf course chemicals used by the Glencoe Golf and Country Club has not been done. I, as a citizen, will not be given those chemical lists to undertake private water sampling. As the testing lab has indicated, there are hundreds of possible chemicals to test for!

These failures by AEPA and the Board of Directors highlight the need to address how the vital delivery and handling of drinking water to our citizens requires an oversight that works.

For starters, these providers should be legislated to be run by professional Managers and not volunteers.

The AEPA needs to consider how it shares information with the recipients of drinking water.

Errors in reporting could have been caught earlier.

Accountability could have been demanded in a timely manner.

Instead, it has required me and others to spend our time, money, and energy to get the answers to some of the questions we have asked.

“No further information will be provided by EPA regarding this matter.” was the final line in Ms. Aarsby’s October 7th email.

What now, will actions be taken to correct these failures? Will the flood plain analyses be done? Will the golf course chemicals be tested for? Will the myriads of issues raised in my review documents be dealt with?

Your Truly,

Romy Tittel