An Overview of Developments Affecting Farm and Ranch Clients (or…Regulatory Alphabet Soup)

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I. INTRODUCTION

Remember that childhood song about Old MacDonald, who had a farm, “E-I, E-I, O”? Times were much simpler for Old MacDonald when we were kids. If Old MacDonald had a farm in Alberta now, he (or she) could have a lot more to cope with than simply “E-I, E-I, O”, including MGA, AOPA, EPEA, NRCB, AENV and AEUB, among others. This paper will provide an overview of a range of developments that may affect farms and ranches, and the regulatory systems that apply to those developments. It will highlight where and how the regulatory systems may overlap, cover the opportunities for farmers and ranchers affected by those developments to participate in the regulatory systems, and address appeal or review mechanisms. Additionally, this paper will supply practical and strategic pointers related to protecting the interests of farm and ranch clients when dealing with nearby developments.

II. TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT

The pace of economic growth in Alberta in recent years has led to increased development in many sectors and a corresponding pressure for multiple uses on the province’s land base. In many instances, this pressure has arisen in areas already used for agricultural purposes, bringing more and different types of neighbours to farmers and ranchers. Developments that may commonly affect farms and ranches include:

- Intensive livestock operations, statutorily referred to as confined feeding operations or “CFOs”;
- Water use or withdrawal projects;
- Water diversion projects; and
- Industrial facilities, such as manufacturing facilities.

Relevant regulatory systems that may apply to these developments include:

- **Municipal Government Act** (MGA), Part 17;¹

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