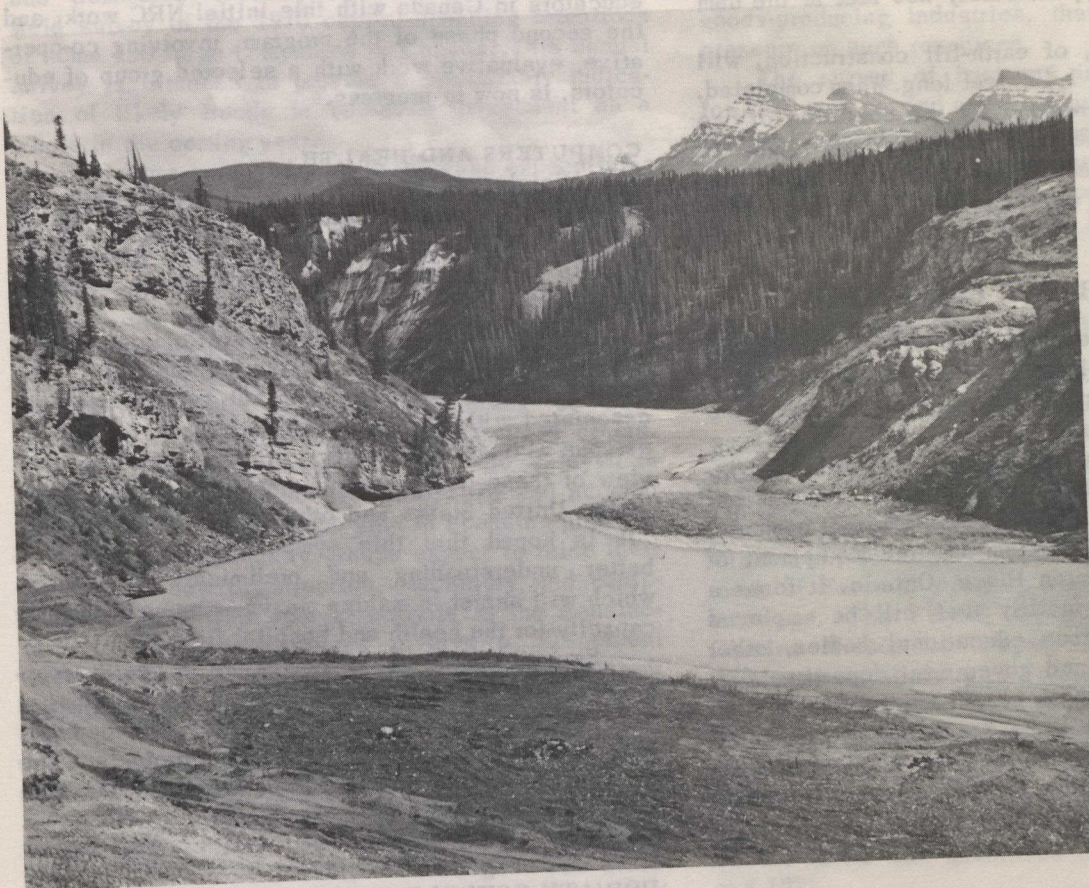


## NEW BIGHORN DAM



*Site of the Bighorn Dam, Alberta*

The key to the future distribution of Alberta's water resources between the northern and southern sections of the province is the \$32-million Bighorn Dam, the construction of which will begin early next year at a site 80 miles west of Rocky Mountain House.

The dam will make economically feasible the construction of engineering works needed to divert some of the North Saskatchewan River water into the Red Deer River system, making additional water available to the southeastern part of the province. Without the water control provided by the Bighorn, more costly diversion works would have to be installed downstream at future dam sites to divert the river from its bed.

Water diverted from the North Saskatchewan to the South Saskatchewan River system will help meet Alberta's commitment to Saskatchewan under the proposed Inter-Provincial Apportionment Agreement. This will release an equivalent amount of South Saskatchewan water for future irrigation development.

The Bighorn project and the water diversion works, which it makes possible, are vital parts of PRIME — a blueprint for water-development in Alberta based on the fact that most of the province's water is located in the north, while present and future needs are chiefly in the south.

### POLLUTION AND FLOOD CONTROL

Besides the long-term benefits, immediate results will be felt by the City of Edmonton in the form of pollution-abatement and flood-protection. The winter flow of the North Saskatchewan will be doubled from 2,000 to 4,000 cubic feet a second releasing water stored during the summer peak-flow period. This same storage capacity will permit the peak flow to be reduced providing flood-control.

Clearing of the 13,700-acre, 20-mile reservoir area is being conducted under the supervision of the Alberta Department of Lands and Forests. Work started last February and is expected to be completed by March 1, 1970. The entire area is being completely cleared of trees and brush to the high-water line established by provincial survey crews. Salvageable timber is cut by a saw mill operator before clearing-crews move in. It is expected that one million board feet of usable timber will be salvaged. Brush and trees remaining are burned. Clearing is being handled with a view to creating a recreational area around the newly-created lake.

The only buildings on the reservoir site, with the exception of a few derelict log huts, are at the Alberta Forest Service Ranger Station, near the south end of the valley. These will be moved before the area is flooded.