

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Hydro
PROPOSAL NAME: Grand Rapids Walleye Spawning
Enhancement Project

CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Two
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Water Development and Control
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4282.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on November 13, 1997. It was dated November 13, 1997. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by Manitoba Hydro for the construction of walleye spawning enhancement works in the Spillway Channel at the Grand Rapids Generating Station. The works would consist of low containment dykes and rockfill riffle structures in the lower portion of the Spillway Channel. A low barrier would also be constructed upstream of the enhancement works to prevent the stranding of fish in the upper portion of the channel. The Spillway Channel currently passes little or no water in approximately six years out of seven. With the project, the spillway would be operated to provide low flows through the enhancement works during the spring and early summer in years when the channel would otherwise be dry. The works would be constructed with materials from the channel bottom. Construction would occur in the early winter of 1997, with first use of the works planned for the spring of 1998.”

The Proposal was advertised in The Pas Opasquia Times on Friday, November 21, 1997. It was placed in the Main, Centennial and Eco-Network public registries, and in the office of the Town of Grand Rapids as a public registry location. It was also distributed to TAC members on November 18, 1997. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was November 28, 1997.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public responses were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Environment - Water Quality Management No water quality concerns. The only effects to water quality may be from suspended sediment during construction, but this is expected to be minimal and only short term.

Historic Resources Branch Heritage resources were recorded along the north bank of the Saskatchewan River in the early 1960s during archaeological impact assessment prior to

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the construction of the Grand Rapids hydro-electric facilities. Although the spawning enhancement project requires a minimal amount of excavation along the riverbank, the proposal does indicate that modification of the channel bed is required to provide habitat conditions. Construction will also require some excavation and reconfiguration of the channel bed materials to form the required water management structures. Therefore, there is the potential for heritage objects to be dredged from the river channel and deposited along the riverbank when the channel is modified. The Branch will send its Impact Evaluation Archaeologist to monitor the excavations and collect any significant heritage objects. This will require at least three days notice prior to the commencement of excavation to allow sufficient travel time. A copy of the findings will be provided upon completion of the monitoring.

Disposition: Notification of the Historic Resources Branch can be provided as a licence condition.

Highway Planning and Design Branch No concerns.

Industry, Trade and Tourism No objections.

Health - Medical Officer of Health - Nor-Man Region No identified public health concerns. Would appreciate receiving copies of the annual reports while the project is underway.

Disposition: This request will be forwarded to the Proponent.

Natural Resources Some fish loss due to avian predators may occur in the rewatered area. If this is a concern, mitigation measures should be considered.

Disposition: This comment will be forwarded to the proponent for information.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to the project will not be required. DFO has an interest in the project and would like to participate in the provincial review.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

DFO has no concerns with the technical aspects of the enhancement works. The project could be used by Manitoba Hydro to further increase knowledge on the spawning habitat suitability requirements of walleye. Perhaps Manitoba Hydro could further examine not only whether the enhancement works produce walleye at flows in the 500 cfs range, but what modifications could be made to maximize productivity of walleye. Flow, depth, velocity and/or substrate could be varied over a number of years to define a habitat suitability index for walleye in the Lake Winnipeg area. This would be valuable information that could be used for future walleye enhancement works.

Disposition: These comments have already been forwarded to the Proponent by CEAA.

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Indian and Northern Affairs Will forward a copy of the Proposal to the Grand Rapids First Nation for their information.

PUBLIC HEARING:

As no public concerns were identified, a public hearing is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

All comments received on the Proposal can be addressed as licence conditions. Therefore, it is recommended that the Development be licensed under The Environment Act subject to the limits, terms and conditions as described on the attached Draft Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended that enforcement of the Licence be assigned to the Northern Region.

PREPARED BY:

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Environmental Approvals - Environmental Land Use Approvals

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