

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROPOSER:** MR. ALLAN J. MERRITT  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE CONSUMERS  
CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** 1  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** BULK HANDLING - GRANULAR FERTILIZER -  
ANHYDROUS AMMONIA  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 4347:00

### **OVERVIEW:**

On June 16, 1998, Manitoba Environment received a Proposal dated June 11, 1998, to construct, install and operate a bulk granular fertilizer blending/storage, an anhydrous ammonia storage tank, and distribution facilities to be located the NW ¼ 6-11-4 WPM in the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie. The proponent plans to install a permanent mounted 20,000 gallon anhydrous ammonia storage vessel and a 7-bin inline, 650 tonne, granular fertilizer facility. In addition the site will house an office and weigh scale. The site will be secured by a chain link fence. The hours of operation are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm with extended hours during the peak agricultural season.

The proposal was advertised in the Portage Herald published on Tuesday July 7, 1998. The proposal was placed in the Public Registries at the Centennial Public Library, the Portage Plains Regional Library, and the Environment Library (Main). The proposal was distributed to TAC on June 30, 1998, with the closing date for TAC and Public comments on July 31, 1998.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

A letter strongly opposing the construction and operation of this facility was received from Ms. Sandra Boyachek along with a 28 name petition. Their concerns include the risk of spilled materials entering shallow wells and contaminating their drinking water supply and possibly the Elm River. They are also concerned with noxious fumes which may result in the event of a spill or leakage. In addition concerns include increased risk from road accidents resulting from farm trucks turning at the development.

#### Disposition

These concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency** state that based on their staff survey, application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* with respect to this proposal is not required.

**Culture, Heritage and Recreation - Historic Resources** has no concern with regard to its potential impact on heritage resources.

**Natural Resources - Policy Coordination Branch** have reviewed this proposal and state that this facility should comply with the Agrichemical Warehousing Standards. In addition they state

the site likely overlies a shallow aquifer and that monitoring wells should be considered for this site.

Disposition

The CPI Warehouse Standards do not apply to fertilizer facilities, but the concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

**Health** concerns are that there is adequate protection against fires and chemical spills and that the proponent develop an emergency response plan.

Disposition

The concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

**Rural Development** advise that the proposed development is located in an area designated Agriculture in the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie Development Plan. Fertilizer storage is permitted within this designation. The area is zoned "A80" Agricultural Zone in the Rural Municipalities Zoning By-law. Agro-related businesses are a Conditional Use in this zone and require the approval of Council. Minimum site area required for the development is 5 acres.

**Highways** state that the proponent may be required to enter into an agreement with Manitoba Highways and Transportation to cover potential liability issues which may be associated with the accidental discharge arising from this operation. PTH 13 is a Limited Access Highway under the Highways Protection Act which requires permits for adjacent structures. Highways requires setbacks of 100 metres from the edge of PTH 13 right-of-way for anhydrous ammonia tanks.

**Environmental Management** Water Quality has reviewed the proposal and following discussion with the proponent has no surface water quality concerns.

**Environmental Operations** state that the closest residence is approximately 425 to 450 metres from the proposed site. There are approximately eight residences in the general vicinity, however all are a half mile and up to a mile from the proposed site.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

- No public hearing will be conducted.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

TAC concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

The responsibility for enforcement of the Licence should remain with Approvals Branch until the proponent complies with Clauses 3, 9, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

A draft Environment Act Licence is attached for the Director's consideration.

PREPARED BY:

K. W. Plews P.Ag  
Manager  
Pesticide/Fertilizer Approvals  
August 14, 1998

Telephone: (204) 945-7067  
Fax: (204) 945-5229  
E-mail Address: [kplews@env.gov.mb.ca](mailto:kplews@env.gov.mb.ca)