

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Minnedosa Fish Enhancement Committee
PROPOSAL NAME: Minnedosa Dam Fishway Development
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Two
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Water Development and Control
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4420.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on February 25, 1999. It was dated February 22, 1999. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Minnedosa Fish Enhancement Committee for the construction of a fishway at the Minnedosa Dam. The fishway would consist of a sloped pool and riffle system on the downstream side of the dam with a stoplog controlled inlet near the top of the dam. The design is similar to a fishway constructed at the Rapid City dam several years ago. Construction of the fishway is proposed for September, 1999.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Minnedosa Tribune on Tuesday, March 16, 1999. It was placed in the Main, Centennial, Eco-Network and Western Manitoba Regional Library (Brandon) public registries. It was distributed to TAC members on March 9, 1999. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was April 9, 1999.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public comments were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Environment - Park-West Region - Time limits should be in place as to when exposed areas are revegetated. All spills should be reported as per MR 437/87. Spill recovery equipment should be on hand for petroleum spills. Wastes should be disposed of at a registered WDG as per MR 150/91. Construction equipment should be maintained at a high level in order to minimize spills of petroleum products.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed as licence conditions.

Manitoba Environment - Water Quality Management - No major water quality concerns. The main impact to water quality would be sediment contribution to the Little Saskatchewan River during construction and the proposed precautions appear reasonable to avoid excessive loading to the river. Construction during the fall when river flows

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tend to be lower and curtailing construction during heavy precipitation events should help reduce sediment loading during the construction period. Riprap armouring of the dyke, geotextile lining and riprapping of the channel and grass seeding exposed excavated areas should mitigate most sediment contribution concerns for the operating regime following construction. This project is similar to two other projects in Manitoba and these have been a benefit to the fish community at these locations.

Disposition:

The proposed construction practices can be required as licence conditions.

Historic Resources Branch - No concerns.

Mines Branch - No concerns.

Community Economic Development - No concerns.

Medical Officer of Health - Marquette Regional Health Authority - Comments: Minimize the risk of contamination by fuel or chemical spills during construction, ensure appropriate waste disposal as per existing environmental regulations. Dust, noise, gaseous and particulate emissions during construction may be a concern.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed as licence conditions where appropriate. Waste disposal should not be a concern as no demolition is required to construct the project.

Natural Resources - No environmental concerns. However, before the project proceeds, the department would like to review the following information: Drawings of a readable scale; operating rules for the reservoir including maximum probable elevation; embankment material classification based on Unified Classification System; flow net/seepage analysis at proposed conduit, before and after conditions; drawings sealed by a Professional Engineer.

Disposition:

Sealed drawings for the project are already available. This request for information was forwarded to the Fisheries Branch of Natural Resources (representing the Proponent) to be addressed internally.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency - An environmental assessment under The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this project will not be required. Fisheries and Oceans, Natural Resources Canada and Environment Canada would be able to provide specialist advice in accordance with Section 12(3) of the Act.

Fisheries and Oceans - DFO is supportive of these types of projects. The current project is especially noteworthy as its objective is to address a long-standing obstruction to fish passage between reaches of the Little Saskatchewan River that have already received considerable rehabilitation efforts. DFO has no concerns regarding potential impacts to

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fish and fish habitat that may result from the construction of the fishway, as it appears that appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed for instream construction. Provided that these measures are implemented, it is concluded that the project is not likely to result in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. Notwithstanding the foregoing, fishways are also subject to approval pursuant to Section 20 of the Fisheries Act. Should the proponent wish to obtain Section 20 approval for the fishway, formal application should be made to DFO.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed as licence conditions.

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, or internally with Manitoba Natural Resources. 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 Park-West Region.

PREPARED BY:

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Environmental Approvals

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May 31, 1999

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