

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROPONENT:** Rural Municipality of Pipestone  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** Reston Wastewater Treatment Lagoon  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** 2  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Waste/Scrap Wastewater Treatment Lagoon  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 4761.00

### **OVERVIEW:**

On March 20, 2002, the Department received a Proposal from Stantec Consulting Ltd. on behalf of the Rural Municipality of Pipestone for a Development to construct and operate a new wastewater treatment lagoon to replace the existing Reston Wastewater Treatment Lagoon. The lagoon facility will be located on the north-east quarter of Section 5-7-27 WPM. The treated wastewater will be discharged to an existing natural wetland, through municipal ditches and eventually down the same discharge route as the existing facility, which drains east into Stony Creek and Maple Lake. The existing wastewater treatment lagoon will be decommissioned.

The Department, on April 2, 2002, placed copies of the Proposal in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station), the Centennial Public Library, the Border Regional Library and the Rural Municipality of Pipestone Office. As well, copies of the Proposal were provided to the Interdepartmental Planning Board and TAC members. The Department placed a public notification of the Proposal in the Virden Empire-Advance on Saturday, April 6, 2002 and the Reston Recorder on Tuesday, April 9, 2002. The newspaper and TAC notification invited responses until May 6, 2002.

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

No comments were received from the Public.

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

#### **Agriculture and Food**

- *No comment.*

#### **Conservation - Sustainable Resource Management**

- *No information is provided about the species composition, hydrology and present water quality of the wetland, the potential impacts of the effluent on the wetland habitat or the effluent treatment/refining capacity of this wetland.*

- *If the licence allows the proponent to proceed without a liner it is recommended that an intensive post-construction sampling effort be undertaken to ensure that a uniform substrate of sufficient hydraulic conductivity has been achieved.*
- *The proposal does not include a drainage map clearly identifying the discharge route and receiving stream.*
- *If wastewater discharge by seepage out of the existing lagoons is causing groundwater impacts what will be the impact of discharging the new lagoons into the same feature via the existing ditch network? The proponent should address whether there is a groundwater supply potential from the shallow sand and gravel in the meltwater channel, what the quality of this groundwater is and if there is any use of this groundwater down the channel.*
- *The proponent should actively participate in any future watershed based watershed management study, plan and/or nutrient reduction program, approved by the Director, for Stony Creek, Maple Lake and associated waterways and watersheds.*

Disposition:

- The Proponent provided additional information. The wetland will be used for polishing treated effluent the meets Manitoba Water Quality Standards, Objectives and Guidelines.
- The Draft Licence requires post-construction sampling of the lagoon liner to ensure it meets the specified hydraulic conductivity requirements.
- The Proponent provided information concluding that there would be no impact on existing wells from the treated effluent from the new lagoon. The wells are located a minimum of 2 kilometres downstream.
- The Draft Licence requires the Proponent to participate in a watershed management study, plan and/or nutrient reduction program should one be developed for Stony Creek, Maple Lake and associated waterways and watersheds.

Further comment from Waster Quality Management Section:

- *The proponent has indicated that they are prepared to install a monitoring well near the adjacent wetland east of the proposed lagoon, or one-half to one kilometre downstream of the bridge along the effluent drainage route. The proponent should be required to consult with groundwater specialists in our Department in the siting and sampling protocol for this monitoring well.*

Disposition:

- The proponent has identified negligible impact to groundwater along the effluent drainage route. Considering that there will be a maximum of two discharges per year, the potential impact to groundwater along the discharge route is negligible. The draft Licence does not include a requirement to install a groundwater monitoring well.

**Culture, Heritage and Tourism - Historic Resources**

- *No concerns.*

### **Health**

- *The need for fencing, gates and warning signs should be included in the licence to ensure public safety.*
- *Inclusion of the odour nuisance clause should be considered.*
- *Discharge of effluent should be in compliance with guidelines.*
- *Containment design (clay liner) should provide the best possible groundwater protection for the area.*

Disposition:

- The above noted concerns are addressed in the Draft Licence.

### **Transportation and Government Services**

- *No concerns. Provincial Road 252 was transferred to the Rural Municipality in 1992 and Manitoba Transportation and Government Services no longer has jurisdiction on the road allowance adjacent to the existing lagoon.*

### **Intergovernmental Affairs**

- *No concerns.*

### **Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency**

- *Application of The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this proposal will be required. The coordinating contact is Ivan Didiuk on behalf of Western Economic Diversification.*
- *The following comments were provided by Environment Canada:*
  - *The report lacks information to substantiate the conclusions reached on potential environmental impacts. Conflicting information is provided regarding potential fisheries impacts.*
  - *The report implies that there are no potential impacts to fish populations if effluent is discharged after June 16. This is not accurate, since varying levels of ammonia are present in wastewater effluents at all times of the year and may impact on fish and other aquatic species at any time of the year.*
  - *Statements indicating that there are “no pollutants to be released” and there will be “no impact on surface water or groundwater” are not accurate since we are not aware of any wastewater treatment systems that do not release pollutants or have other potential impacts.*
  - *Additional supporting information should be provided on project need and alternatives. The infiltration problem will apparently be examined, but it is not clear how this will be done and what efforts will be made to remedy this problem rather than building a new lagoon.*
  - *Given the presence of sand and silt in the soils at the site, and the need to ensure proper mixing to meet soil hydraulic conductivity standards, the report should indicate what steps will be taken to ensure sufficient impermeability once the lagoon is constructed.*

Disposition:

- The proponent indicated that the drainage route to Stony Creek is intermittent and does not contain fish.
- The Draft Licence requires that effluent meet standard quality requirements and that no effluent be discharged between the 1st day of November of any year and the 15th day of June of the following year.
- The Proponent provided a summary of the project need and alternatives considered. The Proponent indicated that a recent study of the sewage collection system has resulted in identification of necessary repairs which will significantly reduce the infiltration into the system.
- The Draft Licence requires post-construction sampling of the lagoon liner to ensure it meets the specified hydraulic conductivity requirements.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

A public hearing is not recommended.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Proponent should be issued a Licence for the construction and operation of the wastewater treatment lagoon in accordance with the specifications, terms and conditions of the attached draft Licence. Enforcement of the Licence should be assigned to the Approvals Branch until the soil testing has been completed.

PREPARED BY:

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July 24, 2002

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