

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Hydro
PROPOSAL NAME: Shoal Lake Natural Gas Expansion Project
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transmission
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5133.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was dated September 1, 2005 and received on September 6, 2005. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by Manitoba Hydro to construct and operate a natural gas feeder and distribution mains to and in the community of Shoal Lake. The source of natural gas to Shoal Lake will be from Manitoba Hydro’s existing facility located within Hamiota. A high density polyethylene feeder line will bring the natural gas from Hamiota’s Station to Shoal Lake. The Shoal lake Natural Gas Project has received funding from the Canada-Manitoba Economic Partnership Agreement administered by Western Economic Diversification Canada. Construction of the project is scheduled to begin during May 1996.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Shoal Lake Crossroads, This Week on Saturday, September 24, 2005. It was placed in the Main/ St. James-Assiniboia Registry the Manitoba Eco-Network and the Border Regional Library in Virden. Copies of the Proposal were also made available for review at Hamiota and Shoal Lake Municipal Offices. Comments were requested by October 19, 2005. On November 9, 2005 Manitoba Hydro filed a notice for a minor alteration to alignment in NE 8-15-23W and SE 17-15-23W.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public responses were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Conservation Comment as follows:

- Project activities should not extend onto Crown land
- Any impacts to the permanent wetland in NE 9-15-23W and SE 16-15-23W or any other wetland along the proposed route should be mitigated through the Wetlands Habitat Mitigation Program.
- Under The Endangered Species Act the proponent is responsible to inspect the pipeline route prior to and during construction to determine if any species listed in the Act may be impacted. If species are present the proponent must contact the Biodiversity Conservation Section of the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch to discuss mitigation options.

Disposition: Comments can be accommodated as conditions of the Licence.

Water Stewardship Recommend that:

- appropriate agencies be advised in advance of any open cut crossing of a stream or wetland to provide sufficient time for site inspections and approval by Water Stewardship.
- soil on disturbed be reseeded with native grasses and herbs to control erosion.
- No in-water work for water crossings or work that could result in sediment entering the watercourse between April 1 and June 15 of any year.
- All instream and riparian work along waterbodies will be in accordance with *Watercourse Crossings, Second Edition (CPWCC, 1999)*
- The Manitoba Stream Crossings Guidelines for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat (DFO and MNR 1996) be followed.
- Temporary and permanent erosion control measures be used as needed to prevent sediment from entering streams/drains both during and after construction until the sites have stabilized.

Disposition: Comments can be accommodated as conditions of the Licence

Petroleum Branch No concerns.

Mines Branch No concerns

Historic Resources Branch No concerns.

Agriculture No concerns.

Health Potential health hazards include:

- Waste disposal is managed in accordance with existing regulations
- Dust, noise, gaseous and particulate emissions do not become a concern during construction

Disposition: The Licence will require that used oil and other regulated hazardous wastes are disposed in accordance with regulatory requirements. Dust, noise, and emissions from the construction will not be significant due to the rural location and the nature of the work.

Transportation & Government Services (MTGS) No objection to the project, but offer the following comments for consideration.

- An underground agreement with MTGS will be required for the placement of the proposed gas line within Provincial Trunk Highway No. 21 right-of-way
- The proposed gas line should be located near the edge of the highway right-of-way, outside of the work area required for future upgrading of PTH 21.
- Construction areas should be restored to pre-construction conditions and maintained for 2 years following construction. Erosion control may be required within the highway right-of-way.
- The proponent should contact MTGS for additional information.

Disposition: Erosion control will be a requirement of the Licence. The requirement for an agreement between MTGS and the proponent and the location of the pipeline within the highway right-of-way will be forwarded to the proponent as information for direct followup with MTGS.

Intergovernmental Affairs & Trade No concerns. Recommend that the proposal be circulated to MT&GS and affected Municipal Councils for comment.

Disposition: This information has been forwarded to MT&GS and affected Municipal Councils as part of the Environment Act review.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEEA) Advise that:

- Western Economic Diversification (WD) will conduct an EA of the project under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act due to federal funding requirements.
- Fisheries and Oceans will review contingency plans that Manitoba Hydro may have for open cut trenches if directional drilling is not possible at any waterbody along the proposed route.

Disposition: A licence condition will specify that only non-disruptive crossing techniques may be used. Separate approval will need to be obtained for open cut crossings.

Environment Canada Environmental considerations have been addressed in the project description.

PUBLIC HEARING:

As no 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 licenced 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 Western Region.

PREPARED BY:

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November 9, 2005
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