

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Town of Minitonas
PROPOSAL NAME: Town of Minitonas Water Treatment Plant

CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: One
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Waste Disposal - Water Treatment Plants
(Wastewater)

CLIENT FILE NO.: 5511.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on March 11, 2011. It was dated March 4, 2011. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Manitoba Water Services Board on behalf of the Town of Minitonas for the construction and operation of a pipeline to discharge reject water from the Town’s reverse osmosis water treatment plant to the East Favel River directly west of the water treatment plant. No changes are proposed to the existing water treatment process. Reject water is currently discharged to the Town’s wastewater treatment lagoon. The proposed project would reduce hydraulic loading on the lagoon by removing an input stream with a relatively large volume and no organic content. The reject water stream of 0.37 litres per second constitutes 22% of the raw water pumped by the water treatment plant, and contains elevated levels of hardness, iron, total dissolved solids, sodium, sulphate, fluoride and chloride removed during the treatment process. The reject water would not appreciably change the quality of water in the river due to its low volume. Construction of the pipeline is proposed for the summer of 2011, with operation commencing shortly afterwards.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Swan River Star and Times on Tuesday, March 29, 2011. It was placed in the Main, Eco-Network, Millennium Public Library (Winnipeg) and Minitonas Public Library public registries. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on March 24, 2011. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was April 29, 2011.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public comments were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Conservation – Sustainable Resource and Policy Management Branch, Land Programs Branch No concerns.

Manitoba Conservation – Parks and Natural Areas Branch No comments.

Manitoba Conservation – Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch No concerns.

Manitoba Conservation – Air Quality Section No comments or concerns.

Manitoba Conservation, Environmental Operations Branch In the matter of the treatment plant, one concern comes up about the RO filter water entering the lagoon creating excessive hydraulic loading. The discharge of this water into the lagoon would increase excess hydraulic loading.

Disposition:

The proposal is intended to remove the existing discharge of reject water into the lagoon, thus reducing hydraulic loading on the facility.

Manitoba Water Stewardship – Planning and Coordination Branch

- Manitoba Water Stewardship recommends an *Environment Act* Licence to include the following requirements:
 - Prior to the commencement of operation of the proposed development, the Licencee is required to develop and implement a monitoring program, subject to the approval of Manitoba Water Stewardship.
 - A monitoring program shall include monitoring downstream of the water treatment plant for the first two open water seasons of operation and submit results, within one month of the end of each season to Manitoba Water Stewardship. A monitoring program shall include the parameters: flow, hardness, iron, manganese, TDS, nitrate–nitrite.
 - Note: Has the Town of Minitonas determined if there are livestock or irrigation water users located downstream of the water treatment plant? The East Favel River flow values used in the calculations within the proposal were estimated.

Further, the concentrations used were based on a single sampling event. This data may not reflect actual conditions. The proponent needs to determine the actual conditions and how the water quality may impact current or future users.

- The Licencee shall conduct the proposed horizontal drilling, when constructing the pipeline and outfall, in accordance to a Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada operational statement or horizontal drilling plans shall be reviewed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
 - Note: Mitigation measures must be identified in an *Environment Act* Licence.
- Manitoba Water Stewardship submits the following comments:
 - Manitoba Water Stewardship does not object to this proposal, at this time.
 - The Manitoba Department of Water Stewardship is mandated to ensure the sustainable development of Manitoba's water resources. Manitoba Water Stewardship is committed to the goals of: protecting aquatic ecosystem health; ensuring drinking water is safe and clean for human health; managing water-related risks for human security; and stewarding the societal and economic values of our waterways, lakes and wetlands; for the best water for all life and lasting prosperity. Manitoba Water Stewardship achieves these goals, in part, through administering legislation, including *The Water Protection Act*, *The Water Rights Act*, and *The Water Power Act*.
 - The proponent needs to be informed of the following for information purposes:
 - Erosion and sediment control measures should be implemented until all of the sites have stabilized.
 - *The Water Rights Act* requires a person to obtain a valid licence to control water or construct, establish or maintain any "water control works." "Water control works" are defined as any dyke, dam, surface or subsurface drain, drainage, improved natural waterway, canal, tunnel, bridge, culvert borehole or contrivance for carrying or conducting water, that temporarily or permanently alters or may alter the flow or level of water, including but not limited to water in a water body, by any means, including drainage, OR changes or may change the location or direction of flow of water, including but not limited to water in a water body, by any means, including drainage. If a proposal advocates any of the aforementioned

activities, a person is required to submit an application for a Water Rights Licence to Construct Water Control Works. A person may contact the following Water Resource Officer to obtain an application and/or obtain information.

- A contact person is Mr. Ed MacKay, C.E.T., Senior Water Resource Officer, Water Control Works and Drainage Licensing, Manitoba Water Stewardship, 1129 Queens Avenue, Brandon, Manitoba R7A 1L9, telephone: (204) 726-6226, email: ed.mackay@gov.mb.ca.

Disposition:

These comments were provided to the proponent's consultant for information. Several of the items can be addressed through licence conditions.

Manitoba Innovation, Energy and Mines, Mines Branch No concerns.

Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation - Highway Planning and Design Branch No concerns.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency I have undertaken a survey of federal departments with respect to determining interest in the project noted above. I can confirm that the project information provided has been distributed to all federal departments with a potential interest. Based on the responses to the survey the application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act) by a federal authority will **not** be required for this project. I have enclosed copies of the received responses for your file.

I can confirm that the project information was shared with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Health Canada (HC) and Environment Canada (EC) as part of the federal coordination process.

DFO and HC indicated they possess expert knowledge related to their mandates, which could be provided to a Responsible Authority if requested. Please see the attached letter from HC. DFO would like to be kept informed of the provincial review for this project.

EC has reviewed the project information and indicate it can contribute its expertise to a responsible authority if a formal request for information is made. EC has also provided a letter of advice for the proponent related to effluent quality guidelines.

Disposition:

Federal comments were provided directly to the proponent by CEAA.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

No additional information was required to address Technical Advisory Committee comments on the project.

PUBLIC HEARING:

As no public requests for a hearing were filed, a public hearing is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

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 Western Regional office of the Environmental Operations Branch.

PREPARED BY:

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May 10, 2011
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