



Conservation and Water Stewardship

Climate Change and Environmental Protection Division
Environmental Approvals Branch
123 Main Street, Suite 160, Winnipeg Manitoba R3C 1A5
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www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eal

File: 5059.00

April 12, 2013

Mr. Charles Liu, M.Sc., P.Eng.
DGH Engineering Ltd.
12 Aviation Boulevard
St. Andrews, MB R1A 3N5

Dear Mr. Liu:

Re: Rock Lake Holding Ltd. - Domestic Wastewater Treatment Lagoon - Environment Act Proposal

The initial review of *The Environment Act* Proposal (EAP) regarding the Rock Lake Holding Ltd. - Domestic Wastewater Treatment Lagoon has been completed.

The review has generated requests for additional information. Please respond to the comments and requests from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) presented in the attached item being:

1. E-mail from Water Use Licensing Section, Regulatory Services Branch, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, dated February 10, 2013;
2. E-mail from Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring Section, Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, dated February 15, 2013; and
3. E-mail from Fisheries Science and Fish Culture Section, Fisheries Branch, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, dated February 27, 2013.

In addition, please address and provide detailed responses to the comments, concerns, questions and requests for additional information from the public presented in the attached item being:

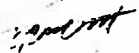
4. E-mail from Bill Massey, Chair Concerned Citizens of Grosse Isle, dated March 1, 2013.

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Please address and respond to the comments and requests for additional information. The EAP review process will continue upon receipt of your response.

If you have any questions please contact me at (204) 945-2614 or by e-mail at Rafiqul.Chowdhury@gov.mb.ca.

Yours truly,


Rafiqul Chowdhury, M.Eng., P.Eng.
Environmental Engineer

Attachments

- c. Don Labossiere, Director, Environmental Compliance and Enforcement
Public Registries

From: Matthews, Rob (MWS)
Sent: February-10-13 11:12 AM
To: Chowdhury, Rafiqul (CON)
Cc: McCombe, Christopher (MWS); Thibert, Lorraine (MWS); Dey, Asit (MWS)
Subject: RE: Request for TAC Review/Comments - Rock Lake Colony Wastewater Treatment Lagoon - File: 5059.00 - Comment deadline: Mar. 7, 2013

Rafiqul,

The Water Use Licensing Section rarely has reason to comment on an application for an Environment Act Licence for a Wastewater Treatment Lagoon.

However, the information contained in such applications on hydraulic loadings provides us with a useful check on compliance issues pertaining to the process that we administer, the use of water in excess of amounts that require licensing under The Water Rights Act.

Based on an annual hydraulic loading of 9200 cubic meters this community should have a water rights licence for municipal use but it does not.

This may be because they receive their treated water supplies from the regional water distribution system but the report does not indicate where the colony gets its water from.

Sometimes these reports include this information but in many cases they do not. In this case it does not.

Can you please ask the proponent where the colony gets its treated water from?

Thanks,

Rob Matthews
945-6118



From: Wiens, Jonathan (CON)
Sent: February-15-13 9:15 AM
To: Chowdhury, Rafiqul (CON)
Subject: FW: Request for TAC Review/Comments - Rock Lake Colony Wastewater Treatment Lagoon - File: 5059.00 - Comment deadline: Mar. 7, 2013

Wildlife Branch does not have any concerns with the proposed project Client File #5059.00, but offers the following comment:

It is important to note that this region of Manitoba attracts large numbers of migrating Canada Geese. Any future land use developments (e.g. green space, water features, lagoons) need to consider the possibility of attracting geese, which may create conflicts with neighbours or lagoon operations. Wildlife Branch recommends that the project proponent consider this potential conflict during the planning phase and incorporate any required mitigation.

Wildlife Branch recommends that the project proponent consider reviewing the following website for more information:

http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/problem_wildlife/waterfowl_cranes.html

The proponent may also want to contact the Urban Goose Management Committee for more information.

Jonathan Wiens, MSc
Habitat Specialist
Manitoba Conservation
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From: Janusz, Laureen R (MWS)
Sent: February-27-13 9:00 AM
To: Chowdhury, Rafiqul (CON)
Cc: Klein, Geoff (MWS); Long, Jeff (MWS)
Subject: File 5059.00 Rock Lake Colony Wastewater Treatment Lagoon - due Mar. 7, 2013

Hi Rafiqul,

Fisheries Branch has reviewed this request to construct a new two cell wastewater treatment lagoon for Rock Lake Holding Ltd in SE 1-13-1 W. The cells will have a one meter clay liner. Effluent will be discharged to Colony Creek which flows into Sturgeon Creek, a tributary to the Assiniboine River, between June 15th and November 1st. Stone rip rap will be installed in the creek at the discharge location to protect the creek from erosion. The anticipated wastewater volume is 8,000 m3.

Fisheries Branch has a couple of concerns with this proposal. First it appears that the new lagoon location is almost adjacent to Colony Creek. Not sure if there are any setback requirements adjacent to surface waters for wastewater treatment lagoons but in the Provincial Land Use Policies we request 15 m adjacent from the high water mark of 1st and 2nd order creeks and 30 m on 3rd order and higher and lakes be retained as native vegetation. Is it possible to ensure a minimum of 15 m between the base of the outer cell and the creek?

Given the proximity of the proposed lagoon in the effluent is being discharged directly into Colony Creek. Fisheries Branch doesn't have a lot of fish information for this creek but know that it does support, at least seasonally, small bodied fish species. It also drains into Sturgeon Creek which provides habitat for large and small bodied fish species. The applicants do not mention the requirement to meet phosphorous limits and so have not discussed any nutrient reduction strategies. Would they not need to meet this requirement? If so could they please provide ideas on how they will.

It is important that the effluent meet or exceed Manitoba Water Quality Standards, Objectives and Guidelines at all times. It would also be more beneficial if the discharge outlet was located on the opposite side of the secondary cell so a longer discharge channel could be constructed for the effluent to travel prior to entering Second Creek. If they have to implement a nutrient reduction strategy a longer discharge channel with perhaps some pools could act to uptake nutrients if trickle discharge was implemented. Generally not sure when nutrient reduction strategies use uptake in the receiving surface water if Water Science Management requests monitoring but from our perspective it would be beneficial for the proponents to monitor the effluent in Colony Creek to confirm effectiveness.. At least for a few years following the project and under different flow regimes.

Also it would be good to have the standard clause requesting erosion and sediment control measures during and after construction until the site has stabilized as a licence condition.

Thanks Rafiqul.

Laureen Janusz
Fisheries Science and Fish Culture Section
Fisheries Branch,
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Box 20, 200 Saulteaux Crescent
Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3

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Fax: 204.948-2308
Email: Laureen.Janusz@gov.mb.ca



From: Bill Massey [wmassey@highspeedcrow.ca]
Sent: March-01-13 8:05 PM
To: Chowdhury, Rafiqul (CON)
Subject: Fw: proposal

Mr. Rafiqul Chowdhury
Approvals Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

Dear Mr. Chowdhury;

The Concerned Citizens of Grosse Isle is a group of residents living close to Rock Lake Colony. Our group was formed in 2004 when the Colony proposed an expansion to their hog production facilities. At that time we reported some serious environmental infractions to Conservation and when Conservation investigated they discovered the Colony was operating an unlicensed human waste lagoon. Conservation started proceedings against the Colony at that time. When we inquired about the status of those proceedings in 2009 we were told that Conservation had "lost the file". Conservation then began again to pursue the matter. The Colony started to comply when Conservation initiated a prosecution package last year.

A new sewage lagoon has just been constructed for the community of Grosse Isle (150 people) and Rosser (100 people) as well as the local district. We propose that Rock Lake Colony (140 people) connect with this system. We suggest they use the money they would spend on their own lagoon to post a bond to Rosser Municipality to be used for expansion of the Rosser lagoon in order to accommodate this proposal and future housing developments in Grosse Isle and Rosser. Running a line from the Colony down the Meridian Road South to mile 70 and across to mile 1 East to connect with the existing pipeline could accommodate another dozen residents in the RM of Rosser.

We are concerned about the environment with the building of yet another lagoon in our community. Coli-form tests done in Colony Creek next to the water resources offices were off the measurable scale. This poses a health risk to the people who work there as well as local residents. The lagoon in Rosser which also is situated on Colony Creek is much more isolated and better monitored. We understand that Lake Winnipeg is the most endangered lake in the world. Why are we proposing to build yet another lagoon in this watershed? Does the Government know how many lagoons and manure holding facilities we have in this immediate area already? This lagoon will also be directly in the flight path of migratory waterfowl. We find it ironic that the government is concerned about wildlife coming in contact with private landowners' sewage ejector systems yet is considering an open lagoon of this size. Are you aware the proposed site for this lagoon has been prone to flooding in the past?

We are concerned about public safety with this proposed lagoon. There is a possibility of a new residential housing development going up within a mile of this site. A barbed wire fence will not keep out children who might be playing in the area. Colony Creek runs through another property just downstream that is being considered for a future housing development. DGH Engineering is suggesting that sludge from the old lagoon may be spread on adjacent farmland. We understand the City of Winnipeg has abandoned this practice. Where would this sludge be spread? How close to the community will this occur? Will weather and moisture conditions be considered?

Over the years the apparent lack of concern the Colony demonstrates for the surrounding community has seriously undermined any confidence the community has for the Colony. For the past seven years, the Colony has not completed work on their hog manure storage facility which has created serious odor

problems for nearby residents. Infractions of the Planning Act and environmental issues too numerous to mention here have contributed to this lack of confidence. Conservation, which holds a permit on the manure storage facility, and the Farm Practices Protection Board have not determined until just recently which government department is responsible to cause the Colony rectify this situation. The apparent mishandling of these situations by Conservation has created alarm and mistrust in the community.

In our opinion it is time for the Colony to become a responsible member of the community at large. They find themselves an important member of a highly populated area. As such they need to become "good neighbours" and participate in coordinated community development. As a part of the community the Colony could participate in the building of necessary and well planned infrastructure. This would relieve pressure on Provincial monitoring staff and the Colony. Public officials would then be in charge of the management of the lagoon. Environmental and public safety concerns would be addressed. We believe this to be a win-win idea for both the Colony and the community.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to this proposal and want to discuss this further with you.

We We request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

Bill Massey
Chair Concerned Citizens of Grosse Isle