

Webb, Bruce (CON)

From: Stephens, Jonathan (CON)
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2010 1:53 PM
To: Webb, Bruce (CON)
Cc: Barto, William (CON)

Subject: EA proposal - POINTE DU BOIS SPILLWAY REPLACEMENT PROJECT - file 5471.00

The Sustainable Resource and Policy Management Branch has reviewed the above mentioned proposal and has the following comments to provide:

A protected portion of Whiteshell Provincial Park is located approximately 22 km downstream of the proposal project location. It is recommends that:

1. the study areas mentioned in the Draft Scoping Document (which are not specifically defined in the provided documents) be expanded to include waters along this protected land if they do not already do so.
2. that studies, monitoring activities and other activities undertaken as part of the physical and biological studies listed in sections 7.2, 7.3, 7.4 of the draft scoping document be carried out in the waterways bordering these protected lands to ensure activities associated with the project do not adversely affect the neighbouring habitat.
3. that any adverse effects be reported to Manitoba Conservation and be mitigated as required by Manitoba Conservation.

Protected areas are land, freshwater or marine areas, where logging, mining, hydroelectric development, oil and gas development, and other activities that significantly and adversely affect habitat are prohibited by law. Activities adjacent to designated protected areas should not adversely affect habitat of the protected area.

Webb, Bruce (CON)

From: Bezak, Dave (CON)
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2010 2:19 PM
To: Webb, Bruce (CON)
Cc: Molod, Rommel (CON); Streich, Laurie (CON)
Subject: FW: Pointe du Bois Spillway Replacement Project (5471.00)

Bruce, we have air quality-related comments on the above proposed project. Thanks. DB.

From: Molod, Rommel (CON)
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2010 1:47 PM
To: Bezak, Dave (CON)
Subject: Pointe du Bois Spillway Replacement Project (5471.00)

I have no comments on the proposal. What was submitted at this time is a draft scoping document for an Environmental Assessment.

Contact Person: Bruce Webb

Rommel

Rommel Molod
Air Quality Specialist
Pollution Prevention Branch
Manitoba Conservation
Suite 160 123 Main Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5
T (204) 945-7047
F (204) 945-1211

DATE: July 28, 2010

Memorandum

TO: Bruce Webb
Water Development and Control
Assessment Officer
Environmental Assessment and
Licensing Branch
Manitoba Conservation
123 Main Street, Suite 160
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1A5

FROM: William Weaver, M.Sc.
Environmental Review Officer
Manitoba Water Stewardship
200 Saulteaux Crescent, Box 14
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 3W3

TELEPHONE: 945-6395
FACSIMILE: 945-7419

CC: Laureen Janusz

SUBJECT: *ENVIRONMENT ACT PROPOSAL FILE: 5471.00*
POINTE DU BOIS SPILLWAY REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Manitoba Water Stewardship has reviewed the referenced file, forwarded for comment on June 23, 2010.

- Manitoba Water Stewardship recommends that an environmental impact statement should include the following:
 - The “Fish Community” section and the effects assessment discussion shall contain information on small bodied and juvenile fishes. These species and life stages may be more directly impacted by spillway operation with a cascading effect on “resource valued” fish species and the aquatic ecosystem as a whole.

- Manitoba Water Stewardship submits the following comments:
 - 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

Date: July 28, 2010
Subject: *Environment Act* Proposal File 5471.00
Pointe Du Bois Spillway Replacement Project

legislation, including *The Water Protection Act*, *The Water Rights Act*, and
The Water Power Act.

William Weaver, M.Sc.

DATE: July 27, 2010

TO: Bruce Webb
Water Development and
Control Assessment Officer
Manitoba Conservation
Suite 160-123 Main Street
Winnipeg MB

FROM: Myra Sitchon
Impact Evaluation
Archaeologist
Historic Resources
Branch
Main Floor 213 Notre
Dame Avenue
Winnipeg MB
R3B 1N3
PHONE NO: (204) 945-6539

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT ACT PROPOSAL

CLIENT FILE: 5471.00

MANITOBA HYDRO
POINTE DU BOIS SPILLWAY PROJECT

I have reviewed the above-noted Scoping Document pursuant to the Environment Act. The Historic Resources Branch has concerns with regard to this project's potential to impact heritage resources. Section 7.5.8 outlines the proposed contents of the EIS regarding Heritage Resources and the intended detail to avoid and/or minimize adverse effects on Heritage Resources.

There are is potential to impact heritage resources during development as archaeological sites have been recorded within the vicinity of the project. Under Section 12(2) of The Heritage Resources Act, if the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism has reason to believe that heritage resources are known, or thought likely to be present, on lands that are to be developed, then the owner/developer may be required to conduct at his/her own expense, a heritage resource impact assessment and mitigation, if necessary, prior to the project's start.

If at any time significant heritage resources are recorded in association with these lands during development, the Historic Resources Branch may require that an acceptable heritage resource management strategy be implemented by the developer to mitigate the affects of development on the heritage resources.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (204) 945-6539 or myra.sitchon@gov.mb.ca.



Myra Sitchon

Webb, Bruce (CON)

From: Braun, Tracey (CON)
Sent: Tuesday, August 03, 2010 9:20 AM
To: Webb, Bruce (CON)
Subject: FW: Pointe du Bois Generating Station EIS scoping document

From: Bernasconi, Maria P (IEM)
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2010 1:59 PM
To: Braun, Tracey (CON)
Subject: FW: Pointe du Bois Generating Station EIS scoping document

Client File No. 5471.00

Sent on behalf of Jim Crone

Maria Bernasconi
Administrative Assistant
Energy Division
Innovation, Energy and Mines
Government of Manitoba
1200-155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8
Maria.Bernasconi@gov.mb.ca
T: (204) 945-7246
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From: Simonsen, Kurt (STEM)
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2010 11:05 AM
To: Crone, Jim (STEM)
Cc: Bernasconi, Maria P (STEM); Simonsen, Kurt (STEM)
Subject: Pointe du Bois Generating Station EIS scoping document

I provide the following comments for consideration:

- The proposal to replace the spillway is understandable given the age of the structure. The document suggests the existing structure may not meet modern dam safety guidelines. Can Hydro confirm the existing spillway and all earthen structures and concrete dams are currently sound and do not pose any risk to public safety? Are these structures in compliance with dam safety guidelines and if not, what sort of mitigating practices are in place to ensure public safety?
- The original proposal by Hydro included a new powerhouse and relocated spillways. What circumstances changed resulting in the decision to scale down the project and focus on replacing the existing spillways?
- What is the condition of the powerhouse and will it be reconstructed in the future? Will the project proposal change in any way the station's generating capacity and overall capacity factor?
- Are there any contemplated changes to the hydraulic regime that may have consequential impacts upstream and downstream of the station both during and after construction?

Kurt Simonsen, M.N.R.M., P. Eng
Manitoba Department of Innovation, Energy & Mines
Phone: (204) 945-3376
e-mail: Kurt.Simonsen@gov.mb.ca

2010-08-03



Infrastructure and Transportation

Highway Planning and Design Branch
Environment Section
14th Floor – 215 Garry St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3P3
T (204) 945-2369 F (204) 945-0593

July 15, 2010

Tracey Braun
Director, Environmental Assessment & Licensing Branch
Manitoba Conservation
123 Main St., Suite 160
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

RE: Pointe du Boise Spillway Replacement Project
Client File No 5471.00

Dear Director Braun:

MIT has reviewed the Environment Act Proposal noted above and we have no concerns with the proposed project at this time.

Thank you very much for providing us the opportunity to review the proposal.

Sincerely,



Kimber Osiowy, M.Sc., P.Eng.
Manager of Environmental Services



Canadian Environmental
Assessment Agency

Agence canadienne
d'évaluation environnementale

101 – 167 Lombard Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0T6

167, avenue Lombard, bureau 101
Winnipeg (Manitoba) R3B 0T6

July 30, 2010

CEAA File No.: MP2010-046
MC File No.: 5471.00

Mr. Bruce Webb
Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch
Manitoba Conservation
Suite 160, 123 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

Dear Mr. Webb:

SUBJECT: Pointe du Bois Spillway Replacement Project

I am responding to the June 23, 2010 letter from Tracey Braun, Director, Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch, Manitoba Conservation to Dan McNaughton, Director, Prairie Office, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

I have completed 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 reviewed by all federal departments with a potential interest. Departments were also asked to provide comments on Manitoba Hydro's Draft Environmental Assessment Scoping Document.

Based on the responses to the federal survey, it is likely that the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act) applies to the project. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) anticipates that an authorization will likely be required under subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act*. However, DFO advises that Manitoba Hydro's Draft Environmental Assessment Scoping Document did not contain enough information to confirm which sections of the *Fisheries Act* would be triggered and to what extent. The Major Projects Management Office's Guide to Preparing a Project Description for a Major Resource Project outlines the information that should be included in a project description. It is recommended that Manitoba Hydro consult this Guide, available at <http://www.mpmo-bggp.gc.ca/desc/guide-eng.php>, and provide the additional information that is missing in the Scoping Document.

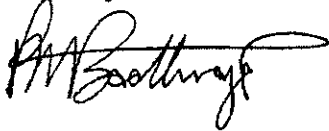
Transport Canada (TC) has advised that it is uncertain as to whether an Approval under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* (NWPA) would be required for the project and, if so, what kind of Approval. I understand that TC is in the process of obtaining more information on the project from Manitoba Hydro in order to assist TC in making a determination on the need for an NWPA Approval. TC may or may not be a responsible authority depending on the nature of the Approval required.

Environment Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Health Canada indicated that they have expertise, available upon request, that may assist in the environmental review of this project. A copy of the letter received from Health Canada, describing its areas of expertise, is attached.

Comments on Manitoba Hydro's Draft Environmental Assessment Scoping Document are also attached.

If you have any questions concerning the Act or its Regulations, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 204.984.8020 or by e-mail at peter.boothroyd@ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Boothroyd', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Boothroyd
Project Manager

Attach.

c.c. Mr. Ryan Kustra, Manitoba Hydro
Ashley Presenger, DFO
Zeena Mohammed, TC
Reg Ejeckam, EC
Rick Grabowecky, HC
Daniel Benoit, INAC
Regent Dickey, MPMO

Federal Contacts List

Project: Pointe du Bois Spillway Replacement Project
CEAA File No.: MP2010-046
MC Client File No.: 5471.00

Mr. Peter Boothroyd
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E-mail : daniel.benoit@inac-ainc.gc.ca

Federal Comments on Manitoba Hydro's Draft Environmental Assessment Scoping Document

General Comments

- 1) A general note on the use of various terms including Aboriginal people, peoples, communities, groups etc. All the documents coming from the INAC Consultation Unit/DOJ suggests that the term "Aboriginal group" is the preferred term if not specifically addressing any individual group or community. On page 2 under section 3.0, if the intent of Aboriginal 'people' was to refer to 'Aboriginal' individuals then use 'individuals'. However, INAC suggests that the Local Chief and Council or appropriate level of the MMF be contacted and worked with to get to those individuals and discussions.
- 2) When collecting data from various Aboriginal groups and their membership, the proponent must keep the distinctive group's data separate so that concerns and possible effects on those groups is identifiable. For example, keep the First Nation and Métis data separate as well as the various First Nations data separate from each other.
- 3) It is difficult to determine which VECs should be added when the proponent has not indicated what is being considered in the assessment and who will be consulted to determine the VECs.
- 4) Will the proponent work with the Aboriginal groups to get their views on appropriate VECs?
- 5) What will be the Communication Strategy to notify Aboriginal groups and their users of temporary changes to access to the river and area?

Specific Comments

- 1) Section 1.2, last paragraph. It says that the powerhouse is not within the scope of this project. Can Manitoba Hydro reasonably continue to repair this facility forever or should it be considered in cumulative effects as a 'reasonably foreseeable' project, as it was only 3 years ago?
- 2) Section 5.1. The schedule of all construction activities should also include the schedule for any blasting that will occur on site. The information on new spillway operation should include any hydrological changes (including water elevations and discharges) that can be expected.
- 3) Section 6.1. The status quo (baseline?) is an alternative to the project and should be discussed as an option (even if it is to be ruled out for environmental or safety reasons). Alternative means of carrying out the project should include the rationale for the selection and a description of the process undertaken to determine the final design of the project components. This section should also include the need and requirement of a monitoring plan.
- 4) Section 7.0. It is noted that this section indicates that the existing environmental setting will describe the physical environment (including ambient noise and local air quality) and the aquatic environment (water quality and mercury levels in fish). However, it is unclear if the assessment of these components will address baseline information needs in regards to the human environment. Health Canada suggests the inclusion of all relevant human health considerations (e.g. impacts on country foods, drinking and recreational water quality) in the assessment of the existing environmental setting and that the scoping document reflects this inclusion.

- 5) Section 7.2.2. This section should include the Winnipeg River system operations throughout the year for various hydraulic conditions.
- 6) Section 7.3.3. Fish habitat use by individual species, with a focus on Lake Sturgeon, Walleye, and Northern Pike, should include all relevant fish species that inhabit the area and that have the potential to be affected by the proposed project. Information should also be provided on relevant/sensitive life stages of fish. "Fish movement" should be expanded to explain what is meant by "movement". It should include movement within the study area, upstream migration, downstream migration, existing impacts of the lack of upstream migration on the general fish population, and existing impacts of downstream migration through the spillway and powerhouse.
- 7) Sections 7.5.5, 7.5.8, 8.1, 8.2 and elsewhere. The sentence/concept should be expanded beyond harvesting to something like "current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by aboriginal peoples (groups), and the significance to their cultural, social and economic well-being of any changes in the current use of lands and resources as a result of the project". The listing could be kept as examples.
- 8) Section 7.5.8. One of the issues raised during the Wuskwatim process by the Métis (MMF) was the apparent lack of 'tools' to enable characterization of a site as Métis or First Nation (when younger than a few hundred years old). Have new techniques emerged, and will the proponent be able to identify a site as Métis or First Nations origin?
- 9) Section 7.5.9. An additional section entitled "Navigation" should be added. This section should contain the following:
 - o describe predicted direct and indirect effects of proposed works on navigation, including alterations on surface water hydrology, water withdrawal, fish habitat compensation measures, and proposed works built in, on, over, through, across or under any waterway.
 - o provide a description of proposed mitigation measures and effectiveness of these measures for ensuring navigability and the protection of navigation safety during construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed works.
 - o describe all waterways affected by proposed works (new or changes to existing infrastructure) in, on, over, under, through or across any waterway. This would also include any temporary works that may impede vessel passage and safety.
- 10) Section 8.0. This section provides general information on the effects assessment approach including the assessment of potential environmental effects, selection of appropriate VECs and description of mitigation measures for the physical, biological and socio-economic environments. Limited information is provided with regards to the specific considerations of human health (e.g. impacts to country foods, drinking and recreational water quality, ambient noise, and air quality) that will be undertaken using the proposed effects assessment approach. It is unclear whether there will be an opportunity for technical advisory team review of the VECs chosen for the effects assessment. Health Canada suggests the inclusion of relevant human health components in the effects assessment and that the scoping document and subsequent procedural documents indicate the inclusion of any areas of potential health concern planned for the assessment. Please refer to the following guidance document for further information on Health Canada's areas of expertise and information that is useful for assessing potential

health impacts for EAs: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/alt_formats/hecs-sesc/pdf/pubs/eval/environ_assess-eval/environ_assess-eval-eng.pdf

- 11) Section 8.2.2, last paragraph. Should all phases of the project read as per the definition in CEAA (e.g. maintenance is not included)? The CEAA definition is more inclusive.



Health Canada Santé Canada

Environmental Health Program
Regions and Programs Branch
510 Lagimodiere Blvd
Winnipeg, MB R2J 3Y1

July 22, 2010

Your file MP2007-054
Our file MB/SK-2010/11-023

Peter Boothroyd
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Suite 101 - 167 Lombard Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0T6

Subject: Health Canada's Review of the Point Du Bois Spillway Replacement Project Draft Environmental Assessment Scoping Document

Dear Mr Boothroyd,

Thank you for your office's e-mail of July 21, 2010 requesting Health Canada's review of the Point Du Bois Spillway Replacement Project Draft Environmental Assessment Scoping Document (June, 2010). Health Canada is participating as a Federal Authority in this review in accordance with Subsection 12(3) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, and we offer the following comments:

- It is noted that Section 7.0 indicates that the existing environmental setting will describe the physical environment including (ambient noise and local air quality) and the aquatic environment (water quality, and mercury levels in fish).

However, it is unclear if the assessment of these components will address baseline information needs in regards to the human environment. Health Canada suggests the inclusion of all relevant human health considerations (e.g. impacts to country foods, drinking and recreational water quality) in the assessment of the existing environmental setting and that the scoping document reflects this inclusion.

- Section 8.0 provides general information on the effects assessment approach including the assessment of potential environmental effects, selection of appropriate valued environmental components (VECs) and description of mitigation measures for the physical, biological and socio-economic environments.

Limited information is provided with regards to the specific considerations of human health (e.g. impacts to country foods, drinking and recreational water quality, ambient noise, and air quality) that will be undertaken using the proposed effects assessment approach. It is unclear whether there will be opportunity for technical advisory team

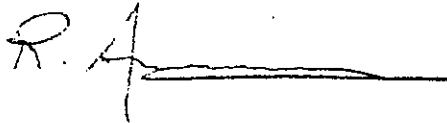
Sent by e-mail to: peter.boothroyd@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

review of the VECs chosen for the effects assessment. Health Canada suggests the inclusion of relevant human health components in the effects assessment, and that the scoping document and subsequent procedural documents indicate the inclusion of any areas of potential health concern planned for assessment.

Please refer to the following guidance document for further information on Health Canada's areas of expertise and information that is useful for assessing potential health impacts for EAs: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/alt_formats/hecs-sesc/pdf/pubs/eval/environ_assess-eval/environ_assess-eval-eng.pdf

Please contact the undersigned at the coordinates provided should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Grabowecky', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Rick Grabowecky,
Regional Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Health Canada, Manitoba-Saskatchewan Region
Ph # 204-984-8318
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E-mail: Rick.Grabowecky@hc-sc.gc.ca

cc: Stan Hnatiuk (Health Canada)
Gregory Kaminski (Health Canada)