

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Hydro
PROPOSAL NAME: Flin Flon Area Improvements Project
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transmission
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4407.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on December 15, 1998. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by Manitoba Hydro to develop, upgrade or salvage various transmission lines and stations extending from the Flin Flon area to the communities of Snow Lake and Sherridon. The proposed project will affect a number of Manitoba Hydro facilities including an existing 230 – 115 kV station (located northeast of Snow lake), switching facilities and related transmission lines which serve the communities of Sherridon and Snow Lake, and mining operations in the Snow lake area. Four components of the project are identified:

- **Ponton and Herblet Lake Stations** – Modifications within the existing Ponton and Herblet Lake Station sites, including the relocation of a 230-115 kV transformer from Ponton to the Herblet Lake Station.
- **Herblet Lake Station 115 kV Transmission Line** – Construction of approximately six km of 115 kV transmission line from Herblet Lake Station, to tap into the existing 115 kV transmission line which presently services the Sherridon community.
- **Upgrade of Herblet Lake Station to Sherridon Station 115 kV Transmission Line (Sherridon Line Upgrade)** – Upgrading of approximately 80 km of the existing 115 kV transmission line between the Herblet Lake Station and Sherridon Station.
- **Mile 13 Station to Sherridon Station 115 kV Transmission Salvage (Sherridon Line Salvage)** – Salvaging of approximately 65 km of 115 kV line from Sherridon Station to Mile 13 Station and the Manitoba Hydro owned portion of Mile 13 Station, located west of the Saskatchewan border.

The Flin Flon Area Improvement Project is needed to enhance safety factors associated with the existing electrical system and improve the electrical reliability in various areas of northwest Manitoba. The project is scheduled to occur between 1999 and 2004. Manitoba Hydro has filed an Environmental Impact Statement entitled “*Flin Flon Area*

Improvement Project – Environmental Impact Statement, December, 1998” in support of their application.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Flin Flon Daily Reminder, the Flin Flon Goldbelt Gazette and the Snow lake News on January 7, 1999. It was made available for public review at registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station), Winnipeg; the Centennial Public Library, 251 Donald St., Winnipeg; and the Flin Flon Public Library, 58 Main St., Flin Flon. It was also distributed to the "Transmission" TAC members for comment. All comments were requested by January 29, 1999.

PUBLIC RESPONSE

No public response was received as a result of the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal.

TAC COMMENTS

Natural Resources - Any new access roads associated with the Proposal may have implications to resource uses in the area and should be referred to the DNR regional office, rather than the NRO as stated in the Proposal.

The Proposal does not mention if the oils to be removed from the transformer stations contain PCB's. Recommend that special precautions be taken when handling all transformer oils containing PCB's.

Disposition:

DNR's comment on the access roads can be accommodated as a condition of licencing. The Licencee will be required to handle and transport transformer oils, including any oils containing PCB's in accordance with the Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act. The acceptable level of any contaminated soils tested from salvaged station sites will be determined from current CCME guidelines in accordance with the recommendation for licencing provided by Environment's Water Quality Management Section.

Mines Branch - No concerns

Rural Development - No land use or development concerns.

Historic Resources - The EIS adequately addresses Historic Resources Branch concerns regarding potential impacts to heritage resources. The Branch recommends that Ms. Patricia Badertscher, Manager, Archaeological Services, Historic Resources Branch be contacted in the event that heritage resources are discovered during clearing and

construction. The Branch further recommends that the Degree of Impact and Mitigation statements be included as specific conditions of the Licence.

Disposition:

Comments can be included as a condition of the Licence.

Environment (Water Quality Management) - Recommend that the following be included as conditions of licencing:

- 1) adhere to the *Manitoba Stream Crossing Guidelines for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat, 1996*,
- 2) wood poles used in wet areas be treated with chromium arsenate (CCA) instead of creosote or pentachlorophenol,
- 3) the acceptable level of any PCB contaminated soils tested from salvaged station sites should be determined from current CCME guidelines
- 4) salvaged poles and crossarms stored in temporary storage sites should be elevated to avoid contact with the soil,
- 5) the environmental protection plan should identify the approach used to dispose of the salvaged poles,
- 6) temporary marshalling or remote temporary storage sites should be located 100 meters from any watercourse to reduce the potential for contamination of surface waters with preservatives for poles, fuel, oil or other chemicals.

Disposition:

Items 1 to 6 can be accommodated as conditions of licencing.

Environment (Northern Region) - Recommend that the project comply with applicable regulations including MR 335/88R respecting construction camps, MR 95/88R respecting sewage disposal, MR 92/88R and 150/91 respecting solid waste disposal and MR 97/88R respecting the handling and storage of petroleum products. Drinking water shall be obtained from an approved source. Recommend that the Licencee shall ensure that unattended, loose conductor shall not be allowed to remain on the ground creating a hazardous condition for snowmobiles and ungulates. The Northern region strongly endorses Manitoba Hydro's innovative approach to maintaining the existing osprey and eagle nests. Recommend that the Licencee be required to provide a copy of the Licence to all contractors and subcontractors.

Disposition:

Comments can be accommodated as conditions of the Licence.

Highways - Request that prior to relocating a transformer from Ponton Station to Herblet Station, Manitoba Hydro contact Mr. Reg Wightman, Manager of Permit/Services for MHT's Compliance and Regulatory Services Branch for information regarding road weight restrictions.

Disposition:

This requirement can be conveyed to Manitoba Hydro in the Licence letter of transmittal.

Canadian Environmental Assessment and Review Agency (CCEA) - Based on responses received from Federal reviewing departments and agencies, application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* will not be required.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans - DFO has no fishery habitat concerns with the proposed project provided that Manitoba Hydro's environmental protection measures for the construction of temporary stream crossings are implemented as outlined in the EIS. DFO requests a copy of the site specific stream crossing mitigation measures included in Hydro's Environmental Protection Plan prior to the start of construction/salvage operations. In addition DFO recommends:

- Manitoba Hydro should implement the erosion control methods recommended for clearing within watercourse reservations, as outlined in the Manitoba Stream Crossing Guidelines for the Protection of Fish Habitat, 1996.
- Manitoba Hydro consult with Manitoba Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch to determine specific local sensitive habitat and for advice on specific mitigative action.
- Grading stream banks associated with the installation of bridges or ice dams should be minimized. Branches, sawdust, soil and other organics should not be used as bank or bridge fill. Only snow and ice should be used to form slopes or to fill and maintain bridges and road beds at stream crossings.
- Bridges and ice dams at stream crossings should be removed before spring

Disposition:

Comments can be accommodated as conditions of licencing.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Approvals Branch concludes that Manitoba Hydro has satisfactorily addressed TAC comments on the Proposal. A public hearing on the proposal is not recommended. It is recommended that the proposal be licenced as applied for and in accordance with limits, terms and conditions provided in the attached Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended that the enforcement of the Licence be transferred to staff of the Manitoba Environment Northern Region.

PREPARED BY:

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February 11, 1999

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