

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Rural Municipality of Louise
PROPOSAL NAME: Clearwater Water Supply System
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: One
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Waste Disposal - Water Treatment Plants
(Wastewater)
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4442.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on May 27, 1999. It was dated May 25, 1999. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Manitoba Water Services Board on behalf of the Rural Municipality of Louise for alterations to the existing water treatment and distribution system for the community of Clearwater. The proposed alterations would improve protection from contamination at the community well and water storage tower, and provide for the reduction of manganese in the water supply to below guideline levels. The manganese reduction would be accomplished through filtration. Backwash water from the filter would be discharged through a pipeline to Cypress Creek. The expected volume of backwash water would be 3,500 litres two times per week.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Morden Times on Monday, June 28, 1999. It was placed in the Main, Centennial and Lakeland Regional Library (Killarney) public registries. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on June 22, 1999. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was July 23, 1999.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public comments were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Environment - Water/Terrestrial Quality Management - Part of the upgrading calls for the inclusion of a manganese greensand filter to remove manganese from the groundwater during the treatment process. It is proposed that backwash water will be discharged directly to Cypress Creek. The proposal suggests that the volume of water in the creek will provide sufficient dilution of the high concentrations of manganese and chlorine in the discharge water. In order to test this assumption, it is recommended that a water sampling program be undertaken to monitor the levels of manganese and chlorine in the creek. The monitoring program should include the collection of an appropriate number of samples before, during and after the discharge event. Samples

should be collected at the point of discharge as well as upstream and downstream of the discharge.

Disposition:

This comment can be addressed as a licence condition.

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Historic Resources Branch - No concerns.

Community Economic Development Services - No land use concerns.

Medical Officer of Health - Portage la Prairie - Clearwater has had a Boil Order placed on its water system for many years due to fluctuating bacteria levels. Manitoba Health is in support of a proposal that provides a consistent supply of potable water to a community. Health supports the water treatment upgrade to provide water within the parameters of the Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines.

Natural Resources - The concentration of residual chlorine in the backwash water from the treatment plant will be in the order of 0.5 mg/L. Depending on the timing of backwash water emissions and the volume of flow in Cypress Creek, this residual chlorine may have lethal effects on fish or prevent them from spawning. This aspect should be further examined.

Disposition:

Manitoba Environment has in the past specified that chlorinated water released to the environment should not have a chlorine residual in excess of 0.1 mg/l. The Proponent's consultant has indicated that minimum spring flows on Cypress Creek are 0.2 cfs, or 6 l/s. The proposed release of chlorinated backwash water is 3500 l over 10 minutes, or 5.8 l/s. Accordingly, the chlorine residual of the backwash water would be diluted to approximately 0.25 mg/l on release. Without any oxidation of the available chlorine, the released backwash water would be diluted to 0.1 mg/l within approximately 40 minutes under these conditions. Since it is proposed that releases of backwash water occur for a ten minute period two times per week, it is suggested that the environmental impact of this release is very limited and localized, and that no further action is warranted to reduce the impact unless observable problems occur. Therefore, it is proposed to address the concern through monitoring as a licence condition.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency - An environmental assessment under The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act will be conducted by PFRA. Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada have offered to provide specialist advice in accordance with Section 12(3) of the Act.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans - The installation of the discharge pipe associated with the project is not likely to impact on fish and fish habitat in the Cypress River with the implementation of the following mitigation measures: No instream works should be carried out between April 1 and June 15 of any year. Erosion and sediment control

measures should be implemented during all phases of construction, including restoration of the channel bed following installation of the discharge pipe. The deposit of deleterious substances into waters frequented by fish is prohibited under the Fisheries Act. Appropriate precautions should be taken to ensure that deleterious substances do not enter any drainage ditches. Refueling and servicing of construction equipment should take place at least 100 m from all drainage ditches. All disturbed banks associated with the project should be revegetated upon completion of the works.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed as licence conditions.

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PUBLIC HEARING:

No public concerns were identified. Therefore, 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 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 South-Central Region.

PREPARED BY:

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