

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Rural Municipality of Grey
PROPOSAL NAME: Rural Municipality of Grey - Rural Water Pipelines
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Two
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation/Transmission - Pipelines
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4622.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on May 4, 2001. It was dated May 3, 2001. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Rural Municipality of Grey to construct water supply pipelines throughout the municipality. The western portion of the municipality would be serviced with treated water from the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative treatment plant at Stephenfield, through a reservoir at Haywood. The eastern portion of the municipality would be serviced with treated water from the Cartier Regional Water Cooperative treatment plant at St. Eustache, through a reservoir at Fannystelle. The municipal supply system would involve the construction of approximately 470 km of pipeline between 50 mm and 150 mm in diameter. Pipeline would be placed in or adjacent to road allowances. Construction of the project is proposed to begin in 2001 with the construction of a main pipeline to Haywood, the Haywood reservoir, and a community distribution system for Haywood. Other components would be constructed as funding becomes available in future years.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Portage Herald on Tuesday, May 22, 2001, and in the Treherne Times and the Carman Valley Leader on Monday, May 21, 2001. It was placed in the Main, Centennial, Eco-Network and Portage la Prairie City Library public registries. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on May 14, 2001. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was June 14, 2001.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public comments were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Conservation - Sustainable Resource Management - The map showing the locations and extent of the proposed project is inadequate to fully assess the project from the aspect of Protected Areas. A more adequate map should be provided. As a general comment from the Portage Sandhills WMA is a protected area free from logging, mining, hydroelectric development, and any other activity that may significantly and adversely affect habitat. Water pipeline construction is considered to incompatible with this

protected status. If any project activities involve sections in the WMA, specific information on what is being proposed is needed to determine if it is compatible with their existing protected area status.

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The preferred method for stream crossings is by directional boring or auguring. Any work done on or near stream/drain banks should include measures to minimize potential for deleterious substances such as silt, oil and gas entering the water. If banks must be disturbed, erosion control and rehabilitation measures such as use of straw mulch and seeding of replacement vegetation should be employed. If open trench crossings are required, environmental mitigative procedures must be used to minimize damage during construction and to restore habitat after construction. Procedures to be followed are described in Canadian Pipeline Water Crossing Committee, 1999, Water Crossings Second Edition. No work at water crossings should occur prior to June 15 of any year. If any method other than directional boring is used, written permission should first be obtained from the Director. In addition, the Regional Fisheries Manager should be contacted prior to any construction occurring.

Disposition:

No pipeline construction is proposed in the vicinity of the WMA. These comments can be addressed through licence conditions.

Historic Resources - No concerns.

Mines Branch - No concerns.

Soils and Crops Branch - No concerns from an agricultural perspective, provided that every effort is made to meet with the landowners in order to ensure that all their concerns can be properly dealt with prior to installing pipelines. Any impacts that the installation and operation of the proposed pipelines may have on agricultural land should be minimized.

Disposition:

As landowners are customers of the pipeline system, consultation is part of the project planning process. Land impacts can be addressed through licence conditions.

Medical Officer of Health – Central Region - No concerns.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency - An environmental assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act will be required. The contact will be with PFRA. Environment Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Natural Resources Canada have offered to provide specialist advice. (Environment Canada and

the Canadian Coast Guard indicated a desire to participate in the provincial review of the project.)

Disposition:

A copy of the project summary, draft licence and final licence for the project will be provided to PFRA for use in the federal screening of the project. The same information will be provided to Environment Canada and CCG.

Fisheries and Oceans - No concerns pursuant to the fish habitat provisions of the Fisheries Act with part of the above project. There are no concerns with the installation of the rural pipelines provided that all watercourse crossings are installed as specified, by directional drilling and erosion control measures in place. DFO should be consulted if

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open trenching is required. We have concerns as to the potential cumulative effects of further water withdrawals from the Stephenfield Reservoir. The effect of additional withdrawals on the reservoir has not been addressed in the proposal. Additional information should be provided on the amount of water to be withdrawn annually from the reservoir, and the relationship of this withdrawal to the storage capacity of and the inflow to the reservoir. We cannot complete our assessment of the impacts of the proposed project on fish and fish habitat until we have reviewed this additional information.

Disposition:

The comments concerning pipeline installation can be addressed as licence conditions. With respect to the comments concerning reservoir withdrawals, the project does not involve an expansion of the Stephenfield Regional Water Treatment Plant. Accordingly, the water withdrawal for the project remains within the previously licensed capacity of the existing water treatment plant. The projected annual withdrawal for the R. M. of Grey system from the Stephenfield Reservoir is 160 dam³. The storage capacity of the reservoir is 4440 dam³, and the firm annual yield of the reservoir is 3084 dam³.

With respect to water allocation from the Stephenfield Reservoir/Boyne River system, the firm yield of the system is considered by the Water Branch to be fully allocated. Other existing uses include other municipal use, irrigation use and livestock watering. A riparian flow is also maintained in the Boyne River downstream of Stephenfield year round.

Environment Canada - An extensive amount of pipeline will be laid, and EC has an interest related to possible impacts to migratory birds and fish. The following comments are provided:

1. The description of the wildlife habitat through which the proposed pipeline is to be constructed is very minimal. Consequently, it is difficult to determine whether the

rights-of-way will be of use to migratory birds. Several species of waterfowl, as well as other ground nesting and shrub nesting migratory birds utilize the rough grass and shrub vegetation habitat commonly found along rights-of-way, especially the edges furthest away from the road surface. Unless the proposed right-of-way is agricultural land currently under cultivation or the pipeline is to be laid close to the road surface where habitat is less likely to be affected, we recommend that construction occur outside the nesting season between May to the end of July.

2. Because of the amount of pipeline to be laid, one would expect that several stream crossings would be required. Information should be provided on mitigative measures to be used in areas where erosion or sedimentation may be a concern. Also, once areas have been identified that are not suitable for directional drilling, additional information on proposed crossing method, impacts to fish and mitigation should also be provided.
3. Chlorine can be deleterious to fish at very low levels (0.005 mg/L or higher). Chlorinated water should, therefore, not be released to any fish-bearing streams as a result of testing or servicing of water lines. Prior to release, the residual chlorine concentrations should be tested to ensure it is nondetectable, not 0.1 mg/L as indicated on page 10.

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Disposition:

Pipelines are generally installed at the bottom of road ditches. Standard clause wording is available to address nesting concerns. The proposal anticipates boring for all stream crossings. The possibility of open cut stream crossings can be addressed through licence conditions.

The disposal of chlorinated water can also be addressed through licence conditions. For a number of years, a discharge concentration of 0.1 mg/L has been used for projects of this nature. This limit is based on Manitoba Surface Water Quality Objectives (1988). For this project, it is unlikely that chlorinated water would be released to any fish bearing waterway. It is recommended that the standard limit of 0.1 mg/L be used for this project. Manitoba Conservation (Water and Environmental Approvals), Environment Canada and PFRA staff should discuss the possibility of lowering the chlorine limit for future projects where discharge to fish bearing water is a possibility.

PUBLIC HEARING:

As no public concerns were identified, 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 Red River Region.

PREPARED BY:

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June 20, 2001
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