

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Town of Melita
PROPOSAL NAME: Water Treatment Plant Upgrade
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: One
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Waste Disposal - Water Treatment Plants
(Wastewater)
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4829.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on July 2, 2002. It was dated June 20, 2002. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

"A Proposal has been filed by the Town of Melita for the construction and operation of upgraded water treatment facilities. The upgrades include a new oxidation system and upgraded filtration equipment. The upgrades are intended to improve the removal of iron, manganese, colour and turbidity from water withdrawn from the Town's wells. Filter backwash water would continue to be discharged to the Souris River."

The Proposal was advertised in the Melita New Era on Tuesday, July 30, 2002. It was placed in the Main and Centennial public registries and in the office of the Town of Melita as a public registry. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on July 22, 2002. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was August 23, 2002.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public comments were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Conservation - Sustainable Resource Management - The Fisheries Branch has registered concerns related to protection of water quality in the Souris River - "The Souris River supports an important and diverse recreational fishery for cool and coldwater fish species as well as significant beds of several clam species. In accordance with this, the proponent must ensure that effluent entering the Souris River meets water quality standards for the protection of aquatic organisms."

Disposition:

This comment can be addressed through licence conditions respecting water quality monitoring.

Historic Resources Branch - No concerns.

Highway Planning and Design Branch - No concerns.

Community Planning Services Branch - No concerns.

Soils and Crops Branch - No concerns.

Medical Officer of Health - Assiniboine and Brandon RHAs - Manganese effluent results range from 0.06 - 0.15 mg/L. All these results exceed the aesthetic objective of 0.05 mg/L of the Canadian Drinking Water Quality objective for manganese.

Disposition:

In the Environment Act Proposal, "effluent" refers to the treated water from a series of pilot plant trials. As this comment correctly notes, the proposed water treatment process will not achieve the aesthetic guideline for manganese. (It is possible that the guideline would be achieved under some conditions and with optimal addition of potassium permanganate oxidant.) The Proponent is willing to accept this situation since manganese levels will be reduced significantly from present levels - no manganese removal occurs with the existing water treatment process. This comment does not pertain to the quality of the backwash water from the water treatment plant, which is the subject of the environmental assessment.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency - The application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this project will not be required. Environment Canada, Health Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans have offered to provide specialist advice. Western Economic Diversification would like to participate in the provincial review. (In detailed responses, WED indicated an interest in the project, but did not request involvement in the provincial review.)

PUBLIC HEARING:

As no public concerns were identified, a public hearing is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

All comments received on the Proposal can be addressed through 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 Western Region.

PREPARED BY:

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October 31, 2002

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