

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

**PROPONENT:** R.M. of Portage la Prairie  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** Oakville Wastewater Treatment Lagoon Expansion  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** 2  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Wastewater Treatment Lagoon  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 132.30

### OVERVIEW:

On March 2, 2004, the Department received an Environment Act Proposal (EAP) on behalf of the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie for the remediation and expansion of the Community of Oakville wastewater treatment lagoon located in SW 17-11-4WPM. Remedial activities will include removing sludge from the two existing primary cells, de-watering and disposing of the sludge. In addition, new clay soil liners will be constructed in the two existing primary cells. The proposed expansion consists of the construction of a new, additional storage cell located in SE 17-11-4WPM, immediately adjacent to the east perimeter dike at the north-most portion of the existing wastewater treatment lagoon. Treated wastewater from the wastewater treatment lagoon will be discharged between June 15<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> of any year to an existing drainage route that flows into the Elm River Channel that drains into the LaSalle River. The EAP indicates that repair of the primary cells is scheduled for the summer of 2004 while the addition of the new secondary cell will occur in either 2006 or 2007.

On March 12, 2004, the Department requested that the consultant provide additional supporting information prior to commencing review of the EAP.

On March 24, 2004, the Department received the requested supporting information. The information provided new information regarding sludge disposal. The proponent identified that the sludge would be de-watered within the existing primary cells and disposed of at the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie Liquid Waste Disposal Facility located in SW 22-13-5WPM. It was also indicated that continuous clay soil liners will be located at the internal surfaces of all cells. Supporting documentation indicates that clay type soils are available at the site and it is expected that placed and compacted soils will meet provincial standards regarding hydraulic conductivity of soils used for construction of wastewater treatment lagoons.

The Department, on March 29, 2004, placed copies of the EAP report in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station); the St. James Assiniboia Public Library (Winnipeg), the Portage la Prairie City Library and the Manitoba Eco-Network and provided copies of the EAP report to the Canadian Environmental Assessment

Agency (CEAA), the Clean Environment Commission, and TAC members. As well, the Department placed public notifications of the EAP in the Headingley Headliner on Monday, April 5, 2004 and in the Portage Herald Leader on Tuesday, April 6, 2004. The newspaper and TAC notifications invited responses until May 3, 2004.

On May 17, 2004, Manitoba Conservation submitted responses from the TAC members to the appropriate Public Registries. The responses consisted of comments. There were no requests for additional information. No comments were received from the public.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

##### **Agriculture and Food**

- *No concerns with the proposal, provided that the lagoon construction and quality of effluent to be discharged into the Elm River drainage channel that empties into the La Salle River, meet the criteria and limits set by Manitoba Conservation.*

Disposition:

- The Licence contains Clauses that set requirements for lagoon construction and effluent quality.

##### **Historic Resources**

- *No concerns.*

##### **Sustainable Resource Management Branch**

- *It would be desirable for this facility to apply the effluent to the land. However, a decision about this facility and all other effluent discharges to the La Salle River watershed may be better addressed once a watershed management strategy has been developed for this region;*
- *Consideration should be given for the establishment of a monitoring program at the point of discharge of the Elm River Channel to the La Salle River to determine the effect of the removal of nutrients from the discharged effluent;*
- *The current negative impacts of the existing lagoon leakage on groundwater should be documented along with actions required to mitigate these impacts; and*

- *The proponent should be required to actively participate in any future watershed based management study, plan/or nutrient reduction program approved by the Director, for Elm River Channel, the La Salle River and associated waterways and watersheds.*

**Disposition:**

- The proposal identifies an expansion and improvements of the existing wastewater treatment lagoon. Alterations to the means by which effluent discharge occurs are not matters for inclusion with this proposal;
- The draft Environment Act Licence contains a Clause that requires that the proponent actively participate in any future watershed based management study, plan/or nutrient reduction program approved by the Director, for Elm River Channel, the La Salle River and associated waterways and watersheds. Nutrient reduction/removal in the discharge route may be assessed through that means, should it become a reality; and
- The cells of the existing wastewater treatment lagoon that have been reported to be leaking are proposed to be retrofitted with clay soil liners such that standard liner performance objectives will be achieved.

**Transportation and Government Services**

- *No concerns.*

**COMMENTS FROM FEDERAL REPRESENTATION:**

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency**

- *CEAA responses have indicated that application of The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this proposal will not be required. Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Health Canada would be able to provide specialist advice in accordance with Section 12(3) of the Act.*

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

A public hearing was not requested.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Issue an Environment Act Licence in accordance with the attached draft. Enforcement of the components of the new Licence that relate to soil liner characteristics should be assigned to the Approvals Branch until all soil testing has been completed. At least two soil liner inspection episodes will be required due to the two separate construction phases. All other components of the new Licence should be assigned to Regional Operations.

PREPARED BY:

Robert Boswick, P. Eng.  
Environmental Engineer  
Municipal & Industrial Approvals  
June 17, 2004

Telephone: (204) 945-6030  
Fax: (204) 945-5229  
E-mail Address: [rboswick@gov.mb.ca](mailto:rboswick@gov.mb.ca)