

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

**PROPOSER:** Yellowhead Water Co-operative Inc.  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** Yellowhead Regional Water Supply System  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** Two  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Transportation/Transmission - Pipelines  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 5068.00

### OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on October 21, 2004. It was dated October 15, 2004. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Manitoba Water Services Board on behalf of the Yellowhead Water Co-operative Inc. to construct a water supply system to provide potable water in the municipalities of North Norfolk and Westbourne, as well as Austin, MacGregor and Gladstone. Water for the system would be supplied from the City of Portage la Prairie’s water treatment plant. Average consumption for the system by the end of its 20 year design period is expected to be 13.9 litres per second. This is equivalent to an annual water consumption of 438 cubic decametres (350 acre-feet). Main and distribution pipelines would be constructed along provincial and municipal highway and road rights-of-way. Construction of the system is proposed to begin in the spring of 2005, with main line extensions and smaller distribution pipeline continuing to be constructed over a five year period.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Neepawa Banner on Saturday, November 13, 2004, the Gladstone Enterprise on Monday, November 15, 2004 and the Portage Herald Leader on Tuesday, November 16, 2004. It was placed in the Main, St. James-Assiniboia, Eco-Network and Portage la Prairie City Library public registries. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on November 5, 2004. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was December 13, 2004.

### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public comments were received.

### COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

#### Sustainable Resource Management Branch

- NW 11-10-10W in the R.M. of North Norfolk is part of a protected Wildlife Management Area. The proposed alignment of a water supply line is shown as

coming up to this area. Activities near and along such sensitive sites should ensure that natural habitats are not inadvertently disturbed by project activities. If the water pipelines are installed in existing disturbed rights-of-way as proposed, there should be minimal effects on these sensitive areas.

- Regarding fish and fish habitat, directional boring should take place for all crossings, including those crossings where trenching is the proposed method. If the proponent is not willing to directional bore these crossings, then it is necessary to consult with regional fisheries staff in Brandon to determine suitable crossing locations, including appropriate mitigation measures.
- There was no reference to procedures used when hydrostatic testing is done. Hydrostatic testing activities should meet or exceed the relevant standards outlined in the "Hydrostatic Test Water Management Guidelines".
- The Water Services Board should ensure:
  - That the water supply capacity of the Portage la Prairie water supply system is adequate to serve the projected population and water demands of the communities that are mentioned in its Environment Act Proposal for connection to the City of Portage la Prairie water supply system.
  - There is adequate capacity in the existing and proposed reservoirs for fire fighting purposes.
  - Ensure that each reservoir site will be monitored by a supervisory control and acquisition system of acceptable quality, connected to the Portage la Prairie water treatment plant, and
  - Ensure that the disinfecting system and analyzers will be installed at each reservoir to monitor the residual disinfection levels.

Disposition:

Most of these comments can be addressed as licence conditions. A discussion of the Portage la Prairie water treatment plant's capacity is provided in the Proposal. Information was requested concerning the fire fighting capability of the system. The last two comments respecting design considerations will be addressed through a review of the project pursuant to the Public Health Act.

**Historic Resources Branch**

Section 5 (f) indicates that the Historic Resources Branch shall be contacted once pipeline routes are finalized, in order to conduct a heritage resource impact assessment. It is recommended that the application be approved with the above condition noted.

Disposition:

This comment can be addressed as a licence condition.

**Mines Branch**

No concerns.

**Petroleum Branch**

No comments or concerns.



**Highway Planning and Design Branch**

- Agreements with our department are required to place waterlines adjacent to and/or across Provincial Road/Highway right-of-way.
- All affected ditches, slopes and disturbed areas within Provincial Road/Highway right-of-way must be restored to an acceptable condition within an acceptable timeframe.
- Contacts in the above regards are the Regional Technical Services Engineer and the Regional Planning Technologist.

**Disposition:**

These comments were forwarded to the Proponent's representative for information.

**Medical Officer of Health – Central Manitoba RHA**      There are no health concerns with this proposal. The provision of reliable potable water to rural residents in Manitoba will be a positive impact for health.

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency**      Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (PFRA) has provided notification that an environmental assessment (EA) under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (the Act) will be required with respect to the project. Two other federal departments might also require an assessment pursuant to the CEA Act. Transport Canada will require additional information regarding pipeline crossings of navigable waterways in order to determine the extent of their role in the review, and TC has indicated an interest in participating in the provincial review. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, who have yet to formally respond to the survey, may wish to participate.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will act as the Federal Environmental Assessment Coordinator (FEAC) under the Act. Pursuant to the terms of the Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation, Manitoba will lead the EA since the project is located on provincial lands. Health Canada, Environment Canada and Transport Canada have offered to provide specialist advice in regards to the project review, and DFO may be added to this list once their response is received. These departments will likely participate as federal members of the Technical Advisory Committee for the project.

**Disposition:**

All information received on the project (i.e. TAC comments and supplementary information) will be forwarded to the FEAC for the use of federal responsible authorities.

**Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration**  
AAFC-PFRA will likely be providing financial assistance to the above noted project and will therefore be required to conduct an environmental assessment screening under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

Please ensure that comments received from the federal and provincial technical advisory committee and the public are forwarded to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency as they are the Federal Environmental Assessment Coordinator for this project. They will distribute these comments to the Responsible Authorities for consideration in the federal environmental screening.

AAFC-PFRA has requested the Manitoba Water Services Board to provide the Water Rights Licence amount for the City of Portage la Prairie and a brief description on the new water reservoirs to be located in Bagot, Gladstone and Westbourne.

(Information requested by PFRA was supplied by MWSB. A copy was provided to Environmental Approvals for information.)

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Additional information was requested on December 17, 2004 to address the comments received respecting the Water Rights licencing situation of the Portage la Prairie water treatment plant and the fire fighting capacity of the water supply system. A response was provided on January 4, 2005, indicating that the plant's capacity is less than its licenced withdrawal rate under the Water Rights Act. The existing plant capacity is adequate for the first phase of the Yellowhead project, and plant expansion will be considered separately depending on other plant demands unrelated to the Yellowhead project. Firefighting requirements have been considered in the design of community reservoirs in the proposed system.

#### **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, have been addressed in additional information, or have been forwarded to the Applicant's representative for information. Therefore, it is recommended that the Development be licenced 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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