

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
NAME OF DEVELOPMENT: Pine Dock Wastewater Treatment Lagoon
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Two
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Wastewater Treatment Lagoon
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5047.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on June 14, 2004. It was dated June 18, 2004. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs for the construction and operation of a wastewater treatment lagoon for the community of Pine Dock and nearby areas. The facility would be located in NW 3-31-5E, west of PR 234 and south of Pine Dock. In addition to servicing Pine Dock through a forcemain connection, the facility would receive truck hauled wastewater from Biscuit Harbour, Beaver Creek, Frog Bay and Lee Side Beach. Treated effluent would be discharged to the ditch along the west side of PR 234, where it would flow south to a natural waterway flowing to Lake Winnipeg. Discharges would take place after June 15 and before November 1 each year. Construction of the project is proposed for 2005.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Interlake Spectator on Monday, June 28, 2004. It was placed in the Main, St. James-Assiniboia, Eco-Network, and Selkirk and St. Andrews Regional Library public registries. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on June 21, 2004. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was July 26, 2004.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public comments were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Conservation – Sustainable Resource Management

Sediment and erosion control measures should be in place before, during and after construction until the lagoon and ditch sites are stabilized.

Given the proximity to Lake Winnipeg and the Department's initiatives to address issues affecting this lake the proposed lagoon should include a nutrient removal facility. As the

clay underlying the site will need to be scarified, mixed and compacted consideration should be given to using suitable high plastic play or a geosynthetic liner.

Decommissioning plans for the existing sequencing batch reactor should be provided.

A monitoring program to determine any leakage from the cells should be considered.

It does not appear that precipitation was considered in determining the storage volume of the lagoon cells. This item should be clarified.

Clarification is also required on the exact discharge route as two different routes appear to be given in the proposal.

The number of persons used in calculating the hydraulic loading of wastewater from Biscuit Harbour, Beaver Creek, Frog Bay and Lee Side Beach should be provided.

Disposition:

Additional information was requested to address several of these comments, and some can be addressed through licence conditions. With respect to nutrient removal, a specific facility for this purpose would not be required until a watershed-wide nutrient reduction program was implemented. For this project, the wastewater treatment lagoon is small and would be discharged through a vegetated channel to Lake Winnipeg. By limiting discharges to low rates, a portion of the nutrients in the effluent will be captured by channel vegetation before reaching the lake.

Manitoba Conservation - Environmental Approvals Plans for the facility are incomplete. Hydraulic loading for the truck hauled contribution to the facility may be underestimated. The interconnecting pipe between the two cells should be moved further from the inlet end of the primary cell to avoid short circuiting. When dead storage in the secondary cell is deducted from total storage, the facility is slightly undersized to accommodate projected storage requirements between November 1 and June 15. No information is provided on decommissioning plans for the existing SBR plant.

Disposition:

Additional information was requested to address these items.

Historic Resources Branch

No concerns.

Highway Planning and Design Branch Manitoba Transportation & Government Services has no major concerns. The Department wishes to note the following:

- An agreement with the Department of Transportation & Government Services is required to place a sewerline adjacent to and across Provincial Road (PR) 234 right-of-way.
- Any proposed access onto PR 234 or structure (lagoon, drainage channel) adjacent to or within the control area of PR 234 will require permits.

- All affected ditches, slopes and disturbed areas within provincial right-of-way must be restored to an acceptable condition.
- It is assumed that additional flow into the highway ditch will not impact the hydraulic capacity of the existing culverts. However, it should be noted that any increased capacity that may be required is the responsibility of the applicant.

Regional contacts for followup were provided.

Disposition:

These comments were provided to the proponent and consultants for information. An agreement with Manitoba Transportation and Government Services can be required as a licence condition.

Soils and Crops Branch

No concerns.

Provincial Planning Services Branch

No concerns.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Western Economic Diversification has provided notification that an environmental assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act will be required. Fisheries and Oceans has provided notification that additional information is required prior to determining whether an environmental assessment will be required.

Since this project requires a multi-jurisdictional EA, CEAA will act as the Federal Environmental Assessment Coordinator (FEAC), and the EA review will be conducted pursuant to the Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation.

DFO and Environment Canada would be able to offer specialist information in regards to the project review. PFRA and Environment Canada have indicated that they have an interest in the project and would like to participate in the provincial review. PFRA will conduct the EA on behalf of Western Economic Diversification.

Environment Canada

We have an interest in the project and would like to participate in the provincial review pursuant to Clause 59 of the Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Co-operation. Our interests relate to our mandates under the Fisheries Act, Migratory Birds Convention Act and the Species at Risk Act.

The report contains very little useful environmental impact assessment information and is deficient in a number of areas. Most of the EIA information is essentially contained in section 7.4, which is very sketchy and provides no information to substantiate the conclusions that the project will unlikely have impacts to wildlife or forestry (or other valued ecosystem components.) No mention is made of potential impact to the natural area that is to be cleared for the lagoon site, including migratory birds, other wildlife

species and vegetation. The report refers to two rare/endangered species in the area (Water Star-grass and Fox Sedge), but does not provide any information to substantiate the statement that "No negative impacts are anticipated." Furthermore, no information is provided about potential impacts to species listed under the federal Species at Risk Act.

The report does not address potential aquatic impacts due to nutrient loadings and other water quality parameters, even though the lagoon effluent will be directed to Lake Winnipeg, which is currently experiencing significant water quality problems due in large part to excessive nutrients. While we realize this is a relatively small project, potential impacts should be reviewed and assessed in the context of other initiatives, such as the Lake Winnipeg Action Plan.

No information is provided on needs and alternatives. We note that, although the population is essentially unchanged since 1991, the hydraulic loadings now exceed the capacity of the SBR. Other reports have apparently been prepared, but no reference is made to their findings. For example, have the reasons for the excess hydraulic loading been investigated (e.g. infiltration)? Are other options available to building of a new lagoon, such as resolving possible infiltration problems and upgrading the existing SBR?

Disposition:

Additional information was requested to address these comments.

Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
comments on the project proposal:

PFRA has the following

- Wastewater is currently treated with a SBR. Is upgrading this plant a feasible option? It is requested that a copy of the report prepared in 2003 titled "Existing SBR Wastewater Treatment Facilities Assessment and Planning Study for Pine Dock, Manitoba" is forwarded to my office.
- The EAP should indicate if trucked wastewater is from holding tanks or septic tanks.
- The EAP states that a new effluent discharge route will be constructed and join a natural channel downstream. Construction details for this drain are required (i.e. depth, vegetation, rip rap) as well as a description of the natural channel.

Please forward comments from the TAC and public as they will be incorporated into the federal environmental assessment.

Disposition:

Additional information was requested to address these comments.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information addressing TAC comments was requested from the Proponent's consultants on August 20, 2004. The response to this request was received on October 6, 2004. Further information was requested on December 8, 2004 to address quantities calculated in the October 6 response. A response to the December 8 request was received on December 15, 2004. Each request and response is attached. Additional information on sludge disposal for the existing and proposed wastewater treatment facilities was provided in a letter of February 8, 2005. Additional information concerning the decommissioning of the existing wastewater treatment plant was provided in a letter of February 18, 2004. Each of these information items is also attached.

PUBLIC HEARING:

As no requests for a public hearing were made, a public hearing is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

All comments received on the Proposal have been addressed in the additional information or 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 Environmental Approvals until construction is completed. Once the facility is commissioned, enforcement should be assigned to the Interlake Region.

PREPARED BY:

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Environmental Approvals - Environmental Land Use Approvals
(for Municipal and Industrial Approvals)
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Updated February 17, 2005 and March 2, 2005

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