

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROPONENT:** Rural Municipality of Whitemouth  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** One  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Waste Disposal - Water Treatment Plants  
(Wastewater)

**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 5357.00

### **OVERVIEW:**

The Proposal was received on March 14, 2008. It was dated February 27, 2008. Some additional information was requested on March 25, 2008 to complete the Proposal. Upon receipt of the additional information on August 7, 2008, the Proposal was advertised as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Manitoba Water Services Board and Stantec Consulting Ltd. on behalf of the Rural Municipality of Whitemouth for the disposal of wastewater from an upgraded water treatment plant in SE 27-13-11E. The proposed plant would be a package installation that would provide treatment for the Rural Municipality’s water supply system, which is sourced from Natalie Lake on the Winnipeg River. The plant’s effluent stream, consisting of backwash water, rinse water and clarifier sludge would be discharged to a two pond system for settling. Settled water would then be discharged to a ditch and natural drain eventually leading to the Winnipeg River downstream of the Seven Sisters Dam. Construction of the proposed upgrades to the plant is planned for 2009.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Beausejour Clipper on Monday, September 8, 2008 and in the Lac du Bonnet Leader on Friday, September 12, 2008. It was placed in the Main, Eco-Network, Millennium Public Library (Winnipeg) and Brokenhead River Regional Library (Beausejour) public registries, and in the office of the R. M. of Whitemouth as a registry location. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on August 29, 2008. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was October 3, 2008.

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

**R. M. of Whitemouth**

In favor of the Proposal.

**COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

**Manitoba Conservation – Sustainable Resource and Policy Management Branch**

No concerns.

**Manitoba Conservation – Parks and Natural Areas Branch**

No comments.

**Manitoba Water Stewardship**

- *The Water Rights Act* indicates that no person shall control water or construct, establish or maintain any “water control works” unless he or she holds a valid licence to do so. “Water control works” are defined as any dyke, dam, surface or subsurface drain, drainage, improved natural waterway, canal, tunnel, bridge, culvert borehole or contrivance for carrying or conducting water, that temporarily or permanently alters or may alter the flow or level of water, including but not limited to water in a water body, by any means, including drainage, OR changes or may change the location or direction of flow of water, including but not limited to water in a water body, by any means, including drainage. If the proposal in question advocates any of these activities, application for a Water Rights Licence to Construct Water Control Works is required.
- The proponent needs to be informed that if the proposal in question advocates any construction activities, erosion and sediment control measures should be implemented until all of the sites have stabilized.
- The Department requests a response to the following questions:
  - How will the water retained (25,854 m<sup>3</sup>) during the winter be discharged in the spring?
  - How will summer discharge occur?
- Certain methods of water treatment are more efficient than others, some wasting as much as 50% while others wasting 20%.
- The Department recommends that the proponent undertake such calculations as:
  - loading estimate of constituents in reject water (TSS, hardness);
  - an estimate of the concentrations of constituents in the reject water;

- a comparison of reject water stream loads to the receiving waters (Winnipeg River) loads. (both spring and summer flows, if applicable) and submit for further review; and,
- % of water wasted.
- The Department recommends that at the start-up of operation of the retention pond discharge, a water quality monitoring program is conducted for one year to provide verification of the estimated concentrations of the reject water and submit a report to the Water Quality Management Section for review.
- The discharge route (high density pipe) is to a creek that appears to have been rerouted through channelization, the downstream portion which is in a natural state and drains into the Winnipeg River just below the dam. The Winnipeg River has approximately 45 fish species (Fish Inventory and Habitat Classification System), including significant commercial sport and recreational angling fish species (walleye, northern pike, catfish, whitefish, drum etc.) as well as lake sturgeon and species identified under the *Species At Risk Act*. The carmine shiner, identified as threatened, occurs in the Whitemouth River which enters the Winnipeg River just downstream of the creek mouth.
- There is no information on how the discharge pipe will be installed. If the discharge pipe will be installed via an open cut trench, then appropriate erosion and sediment control measures should be implemented during and after construction until the site, particularly through the creek bank, has stabilized.

Disposition:

Several of these comments were provided to the proponent's consultant for information. Additional information was requested to address other comments, and the remaining comments can be addressed as licence conditions.

**Historic Resources Branch** The Historic Resources Branch has no concerns with regard to this project's potential to impact heritage resources.

If at any time however, significant heritage resources are recorded in association with these lands during development, the Historic Resources Branch may require that an acceptable heritage resource management strategy be implemented by the developer to mitigate the affects of development on the heritage resources.

Disposition:

This information was forwarded to the proponent's consultant for information.

**Highway Planning and Design Branch** No concern.

**Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives – Land Use Planning and Policy Knowledge Centre**

No issues or concerns.

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency** I have completed a survey of federal departments with respect to determining interest in the project noted. I can confirm that the project information that was provided has been forwarded to federal departments with a potential interest. Based on the responses to the survey, application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (the Act) will not be required for this project. Please note that Health Canada (HC) has indicated that advice may be provided upon request. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has provided advice for your consideration in the review of this proposal.

(No federal departments indicated a desire to participate in the provincial review of the project.)

**Department of Fisheries and Oceans** As requested, we have reviewed the project description to upgrade the existing RM of Whitemouth Water Treatment Plant, provided by you pursuant to subsection 12(3) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Our review of this project was limited to its impacts on fish and fish habitat.

Based on the information provided, we have concluded that the project is not likely to *cause* significant adverse effects on fish and fish habitat after taking into account implementation of mitigation measures. The following measures, if incorporated into the project, will ensure that any potentially adverse effects on fish and fish habitat will be mitigated:

- Any excavated materials (ie. ditch re-grading) are disposed on land above the high water mark in a manner that will prevent the re-entry of the material into any watercourse. This could include covering stockpiles with biodegradable mats or tarps or planting stockpiles with grass or shrubs.
- Use only clean rock for outlet protection and haul it in from an appropriate land-based source. Avoid using poor quality limestone that breaks down quickly when exposed to the elements. All rock is clean and free of fine materials that could be washed away during high flow events.
- Install effective temporary and long-term sediment and erosion control measures and re-vegetate any exposed soils in order to prevent the entry of sediment into the drain. Inspect these measures regularly and ensure that they are functioning properly until vegetation is re-established. Make all necessary repairs and adjustments if any damage is discovered or if these measures are not effective in controlling erosion and sedimentation.
- For the water intake:
  - The water withdrawal rate does not exceed 10% of the instantaneous flow in the water body at the withdrawal point and water is not withdrawn if the withdrawal might create isolated pools or increase the risk of fish kills;
  - Installation of water intake pipes are timed to prevent disruption of spawning fish, their incubating eggs and larval life stages between 1 April and 30 June;
  - Disturbance to riparian shorelines is minimized;
  - Construction materials, e.g. for intake deployment ramps, are not taken from the shoreline or from below the ordinary high water mark to minimize impacts to fish habitat — clean materials, free of dirt, are used;
  - Intake deployment ramps are the minimum area required for installation, do not exceed 15 square meters in area below the ordinary high water mark, do not

involve more than 10% of a stream channel width (in total) and are flush, or nearly flush, with the existing river, stream, or lake bottom;

- Intakes used in fish bearing waters are adequately screened to prevent debris blockage and fish mortality (refer to DFO's Freshwater Intake End-of Pipe Fish Screen Guidelines, available at [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/223669.pdf](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/223669.pdf)).

Please note that this advice is provided to satisfy the requirements of subsection 12(3) of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and should not be taken to imply DFO's approval of the project, or any part thereof, in accordance with the Fisheries Act or any other federal legislation.

It is my understanding that this proposal is being reviewed by Environment Canada and that they will, comment on issues dealing with contaminants, including the deposition of deleterious substances and potential toxicity to aquatic organisms under the pollution provisions of the Fisheries Act.

Disposition:

Most of these comments can be addressed through licence conditions. The information was also provided directly to the proponent for information.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Additional information was requested to address Technical Advisory Committee comments on the project on October 8, 2008. The requested information was provided in a letter dated November 19, 2008. This information is appended to the Project Summary. The information addresses most of the requested items. While comments on the effects of the effluent discharge on the Winnipeg River have not been provided, the information is sufficient to indicate that the effluent quality is similar to Winnipeg River water, and the effect of the discharge would be insignificant on the river. Effluent quality monitoring can be addressed as a licence condition to ensure that the projected effluent quality is attained.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

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

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Comments received on the Proposal have been addressed through additional information or can be addressed through licence conditions. 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 Eastern Region.

PREPARED BY:

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