



May 11, 2016

File No. 15-1736-008

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Environmental Approvals Branch
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ATTENTION: Mr. Bruce Webb
Water Development and Control Assessment Officer

RE: Churchill Marine Observatory, Environment Act Proposal
File number: 5803.00
License Amendment

Dear Mr. Webb:

On behalf of the University of Manitoba, KGS Group has prepared this notice to update you on proposed project changes from the Environment Act Proposal (EAP) submitted November 9, 2015 for licencing approval to construct and operate the Churchill Marine Observatory (CMO). The proposed changes from the EAP are provided in the paragraphs below. This information is being provided for inclusion in the project file and so that you can continue processing the proposal.

Proposed Changes

Since the EAP was submitted, it has been determined through community consultation meetings that there is strong opposition to the proposed fencing that was to be erected around the CMO facility. The proposal to include a fence around the facility was part of the project design and intended to protect the facility from potential vandalism and the researchers from polar bears. In response to community input, it is now proposed that the perimeter fencing will not be erected and the facility will be bear-proofed in the following ways:

- Bars will be installed on all facility windows;
- Ladder blocks will be installed on all access ladders permanently affixed to the facility;
- Stairways for accessing the facility will be blocked in such a way as to allow human access and egress but to keep bears out of the facility; and
- Lighting, including occupancy motion sensors, will be installed in order to brightly illuminate the facility at night and provide facility occupants with the ability to see any bears in the area.

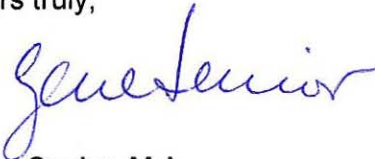
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship issued a draft licence document for the CMO and paragraph 11, Respecting Fencing, states that:

The Licencee shall install and maintain a fence around the Development to control access by people and polar bears. The fence shall have a locking gate(s), which shall be closed at all times except to allow access to the Development, and locked when staff is not present at the Development.

As a result of the proposed changes to the project description and the removal of perimeter fencing, it is requested that when the final Environment Act Licence is issued, that it not include the paragraph respecting fencing.

Should you require any additional information or have any questions regarding the proposed changes, please contact the undersigned at 204-896-1209.

Yours truly,



Gene Senior, M.A.
Environmental Scientist

GS/jr

cc: David Barber, University of Manitoba
Jackie Cooney-Birch, University of Manitoba
Audrey Marcinco-Jerris, University of Manitoba
Melissa McAlister, Prairie Architects
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