

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

**PROPONENT:** Norway House Cree Nation/Poplar River  
First Nation  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** Proposed Winter Road Development - Poplar  
River First Nation to Norway House Cree  
Nation  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** 2  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Transportation  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 4217.00

### OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was dated on November 29, 1996 and was received on December 3, 1996. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

"A Proposal filed by the Norway House Cree Nation, and on behalf of the Poplar River First Nation, for the construction of two winter road sections on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. In conjunction with the existing winter road, the construction of the two new sections of winter road will create an inland winter road system linking the Poplar River First Nation Reserve No. 16 and the Norway House Cree Nation No. 17. The first section involves the construction of 62.9 km. from the Big Black River community to the existing winter road beginning between Montreal Point and the mouth of the Nelson River and a 5.6 km. section from the end of the same existing winter road to the Gunisao River and Norway House Cree Nation Reserve No. 17. The project is scheduled to be completed before the winter road construction and operation season closes in March 1997."

The Proposal was advertised in the Thompson Nickel Belt News on Monday, December 16, 1996 and in the Circle on Monday, December 16, 1996. It was placed in the Main Registry, the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Centennial Public Library, the Thompson Public Library and MKO. In addition, Band Offices at Norway House and Poplar River were made available as registries for public review of the Proposal. It was also distributed to the "Transportation" TAC members for review. All comments were requested by January 6, 1997.

### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Leonard McKay  
Box 308  
Norway House, MB R0B 1B0

Letter dated January 2, 1997. Mention that the proposal was not discussed with the local trappers

association, nor was the proposal discussed with the Band members. Concerned about using Band funds to construct the road, the cost and responsibility for maintenance, and the bio-physical impacts from construction. Request that a CEC public hearing be held in Norway House.

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No other responses were received as a result of the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal.

**COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

**Manitoba Natural Resources** No concerns were identified.

**Manitoba Environment - Water Quality** Note that Water Quality Management concerns have been addressed in Section 2.9 Proposed Environmental Management Practices of the Proposal. Recommend that precautions be taken to prevent erosion and sedimentation.

Disposition: The comments can be accommodated as a general condition of the licence by requiring that the proponent construct the development in accordance with the Proposal which documents the proposed environmental management practices.

**Manitoba Environment - Northern Region** No specific concerns. Recommend that applicable regulations for northern construction projects be followed including construction camps, sewage disposal, solid waste disposal, drinking water, waste soils, borrow pits, and gasoline, diesel and oil.

**Historic Resources** No concerns with regard to the project's potential to impact heritage resources.

**Mines Branch** No concerns.

**Health** No concerns

**Highways** No specific concerns. MHT does not expect the proposed development to directly impact upon their existing system of winter roads, other than possibly creating a slight increase in traffic on winter roads south of Poplar River. MHT requests that the proponent inform them of the project's status, in terms of construction schedules, road conditions, and opening and closing dates.

Disposition: Highways request will be transmitted to the proponent in the Licence letter of transmittal.

**Rural Development** No land use concerns.

**Fisheries and Oceans** DFO has concluded that the project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish and fish habitat provided the following mitigation measures are followed:

- 1) Ice bridges must not interfere or impede flow of watercourses.
- 2) The "Manitoba Stream Crossings Guidelines, May 1996" are followed.
- 3) The road is kept a minimum of 100m from Lake Winnipeg and all crossings are kept 500 m upstream of the river mouths.

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- 4) Fill consists of snow and/or clean, delimbed logs cabled together. All debris (including reinforcement logs) are removed from the watercourses before spring breakup.
- 5) Ice bridges are located at sites with gently sloping banks to minimize cuts to watercourse banks. Snow and ice should be used to slope approaches wherever possible, rather than cut banks. Any cut stream banks or exposed soils are to be stabilized against erosion prior to spring run-off.
- 6) Construction equipment is refueled and serviced at a minimum distance of 100m away from the water courses and the lake and deleterious substances do not enter the water. Note that the deposit of deleterious substances into waters frequented by fish is prohibited under the Fisheries Act.

Disposition: The mitigation measures detailed above can be accommodated as conditions of licencing.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing is not recommended. The decision to not recommend a public hearing is made on the basis that only one letter was received in response to the advertisement of the proposal. Further, the concerns expressed by the respondent relate to the funding arrangements for construction and maintenance which fall outside the scope of the Environment Act review. The technical review of the proposal indicate that the respondent's concern about the bio-physical impacts can be managed through conditions of licencing.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The comments and concerns identified by the TAC can be accommodated as conditions of licencing for the project. Therefore, it is recommended that the Development be licenced under The Environment Act subject to the limits, terms and conditions as described in the attached Draft Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended that enforcement of the Licence be assigned to the Manitoba Environment Northern Region.

**PREPARED BY:**

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January 13, 1997  
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