

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.
PROPOSAL NAME: Ste. Agathe - Canada Agra Natural Gas
Pipeline
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transmission
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4219.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was dated and received on December 9, 1996. Following receipt of the Proposal, Centra Gas requested that advertising be withheld until customer commitments became firm. On Thursday, August 10, 1997 Centra Gas requested that Approvals Branch proceed with advertising the Proposal. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

"A Proposal has been filed by Centra Gas to extend natural gas service from the Trans Canada Pipelines right-of-way located west of PTH #59 in the Rural Municipality of Hanover to the Community of Ste. Agathe and the Industrial Park Area in the Rural Municipality of Ritchot. Construction of the project is scheduled from September to November 1997.

The Proposal was distributed to the "Transportation" TAC for review and was advertised in the Steinbach Carillon on Monday, August 18, 1997. It was placed in the Main Registry, the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Centennial Public Library, and the Steinbach Public Library. Comments were requested by September 2, 1997.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No comments were received in response to the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Natural Resources Recommend that the proponent develop a contingency plan which indicates how impacts to the stream environment and riparian zones are to be mitigated in the event that open trenching must be used to cross the Red and Rat Rivers. The plan should be submitted to Manitoba Environment and Manitoba DNR for review and approval prior to beginning the crossing construction. Suggest that, if possible, open

trenching should not occur from the beginning of April to the end of July in order to avoid the critical fish spawning period and the primary breeding and rearing season for wildlife. Recommend that the construction zones be as narrow as possible near aquatic areas and through riparian zones. Equipment used in pipeline construction during open water should not pass through the riparian zone at stream crossings but should be moved by land and

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bridge routes. Loss of wooded habitat along Crown land boundaries should be minimized. If flooding from the Red River could have an impact on the design and operation of the pipeline the proponent should contact the DNR Water Resources Branch to obtain more information regarding depth, extent and duration of flooding.

Disposition: The comments provided by DNR can be accommodated as conditions of licencing.

Manitoba Environment - Water Quality Support the directional bore method to cross the Rat and Red Rivers as noted in the Proposal. Suggest that if it becomes necessary to open cut the crossings, the work should be done in March or as earlier as possible to avoid the spawning period and sediment loading in the rivers. Recommend that the river banks and excavated areas be stabilized following construction to minimize erosion.

Disposition: These comments can be accommodated as conditions in the Licence which will also address similar comments expressed by DNR.

Manitoba Environment (Eastern-Interlake Region) Recommend that normal precautions should be taken to prevent spillage when refueling or servicing construction equipment and machinery. Waste oil products should be collected and disposed of in accordance with applicable Manitoba Environment regulatory requirements. Fuel storage areas required for the project should be in compliance with MR 97/88R.

Disposition: The comments can be accommodated as licencing conditions which reference the appropriate Manitoba Environment regulations.

Mines Branch No concerns

Urban Affairs No comments

Rural Development The Hanover Zoning By-Law requires that a conditional use order be dealt with for all pipeline extension of Centra Gas from the Municipality.

Disposition: The conditional use order will be brought to the attention of the proponent in the Licence letter of transmittal.

Historic Resources Branch Report that there are no heritage resources in the area of the proposed pipeline although the Rat and Red River crossing sites may have potential for heritage resources. Historic Resources would have concerns with the project if the open cut trenching method is used for the crossings. Recommend that the proponent retain a qualified heritage resource consultant to monitor the construction of any open cut crossings. Historic Resources can provide a list of qualified consultants and terms of reference for the monitoring the project.

Disposition: The requirement to have the proponent retain a qualified heritage resource consultant to monitor the construction activity during any open cut crossings can be accommodated as a licencing condition.

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Canadian Coast Guard If open trenching to cross waterways is required approval under the Navigable Waters Act is necessary. Otherwise the Coast Guard would not have any concerns.

Disposition: Requirements can be accommodated as a condition of licencing.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada The work is not expected to have an impact on fish habitat if the Red and Rat Rivers are crossed by tunneling or boring. If the crossings have to be open cut Fisheries and Oceans would require that detailed plans regarding the methodology, location, scheduling and erosion control methods be submitted to the Provincial and Federal Fisheries agencies prior to construction of the crossing. Recommend that if there are site specific concerns regarding fish habitat at the crossing location(s), or if detailed information regarding fish habitat at the crossing location(s) is unknown, a detailed fisheries investigation to evaluate the sensitivity of the crossing, as described in "Watercourse Crossing Guidelines for Pipeline Systems", January 1993, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, should be undertaken. This information is necessary to determine whether Authorization pursuant to Section 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act* is required.

Disposition: Comments can be accommodated under the same conditions of licencing which address similar comments expressed by DNR and the Department of Environment Water Quality Section.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing is not recommended for this project as no public concerns were filed in response to the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal.

RECOMMENDATION:

The TAC comments 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 Winnipeg Region.

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