

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Hydro/Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.
PROPOSAL NAME: Selkirk Generating Station Gas Supply Line
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transmission
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4647.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was dated and received on July 13, 2001. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by Manitoba Hydro for the construction and operation of a natural gas pipeline from an existing Centra Gas Primary Station near Landmark to Manitoba Hydro’s Selkirk Generating Station. The pipeline would provide natural gas as the primary fuel source for the generating station. The proposed 55 km route crosses through the rural municipalities of Tache, Springfield and St. Clements. Approximately half of the proposed route would be on easements on privately owned land. The remainder of the route would be along Manitoba Hydro transmission line right-of-way. The proposed route was selected following a public consultation program conducted in May and June of 2001 by Manitoba Hydro and Centra Gas. It avoids residences, farmsteads and other existing facilities. The line would consist of 250 mm and 200 mm steel pipe. Construction is proposed for the late fall of 2001 and the winter of 2001/2002, with an in service date in the early summer of 2002.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Selkirk Journal, the Steinbach Carillon and the Beausejour Clipper on July 23, 2001. It was also advertised in the Dawson Trail Dispatch the week of August 1, 2001. It was placed in the Main Registry (123 main Street), the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Centennial Public Library, the Selkirk Community Library and the Brokenhead Regional Library. Copies of the Proposal were also made available for review at Springfield and Tache Municipal Offices. Comments were requested by August 20, 2001.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public responses were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Conservation (Policy Coordination Branch) - The measures proposed to mitigate impacts on fish habitat at both perennial and intermittent stream/drain crossings are appropriate to adequately mitigate impacts on crossings. However, the Proposal implies that all other watercourses other than the Seine River or Cooks Creek do not contain fish habitat. The method of crossing watercourses likely to have fish habitat, such as a tributary of Cooks Creek north of PTH 44, should be mentioned. On the same

tributary to Cooks Creek the pipeline route appears to closely follow the stream alignment for 200-300 meters. More details are required on where this section of pipeline will be

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located relative to the stream and riparian areas, and what measures will be used to mitigate any potential damages. Note that temporary vehicle crossings at intermittent stream crossings that contain fish habitat are not addressed. Recommend that temporary vehicle crossings not be allowed at stream crossings where fish habitat is present. Should directional drilling not be possible the site specific plan must also be reviewed by Manitoba Conservation Fisheries Branch.

Disposition:

On August 23, 2001, Approvals Branch requested additional information from Manitoba Hydro/Centra Gas on the above comments. On September 7, 2001, Manitoba Hydro/Centra Gas provided the following proposed routing/construction options to avoid any disturbance of the Cooks Creek tributary channel:

- 1) No trenching will be carried out within the tributary channel or the adjacent riparian area.
- 2) The upstream crossing of the tributary where there is standing water will be directionally drilled or the pipe will be “pushed ” under the stream channel without disturbing the stream channel.
- 3) Two routing/construction options are proposed for the 200-300 where the tributary parallels the Manitoba Hydro right-of-way and proposed pipeline route:
 - i. Directional drilling under the stream channel; and
 - ii. Procurement of additional easement to enable construction of the pipeline in an area removed from the tributary and its riparian zone.

Confirmation of the selected option will be provided in advance of construction.

Temporary crossings will not be constructed in watercourses where there is flowing or standing water. Temporary crossing with full restoration may be considered on a case by case basis for “dry” seasonal streams and ditches. As construction is to occur in winter under close supervision, the potential for habitat impact in these streams is very minimal.

The exact location of stream crossings and other sensitive areas are determined by survey and will be identified and included in the Environmental Protection Plan which will be used by project supervisors and issued to the contractor.

Manitoba Conservation Fisheries Branch reported to Approvals Branch that they are satisfied with Manitoba Hydro’s response to their concerns and have no further comments.

Manitoba Conservation (Interlake Region) - No comments.

Mines Branch - No concerns.

Petroleum Branch - No comments.

Historic Resources Branch - No concerns. The project's potential to impact heritage resources has been adequately addressed in the EIS.

Agriculture - Recommend that Hydro/Centra Gas make every effort to ensure that landowners concerns are properly dealt with to the satisfaction of both parties, prior to pipeline installation. Any inconvenience, damage and economic loss incurred by farmers due to the project should be subject to compensation.

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Disposition:

The concerns of landowners with respect to easements, damage and economic loss are beyond the scope of the Environment Act review. These concerns are routinely dealt with by Hydro/Centra's property departments.

Transportation & Government Services (MTGS) - No objection to the project, but offer the following comments for consideration. The proponent should be informed that appropriate approvals or agreements will be required from MTGS to allow placement of the gas line within the highway rights-of-way and control areas adjacent to them. In addition to MTGS approval of the gas line crossings, the proponent should be aware that any accesses and above ground structures require approval and permits from either the Highway Traffic Board or MTGS. Detailed design plans will be required if the gas line is within the highway rights-of-way or control areas of PR 509 and 204. Note that the crossing of PR 405 and the proposed Winnipeg-Oakbank Corridor are not mentioned in the proposal.

Disposition:

This information will be forwarded to the proponent for direct followup with MTGS.

Intergovernmental Affairs - Rural residential development within the vicinity of the proposed pipeline is minimal and therefore any negative impacts on residences and farmsteads should be minimal. Recommend that Manitoba Hydro contact the Selkirk and District Planning area Board Office in Selkirk regarding yard and area requirements and any necessary permits.

Disposition:

This information will be forwarded to the proponent for direct followup with the Selkirk and District Planning area Board Office.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada - DFO has no major concerns with the gas supply pipeline project. No significant impacts to fish or fish habitat are anticipated provided the

mitigation measures listed in the EIS are carried out. Recommend that DFO be contacted as soon as possible if directional drilling of major streams is not possible.

Disposition:

A licence condition will specify that only non-disruptive crossing techniques may be used. Separate approval will need to be obtained for open cut crossings.

Environment Canada - Environmental impacts have been addressed and can be mitigated by the measures outlined in the EIS. Request that Environment Canada be notified in the event crossings cannot be directional drilled.

Disposition:

Notification to Environment Canada/DFO/MB Conservation Fisheries Branch for open cut crossings can be addressed as a licence condition.

PUBLIC HEARING:

As no concerns were identified, a public hearing is not recommended.

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RECOMMENDATION:

All comments received on the Proposal can be addressed as licence conditions. Therefore, it is recommended that the Development be licenced 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 Red River Region.

PREPARED BY:

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September 20, 2001

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