

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie
PROPOSAL NAME: Poplar Point Sewage Lagoon
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Wastewater Treatment Lagoon
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4665.00

OVERVIEW:

On August 3, 2001, the Department received an Environment Act Proposal (EAP) on behalf of the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie to construct and operate a 2-cell wastewater treatment lagoon located in NE 6 - 13 - 4 WPM in the Rural Municipality of Woodlands to serve the community of Poplar Point. Effluent (treated wastewater) from the wastewater treatment lagoon would be discharged to improved municipal drainage ditching that flows north from the proposed site into the Long Lake Drain. From this junction, the Long Lake Drain flows eastward approximately 20 kilometers until it's confluence with the Assiniboine River. Effluent would be discharged between June 15th and November 1st of any year.

The Proposal and supporting documentation, prepared by Stantec Consulting Ltd., indicates that the soils at the site of the proposed lagoon consists of high plastic clay. Supporting documentation indicates that clay soil available at the site is expected to meet provincial standards regarding hydraulic conductivity of soils used for construction of wastewater treatment lagoons.

The Department, on August 20, 2001, placed copies of the EAP report in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station); the Centennial Public Library and the Portage la Prairie City Library in Portage la Prairie and provided copies of the EAP report to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, the Clean Environment Commission, and TAC members. As well, the Department placed public notifications of the EAP in the Stonewall Argus and Teulon Times on Monday, August 27, 2001 and the Portage Herald Leader Press on Tuesday, August 28, 2001. The newspapers and TAC notifications invited responses until September 21, 2001.

There were no responses from the public during the response period. On September 26, 2001 and September 28, 2001, Manitoba Conservation forwarded comments that had been received from the TAC to the proponent. Additional information that would address the concerns presented in the comments was requested from the proponent.

On October 18, 2001, Manitoba Conservation submitted responses from the TAC members to the appropriate Public Registries.

On January 3, 2002, Manitoba Conservation received copies of responses that the consultant sent directly to Intergovernmental Affairs and Sustainable Resources Management Branch, being the TAC representatives that had requested additional information.

On January 23, 2002, Manitoba Conservation received a memorandum from the Sustainable Resources Management Branch indicating that the additional information was reviewed and that there were no further comments.

On April 9, 2002, residents of the R.M. of Woodlands sent a letter presenting items of concern regarding the EAP to the Honourable Oscar Lathlin. As the EAP review process was still underway, the items of concern were incorporated to the process. Through discussions and supply of reference information, the concerns of the resident were addressed and satisfied.

On May 28, 2002, R.M. of Woodlands council met and passed Conditional Use approval for the R.M. of Portage la Prairie to construct and operate this wastewater treatment lagoon within the R.M. of Woodlands. The approval contains a condition that the two jurisdictions also enter into a Development Agreement pertaining to maintenance, liability, compliance with Government Regulations and inspections of this wastewater treatment lagoon.

On June 21, 2002, a draft Environment Act Licence was distributed to the TAC for review. Comments, if any, were to be returned by July 3, 2002. There were no comments.

On July 3, 2002, the proponent requested that the wastewater treatment lagoon be relocated to a different site (on the same quarter section) from that proposed in the EAP. In addition, the proponent requested that the proposed sewage dumping station for truck handled sewage be deleted from the EAP as the R.M. of Portage la Prairie had previously constructed a Licenced facility within SW 22 - 13 - 5WPM to accommodate such sewage.

An assessment of the potential impacts of approving the R.M. of Portage la Prairie's requests involved contacting Environmental Operations representation, the public and municipal councils to determine the if the requested changes would be acceptable and establish the potential impacts and the viability of the requests.

On July 8, 2002, Environmental Operations representation indicated that the previously constructed Licenced facility located at SW 22 - 13 - 5WPM would be capable of accommodating the hydraulic and organic loads of truck hauled wastewater and septage from Poplar Point. The Poplar Point lagoon would therefore not require a spillway for truck handled sewage and the request to delete it from the design could be accepted.

On July 23, 2002, following the site investigation and the completion of a cost estimate for the alternate location by the consultant, the R.M. of Portage la Prairie Council made a decision to construct the lagoon at the location initially proposed. The wastewater treatment lagoon is to be constructed near the northeast corner of NE 6 - 13 - 4WPM in the Rural Municipality of Woodlands.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comment(s)</u>
R.M. of Woodlands	Box 10 Woodlands, MB R0C 3H0	01/09/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Voicing objection to the EAP; - Indicating that, at the time the EAP was distributed, there were no agreements in place between the RM of Woodlands and the RM of Portage la Prairie; - Requesting further information verifying the feasibility of the proposed location; and - A Conditional Use application will have to be completed if the lagoon is to be located in the RM of Woodlands.
Belinski, David and Denise	PO Box 55 Poplar Point, MB R0H 0Z0	02/04/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expressing concern regarding contamination of water well and odours; - Suggesting that the municipal meeting they attended did not allow for desired discussions; and - Indicating that the proponent had not adequately assessed other sites as options.
Belinski, David and Denise	PO Box 55 Poplar Point, MB R0H 0Z0	02/05/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encouraging frequent monitoring of the site and drain conditions as necessary; - Requesting that any future concerns or problems with this lagoon be dealt with appropriately; and - Presenting no further comments on this issue at this time.
Matthies, Arnold	SE 12 - 13 - 5W	02/07/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expressing concern and dissatisfaction regarding locating the lagoon in the northwest-most area of the quarter section, especially regarding potential impacts on property value.

Disposition:

- The R.M. of Portage la Prairie has obtained Conditional Use approval from the R.M. of Woodlands for the lagoon;
- A Development Agreement will be established between the R.M. of Portage la Prairie and the R.M. of Woodlands;
- The proposed site is at least 1.5 kilometer from the nearest residence;

- The meeting was not a public forum for discussing environment-related aspects of the EAP. Rather, a land use agreement issue between the R.M. of Portage la Prairie and the R.M. of Woodlands; and
- The area of the proposed site is reported to be the best of several areas that were investigated. Once constructed, the liner of the wastewater treatment lagoon will be inspected and analyzed to verify compliance with Licence requirements.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Historic Resources

- *No concerns.*

Health

- *The concerns with this proposal are the minimization of odors and fencing to protect the public and animals.*

Disposition:

- The Licence requires that the lagoon be operated in such a manner that the generation of odours is minimized; and
- The lagoon is required to have a fence and gate to restrict access.

Manitoba Conservation - Regional Operations

- *No objection to the disposal of septage from Poplar Point at the liquid waste disposal site located at SW 22 - 13 - 5W in lieu of constructing a sewage dumping station for truck handled sewage at the proposed wastewater treatment lagoon.*

Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs

- *The property is designated "AG" Agricultural General Zone. Sewage waste disposal areas are a conditional use under the "AG" Zone; and*
- *A Development Agreement should be entered into between the Rural Municipality of Woodlands and the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie that outlines the municipal responsibilities associated with maintaining the treatment facility.*

Disposition:

- The R.M. of Portage la Prairie has obtained Conditional Use approval from the R.M. of Woodlands for the lagoon; and
- A Development Agreement will be established between the between the R.M. of Portage la Prairie and the R.M. of Woodlands.

Sustainable Resource Management Branch

- *The proposal does not indicate how the community currently handles wastewater and sewage and does not indicate why the construction of a new lagoon facility is deemed necessary;*
- *There is no information to support the claim that there will be no negative environmental impacts from effluent discharge on the Long Lake Drain and the Assiniboine River; and*
- *Long Lake Drain is receiving water from two other wastewater treatment facilities in the area. The coordination of discharges with these other two sources should be considered in order to minimize the impact on the aquatic environment.*

Disposition:

- The residences of the community of Poplar Point are currently served by septic tank and field or pit privy. There is no public sewage disposal. The community recently installed low-pressure piped sewage collection and therefore now requires a sewage treatment facility which will be a sewage lagoon;
- Section 12 of Appendix B in the EAP outlines the required treated wastewater parameters. The lagoon effluent cannot be discharged unless it meets these parameters. Manitoba Conservation sets parameters for the levels at which there will be no significant negative environmental impacts to receiving waters such as the Long Lake Drain and Assiniboine River. Further, the discharge will not take place until after June 15 of any year and therefore there will not be ammonia impacts on fish; and
- The Licence requires that the RM of Portage la Prairie coordinate and monitor discharges from this wastewater treatment lagoon such that the potential environmental effects are minimized.

Transportation and Government Services

- *No concerns.*

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

- *The 2001 CEAA responses have indicated that the application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this project will not be required; and*
- *Environment Canada have stated they have an interest in the project and would also be able to provide specialist advice.*

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing was not requested. The R.M. of Woodlands and R.M. of Portage la Prairie held municipal Council meetings, dedicated to the discussion of Conditional Use items and requirements of a Development Agreement. Comments from the public were received during these meetings and during considerations of locating the lagoon near the northwest corner of the quarter section. The comments and concerns presented have been addressed and satisfied.

RECOMMENDATION:

An Environment Act Licence be issued in accordance with the attached draft. Enforcement of the Licence should be assigned to the Approvals Branch until the soil testing has been completed.

PREPARED BY:

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