

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROPONENT:** Transportation and Government Services  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** PR 374 Relocation and Bridge Construction  
Over the Nelson River near Cross Lake  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** 2  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Transportation  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 4759.00

### **OVERVIEW:**

The Environment Act Proposal was dated March 18, 2002 and received on March 19, 2002. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Department of Transportation and Government Services to relocate approximately 4.4 km of Provincial Road 374 and to construct a new bridge over the Nelson River to replace the existing Nelson River ferry crossing near Cross Lake. Approximately 1.5 km of the northern portion of the realignment passes through the Cross Lake Reservation. The remaining portion of the realignment passes through Crown Land. A land transfer between Canada and Manitoba is being negotiated to compensate for the removal of Reserve Land required road right-of-way. The development will be scheduled for construction once all government agencies' requirements have been met.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Thompson Nickel Belt on April 1, 2002, The Pas Opasquia Times on April 3, 2002 and The Drum on April 11, 2002. Copies of the Proposal were placed in the Main Registry, the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Centennial Public Library, the Thompson Public Library and in the Cross Lake and Norway House Community Council Offices. It was also distributed to the “Transportation” Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for comment. All comments were requested by April 25, 2002.

### **PUBLIC RESPONSE**

No public response was received.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

**Conservation (Sustainable Resource Management Branch)** - Recommend that the bulk fuel storage is subject to Manitoba Regulation 188/01 under The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act and permits are required for both the installation and use of a bulk fuel system. Recommend that in-stream work should be planned to avoid critical periods for fish including spawning and early life stages.  
Regional staff should be contacted.

#### Disposition:

Comments can be accommodated as conditions of licencing.

**Intergovernmental Affairs** - Community Planning Services Branch advised that their office does not have any land use or development concerns with regard to the proposal.

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

**Mines Branch** - No concerns. Provided a map of valid mining claims issued under the authority of The Mines and Minerals Act which are located in proximity to the Proposal.

Disposition:

Map of valid mining claims will be forwarded to Transportation as information.

**Petroleum Branch** - No comments or concerns

**Health** - No specific health concerns identified. Anticipate that the development will result in safer and more reliable access to the community of Cross Lake which will improve the standard of lifestyle for community residents.

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA)** - On April 25, 2002, CEAA advise that Fisheries and Oceans and Indian and Northern Affairs require an environmental assessment of the project under *The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. In accordance with subsection 29(a) of the Canada Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada will act as the Lead Party for the purpose of coordinating the cooperative assessment process.

Disposition:

On August 25, 2002, INAC advised MB Transportation that the project has been screened pursuant to the CEA Act and the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental impacts provided recommended mitigation measures are followed. Consequently, INAC recommends that the Cross Lake IR 19 lands required for the construction the new road to the bridge can be transferred to Manitoba and construction can begin. In addition, INAC has been satisfied that sufficient consultation with the Cross Lake First Nation has taken place regarding the selection of the project site, potential environmental impacts and potential impacts to Aboriginal hunting, trapping and fishing treaty rights.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

A public hearing is not recommended. The TAC comments can be accommodated as conditions of licencing for the project as noted above. 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 Conservation Northeast Region.

**PREPARED BY:**

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August 26, 2002

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