

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
PROPOSAL NAME: Cormorant North Water Treatment Plant
Reject Water Disposal

CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: One
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Waste Disposal - Water Treatment Plants
(Wastewater)

CLIENT FILE NO.: 5131.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on July 28, 2005. It was dated July 25, 2005. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs for the disposal of reject water from the Cormorant North water treatment plant to Cormorant Lake. The reject water is currently disposed of in the community’s wastewater treatment lagoon. It is proposed that approximately 56,000 litres per day of reject water would be discharged to a ditch near the water treatment plant which drains to Cormorant Lake. The reject water would contain approximately three times the concentration of hardness, sodium, magnesium and calcium that the raw well water treated by the plant contains. Implementation of the altered disposal method is proposed for the fall of 2005.”

The Proposal was advertised in The Pas Opasquia Times on Friday, September 9, 2005. It was placed in the Main, Eco-Network, St. James-Assiniboia and The Pas Public Library public registries. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on September 6, 2005. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was October 10, 2005.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public comments were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Conservation – Sustainable Resource Management

The Wildlife Branch had no major concerns with the proposal although they felt there was a lack of detailed water quality information. The proponent had not addressed the

possible negative impact of the saline reject water from the treatment plant on the vegetation along the drainage route. Also, they should ensure that measures are put in place to minimize erosion that could occur due to increased water movement and possible deterioration of vegetation along the drainage route.

Disposition:

Additional information on water quality was requested. With respect to the reject water, salinity is not expected to be an issue. The water source for the treatment plant is groundwater. The treatment process filters constituents out of the majority of the water, and concentrates the removed constituents in the reject water. The reject water will therefore contain elevated levels of hardness and total dissolved solids, as these are the major parameters removed in the treatment process. As the discharge route is an existing well vegetated waterway and flows will be low, no erosion problems are anticipated.

Manitoba Water Stewardship – Water Quality Management Few variables were analyzed in the single sample of the reject water. We recommend a more comprehensive analysis of the reject water. Parameters of consideration would include conductivity, TSS/TDS, zinc, copper and chorine. Presumably discharge of the reject water will be continuous. Consideration should be given to potential for ice build-up and localized flooding.

The proponent should incorporate sediment and erosion control measures along the discharge route.

The Water Quality Management Section is concerned with any discharges that have the potential to impact the aquatic environment and /or restrict present and future uses of the water. Therefore it is recommended that the licence require the proponent to actively participate in any future watershed based management study approved by the Director for Cormorant Lake.

Disposition:

Additional information was requested concerning water quality. Ice buildup and localized flooding can be addressed through licence conditions. Sediment and erosion control along the discharge route were addressed above. A requirement to participate in future watershed management studies can be addressed as a licence condition.

Historic Resources Branch No concerns.

Highway Planning and Design Branch No concerns.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency An assessment of this proposed project pursuant to the federal Canadian Environmental Assessment Act is not required. None of the federal departments have raised any issues or concerns regarding the

proposed project, nor have any identified any specialist advice that might assist in the provincial review of the project. None of the departments have asked to participate in the provincial review.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information to address TAC comments was requested on October 18, 2005. A response to the TAC comments was received on October 31, 2005.

PUBLIC HEARING:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Comments received on the Proposal have been addressed in the additional information, or can be addressed through licence conditions. It is recommended that the Development be licensed 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 Northwest Region.

PREPARED BY:

Bruce Webb, P. Eng.

Environmental Assessment and Licensing – Environmental Land Use Section

October 18, 2005 Updated November 17, 2005

Tel: (204) 945-7021 Fax: (204) 945-5229 E-mail: bwebb@gov.mb.ca