

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROPONENT:** Rural Municipality of Tache

**PROPOSAL NAME:** RM of Tache – Landmark Groundwater Supply Expansion

**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** Two

**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Water Development and Control

**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 5732.00

### **OVERVIEW**

The Proposal was received on August 18, 2014. It was dated August 12, 2014. The advertisement of the Proposal was as follows:

“A proposal has been received from Friesen Drillers Ltd. on behalf of the Rural Municipality of Tache for the development of an expanded groundwater supply system to serve the community of Landmark. Increased pumping would occur at the community’s two existing wells, and a third well would be installed in the future for backup purposes. By the design date of 2034, system use is anticipated to be 663 cubic decameters per year, in comparison to the current use of 140 cubic decameters per year.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Steinbach Carillon on Thursday, September 11, 2014 and in the Winnipeg Free Press on Saturday, September 13, 2014. It was placed in the online, Legislative Library, and Millennium Public Library (Winnipeg) public registries. It was distributed to TAC members on September 10, 2014. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was October 10, 2014.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No public comments were received.

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

#### **Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Environmental Programs and Strategies Branch, Air Quality Section**

The proposal is not expected to have any significant impact on air quality.

**Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Lands Branch**

No concerns, as there are no Crown lands are impacted by this proposal.

**Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Lands Branch, Land Management and Planning Section**

No comment to forward.

**Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Parks and Protected Spaces Branch**

No comments or concerns to offer as it does not affect any provincial parks, park reserves, ecological reserves, areas of special interest, or proposed protected areas.

**Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Water Science and Management Branch, Groundwater Management Section**

The above Environment Act Proposal (EAP) proposes a groundwater withdrawal increase gradually from current 140 dam<sup>3</sup>/yr to 663.21 dam<sup>3</sup>/yr in 2034 using two existing pumping wells in Local Urban District of Landmark, it is based on population projection from 1,500 (current) to 6,000 (in 2034).

The EAP has compiled lots of necessary geological and hydrogeological information to support the feasibility of the project; simulated groundwater drawdown to analysis the potential impact on nearby wells; made commitments to monitoring the development and will develop a contingency plan should the aquifer became impacted in some manner. I agree that monitoring the effects of the additional pumping should be conducted.

After reviewed the report I have the following comments:

1. The statement of “Groundwater flow is from east to west in both aquifers in the Landmark area” (paragraph 5 of page 9) should be ‘Groundwater flow is from southeast to northwest in both aquifers in the Landmark area’, then it will match with Fig.6 and also consistent with the expression in paragraph 1 of page 10—“..., and a resultant vector of about 312 degrees”.
2. It is difficult to be in agreement with the discussion (page 13) and conclusion about the reason of the negative drawdown in Figure 10. Figure 10 is the result of subtracting the 1991 groundwater level from the 2005 groundwater level information from Provincial monitoring wells. 1991 levels were generally the lowest in this region since the start of groundwater monitoring in the 1960s. And so the negative drawdown area indicates the groundwater level in 2005 is lower than that in 1991, this shows there are higher water withdrawals from this area since 1991, as in other areas water levels have recovered but not for the area around.

The speculation of “the negative drawdown is a result of the MCWS artificial head lowering and constant aquifer conditions caused by the south lateral drain head lowering project” (last paragraph of page 13) cannot be supported since the pressure release wells have been discharging groundwater since early 1980s, they are not new wells after 1991 and therefore their effects would have already been incorporated into the 1991 levels.

**It should also be noted that first two contours for the negative drawdown area (0m, -2m) have the support of monitoring data after a detailed check. The largest drawdown (-7m) is calculated from modeled 1991 levels and measured 2005 water levels. It is necessary to take caution when it is referenced.**

3. Recharge to bedrock aquifers is discussed on page 9, the current understanding about the recharge based on provincial studies is that the main recharge to the bedrock carbonate aquifer comes from the overburden material (sand, silt etc) based on 3-D groundwater modeling; recharge from Sandilands is limited which is significant different from the old reports, please refer to the slide 37 of the following website for further information: [http://www.srgmp.ca/open\\_house/presentation.html](http://www.srgmp.ca/open_house/presentation.html)

Disposition:

This information was provided to the proponent’s consultant for information.

**Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Water Control Works and Drainage Licensing Section**

No concerns.

**Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation – Highway Planning and Design Branch, Environmental Services Section**

MIT has reviewed the proposal under the Environment Act noted above and while we do not have any objections to the two existing wells, we would like to ask that MIT be given a chance to review and comment on the location of the 3rd well once it is determined.

Moreover, should any of the wells, existing or to be determined, and/or its associated components (pipes, signs, planting, etc.) fall within the controlled area (38.1 m or 125 ft from the edge of the right-of-way) of any Provincial Road (PR) or Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH), a permit will be required from MIT.

For any questions, please contact Murray Chornoboy, Regional Planning Technologist, at (204) 346-6287 or at [Murray.Chornoboy@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Murray.Chornoboy@gov.mb.ca).

Disposition:

This information was provided to the proponent for information. The requirement for MIT review of the third well location can be addressed in a licence condition.

**Manitoba Municipal Government – Community and Regional Planning Branch**

No concerns.

**Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development – Crops Branch**

No comment.

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency**

Not a designated project under CEAA 2012, so the Agency will not be involved in the review.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

No additional information is required to address Technical Advisory Committee comments on the project.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

No requests were received for a public hearing. Accordingly, a public hearing is not recommended.

**CROWN-ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION**

The Government of Manitoba recognizes it has a duty to consult in a meaningful way with First Nations, Métis communities and other Aboriginal communities when any proposed provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of a treaty or Aboriginal right of that First Nation, Métis community or other Aboriginal community.

The proposal involves the expansion of an existing groundwater supply system for municipal purposes in an agricultural and rural residential area. Significant drawdown is not anticipated to affect other area groundwater users. Since resource use is not affected by the project, it is concluded that Crown-Aboriginal consultation is not required for the project.

**RECOMMENDATION**

All comments received have been addressed through the provision of additional information to the proponent's consultant 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 Eastern Region of the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

**PREPARED BY:**

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