

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROPONENT:** Municipality of Russell-Binscarth

**PROPOSAL NAME:** Municipality of Russell-Binscarth Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** Two

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

**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 5832.00

### **OVERVIEW**

The Proposal was received on May 2, 2016. It was dated April 25, 2016. The advertisement of the Proposal was as follows:

“A proposal has been received from the Manitoba Water Services Board on behalf of the Municipality of Russell-Binscarth for the upgrading of the Russell water treatment plant. Two new wells would be connected to the existing raw water pipeline supplying water to the plant, and a new membrane filtration water treatment plant would be constructed adjacent to the existing plant. A reject water pipeline would be constructed to discharge membrane reject water to Spear Lake, and a treated water pipeline would be constructed to connect the communities of Russell and Binscarth. Raw water usage for the new water supply system is estimated to be up to 421 dam<sup>3</sup>/year. The water treatment plant would have a treated water capacity of 26 litres per second, and would reject approximately six litres per second of the raw water entering the plant. Construction of the project is proposed to be completed in stages, commencing in 2017-2018.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Russell Banner on Tuesday, May 17, 2016. It was placed in the following public registries:

- Legislative Library (Winnipeg)
- Millennium Public Library (Winnipeg)
- Online: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eal/registries/5832russellbinscarth/index.html>

The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on May 17, 2016.

The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was June 17, 2016.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No public comments were received on the Proposal.

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

Technical Advisory Committee responses are summarized in Table 1 below. Substantive comments and their dispositions follow the table. TAC comments are provided in full in the public registries.

Table 1 Municipality of Russell-Binscarth Water Treatment Plant Upgrade –  
Technical Advisory Committee Comments

No	Technical Advisory Committee Member	Response Provided
1	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency	No response
2	Manitoba Agriculture – Land Use Branch	No response
3	Manitoba Sustainable Development –	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance and Enforcement Branch June 6, 2016</li> <li>• Climate Change and Air Quality Branch no response</li> <li>• Wildlife and Fisheries Branch June 2, 2016</li> <li>• Parks and Protected Spaces Branch May 20, 2016</li> <li>• Forestry Branch no response</li> <li>• Indigenous Relations Branch no response</li> <li>• Lands Branch June 21, 2016</li> <li>• Water Science and Management Branch</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Water Quality Management Section no response</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Groundwater Management Section no response</li> <li>• Office of Drinking Water May 18, 2016</li> <li>• Water Use Licensing Section May 17, 2016</li> <li>• Water Control Works Licensing Section May 18, 2016</li> <li>• Western Region No response</li> </ul>	
4	Manitoba Sport, Culture, and Heritage – Heritage Branch	No response
5	Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade –	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Development Branch</li> <li>• Petroleum Branch</li> <li>• Office of the Fire Commissioner</li> <li>• Workplace Safety and Health</li> </ul>	No response No response No response No response
6	Manitoba Infrastructure –	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highway Planning and Design Branch</li> </ul>	May 25, 2016
7	Manitoba Indigenous and Municipal Relations	No response
8	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living – Environmental Health Unit	May 19, 2016

**Manitoba Sustainable Development – Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch**

No red flags for ECE.

**Manitoba Sustainable Development – Wildlife and Fisheries Branch**

No wildlife related concerns.

**Manitoba Sustainable Development – Parks and Protected Spaces Branch**

No comments or concerns to offer.

**Manitoba Sustainable Development – Lands Branch (on behalf of Western Region Integrated Resource Management Team)**

The Proposal is for the development of new water treatment for the communities of Russell and Binscarth. Comments from the IRMT with regard to the proposal are as follows:

- It is noted that there is no biological survey completed for the study area and no justification has been provided to indicate why it has not been done. It is recommended that a survey of vegetation, and breeding bird surveys be conducted in the appropriate times of year (like June/July) at a minimum to determine impacts and potential mitigations to address them.
- It is noted that the proposal outlines the development of a concentration line and all options are all to finish at Spear Lake, which is crown land coded C/T -Wildlife and Fisheries Resources. The fisheries resource are specifically being a trout stocked lake and is important for angling to the community. Spear Lake is also dependent primarily on Spring flows, and possibly summer storm events. There is very little flushing effect option for the lake.
- Was there consideration to other methods of disposal for reject material to accommodate water treatment. IRMT has asked why consideration was given to Spear Lake only, and not other nearby lakes like Moon and Lauder.
- There is no mention of what the accumulated volumes or identified types of minerals anticipated from the reject pipeline into Spear Lake.
- Within the section of Mitigation Measure and Residual Environmental Effects, it is noted that there is no discussion about the long-term implications to the fish or their flesh as to exposure to the accumulated levels of iron, arsenic, and magnesium (elements identified bases on current water chemistry). IRMT would like to ask if that can be provided.

Disposition:

Additional information was requested to address these comments.

### **Manitoba Sustainable Development – Office of Drinking Water**

The owner of this system will have to apply for and get a Permit to Construct or Alter a Public Water System for the proposed work. Apart from this, ODW has no further concerns respecting drinking water quality or safety with this EAP.

Disposition:

This requirement was forwarded to the project's consultant for information.

### **Manitoba Sustainable Development – Water Use Licensing Section**

The last sentence of Section 1.2.5 needs some attention: “A new Water Rights License will be applied the new raw water supply system.” As they have complied with our process, the WULS has no concerns with this project.

### **Manitoba Sustainable Development – Water Control Works and Drainage Licensing Section**

No concerns.

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

MIT has reviewed the proposal under the *Environment Act* noted above and has the following concerns/comments associated with the proposed development:

1. The proposed project may require a permit. As such, the proponent should be informed that, under the Highways Protection Act, any new, modified or relocated access connection onto a PTH will require a permit from the Highway Traffic Board for PTHs. A permit may also be required for:
  - Any construction (above or below ground level) within 38.1 m (125 ft.);
  - Any plantings within 15.2 m (50 ft) from the edge of the right of way of PTH 16 and 83; or
  - Discharge of water or other liquid materials into the ditch of PTH 16 and 83.
  
2. The proposed project may require a permit. As such, the proponent should be informed that, under the Highways and Transportation Act, any new, modified or relocated access connection onto a PR will require a permit from the Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation. A permit may also be required for:
  - Any construction (above or below ground level) within 38.1 m (125 ft.);
  - Any plantings within 15.2 m (50 ft) from the edge of the right of way of PR 478 (on drawings it states 476), PR 579 and PA 668 (03668010HU); or
  - Discharge of water or other liquid materials into the ditch on PR 478, PR 579 and PA 668 (03668010HU).

3. Where the proposed water lines will be within highway right-of-way along and across PTH 16, PTH 83, PR 478, PR 579 and PA 668 (03668010HU) an underground utility agreement will be required.

Permit applications and underground agreements can be obtained by contacting Ashley Beck at the Brandon Office (204) 726-7000 or by email [Ashley.Beck@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Ashley.Beck@gov.mb.ca).

Disposition:

This information was forwarded to the project's consultant for information.

### **Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living – Environmental Health Unit**

No further comment.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information was requested on June 22, 2016 to address Technical Advisory Committee comments on the project. A response was provided on June 29, 2016. This information is attached to this summary, and indicates that no previously undisturbed land is affected by the pipelines of the project, and that other water bodies were rejected as reject water disposal locations because of their characteristics and greater pipeline lengths. With respect to the effects of the disposal of reject water in Spear Lake, a review of water quality for the lake and the anticipated quality of the reject water indicates that the reject water has lower concentrations of many water quality parameters than the background concentrations in Spear Lake. Accordingly it is concluded that the reject water would have minimal environmental effects on Spear Lake. This can be confirmed by operational monitoring through licence conditions.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

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

### **CROWN-INDIGENOUS CONSULTATION**

The Government of Manitoba recognizes it has a duty to consult in a meaningful way with Indigenous communities when any proposed provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of the Indigenous rights of that community.

The proposal involves the expansion of an existing groundwater supply system for municipal purposes in an agricultural area. Significant drawdown is not anticipated to affect other area groundwater users, and all infrastructure will be located in developed road rights-of-way. Since resource use is not affected by the project, it is concluded that Crown-Indigenous consultation is not required for the project.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**PREPARED BY:**

Bruce Webb  
Environmental Approvals Branch – Land Use and Energy Section  
July 27, 2016  
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**THE MANITOBA WATER  
SERVICES BOARD**

Unit #1A - 2010 Currie Blvd., Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7B 4E7  
T 204-726-6076 F 204-726-7196

June 29, 2016

Director  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
Manitoba Sustainable Development  
Suite 160, 123 Main Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

Attention: Tracey Braun, M.Sc.  
Director

Dear Ms. Braun:

**Re: Environment Act Proposal: Class 2 Development License  
Municipality of Russell Binscarth Water Treatment Plant Upgrade  
Addendum #1**

Addendum #1 is submitted to clarify and provide additional information with respect to the questions asked in the June 22, 2016, email from Bruce Webb, P.Eng., of the Environmental Approvals Branch, Manitoba Sustainable Development.

The following information is presented to match the question numbers contained within that email. The email is attached as an Appendix. Also in the Appendix is an email from the Manitoba Conservation Data Center relating to Species-At-Risk (SAR) along the proposed route; the findings in the database were nil.

Question 1)

No biological surveys were discussed along the pipeline routes. Are there any naturally vegetated areas along any of the routes? Are any areas of tree clearing anticipated to be required for the project?

Response 1)

No biological surveys were discussed along the pipeline routes because it was determined through field inspections that the proposed routes are entirely composed of previously disturbed areas, most of which are ditches within highway/roadway Right-of-Ways (ROWs), with some RM/ Town/ private property, and/or farmer's fields (if necessary).

From the EAP, Section 4.6 Vegetation:

*Construction will occur primarily within Right-of-Ways (ROWs) or easements that are previously disturbed, regularly managed, and comprised primarily of grasses. As the areas are already disturbed, they are unlikely to contain rare plant species, and the amount of vegetation disturbance is expected to be minimal.*

There are no naturally vegetated (previously undisturbed) areas along any of the proposed routes.

Tree clearing is not anticipated as a requirement for the project. If tree clearing or grubbing is required, it will be inside ditches within highway/roadway Right-of-Ways (ROWs), and it will be minimal and selective. It was determined through field inspections that the proposed routes do not contain old-growth/ legacy forestry resources.

From the EAP, Section 4.6 Vegetation:

*Forestry resources will not be impacted in short-term or long-term.*

Question 2)

Were any reject water disposal options considered other than Conjuring Creek and Spear Lake?

Response 2)

The only reject water disposal options discussed within the EAP were Conjuring Creek and Spear Lake. Other waterbodies were not considered feasible and thus were not discussed. The Assiniboine River, 10 km west of Russell, is the only major running waterbody in the area; this distance is too great to be practical from an engineering and cost perspective. Other "pothole" lakes surrounding Russell and Binscarth would not be fundamentally different than Spear Lake with regards to hydraulic capacity, and the pipe distance would be greater.

From the EAP, Section 3.4 Hydrology:

*There are numerous smaller "pothole" lakes surrounding Russell and Binscarth. Binscarth is approximately 20 km south of Russell. In this region, the Assiniboine River runs north-south approximately 10 km west of Russell; the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border is 16 km west. The Shellmouth Reservoir along the Assiniboine River is approximately 20 km north-west of Russell.*

If you have any further questions, please contact the following by email at [cory.vitt@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cory.vitt@gov.mb.ca) or by phone at (204) 726-6083.

Yours truly,

Cory Vitt, M.Eng. P.Eng.  
Project Engineer  
enc.



**From:** [Friesen, Chris \(SD\)](#)  
**To:** [Vitt, Cory \(MMG\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Municipality of Russell-Binscarth Water Treatment Plant Upgrade File: 5832.00 - questions about biological survey  
**Date:** June-29-16 11:17:35 AM

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Hi Cory

I have no records of species at risk (plant or animal) along the proposed routes. In the future, you can submit data requests via the CDC website at <http://www.manitoba.ca/conservation/cdc/request.html>

The information provided in this letter is based on existing data known to the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre at the time of the request. These data are dependent on the research and observations of CDC staff and others who have shared their data, and reflect our current state of knowledge. **An absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present**; in many areas, comprehensive surveys have never been completed. Therefore, this information should be regarded neither as a final statement on the occurrence of any species of concern, nor as a substitute for on-site surveys for species as part of environmental assessments.

Because the Manitoba CDC's Biotics database is continually updated and because information requests are evaluated by type of action, any given response is only appropriate for its respective request. Please contact the Manitoba CDC for an update on this natural heritage information if more than six months pass before it is utilized.

Third party requests for products wholly or partially derived from Biotics must be approved by the Manitoba CDC before information is released. Once approved, the primary user will identify the Manitoba CDC as data contributors on any map or publication using Biotics data, as follows as: Data developed by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre; Wildlife & Fisheries Branch, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship.

**This letter is for information purposes only - it does not constitute consent or approval of the proposed project or activity, nor does it negate the need for any permits or approvals required by the Province of Manitoba.**

We would be interested in receiving a copy of the results of any field surveys that you may undertake, to update our database with the most current knowledge of the area.

If you have any questions or require further information please contact me directly at (204) 945-7747.

Chris Friesen  
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<http://www.manitoba.ca/conservation/cdc/>