

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROPONENT:** Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** Swan River Valley Natural Gas  
Expansion  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** Two  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Transportation and Transmission -  
Pipelines  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 4256.00

### **OVERVIEW:**

The Proposal was received on May 29, 1997. It was dated May 28, 1997. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by Centra Gas Manitoba Inc. for the construction and operation of a natural gas pipeline to service the Swan River area. The development would consist of 144.5 km of 100 mm and 76 mm diameter steel natural gas pipeline. The pipeline would start at an existing pipeline 4.8 km south of Roblin, proceed west and then follow PR 593 north to PTH 83 and follow existing road allowances to a point on PTH 83 near San Clara. It would then follow PTH 83 north through Duck Mountain Provincial Forest to Benito. From Benito, it would follow road allowances east and north to Durban, then east and north to rejoin PTH 83. It would continue past Kenville and on to Swan River. From Swan River, the pipeline would proceed to the east one mile south of PTH 10, and join PTH 10 four miles east of Swan River. It would then continue east along PTH 10 to the Minitonas vicinity. With the exception of a short length installed on easement immediately south of Benito, all pipeline would be installed on provincial highway and road right-of-way and on municipal road allowances. It is anticipated that construction of the pipeline would begin in the fall of 1997.

Centra Gas Manitoba Inc. is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for this project. Copies will placed in the Public Registry locations listed below when they are available, and interested persons will be notified of the availability of this information for review.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Dauphin Herald and the Roblin Review on Tuesday, June 24, 1997, and in the Swan River Star and Times on Wednesday, June 25, 1997. It was placed in the Main, Centennial, Eco-Network and North-West Regional Library (Swan River) public registries. It was also made available for public review in the office of the R. M. of Shell River in Roblin. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on June 18, 1997. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was July 21, 1997.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

**R. M. of Park** Requests notice to be heard with respect to concerns involving the proposed route through the R. M. of Park (North)

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Disposition:

This concern was also forwarded directly to the Proponent by the R. M. Following a meeting between the R. M. and the Proponent, the Proponent revised the route to follow the right-of-way of PTH 83 through the R. M. of Park (North). The R. M. subsequently provided a copy of a resolution dated August 25, 1997 withdrawing its earlier notice.

**COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

**Manitoba Environment - Park-West Region** The following items should be incorporated into the proposed licence: Waste construction material to be disposed of at a registered waste disposal grounds, any hazardous wastes generated by machinery used in the construction of the development to be collected and disposed of in accordance with regulatory requirements, fuel storage areas shall be located a minimum of 100 metres away from all lakes and streams and shall comply with MR 97/88R respecting storage and handling of gasoline and associated products, any native grassland disturbed by construction should be restored promptly. Assignee: Tim Prawdzik.

Disposition:

All of these comments can be included as licence conditions.

**Manitoba Environment - Water Quality Management** No concerns. However, if open cut techniques for the water course crossings were to be used, proper restoration of the water course bottom to avoid scouring of the fill material and re-establishing vegetative cover of the banks would be required.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed as licence conditions.

**Historic Resources Branch** Heritage Permit A49-97 has been issued by the Branch to Quaternary Consultants Ltd. to conduct a heritage resource impact assessment of the proposed route. Furthermore, the pipeline will be installed in road rights-of-way. This reduces Branch concerns. Areas of concern would be creek, river and wetland crossings, particularly if open cut approaches are required. It would be expected that the Consultant would examine high potential areas prior to construction and monitor these

areas during construction. Therefore, the Branch has no further concerns about the Proposal.

**Mines Branch** No concerns.

**Medical Officer of Health - Parkland Region** Need more details to assess environmental health impacts. The main concern would be accidents and leaks. Are there any figures on how common it is? Does distance from roads make any difference - proximity to roads makes fixing leaks easier, and causes potentially greater impacts in case of a leak. What is the volume that would flow through such a pipeline and how could it be turned off in the case of an accident? It is assumed there are guidelines. To assess river crossing impacts, necessary and useful information would be how many there are, where

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they are, the size and flow of the river and who uses the water for what. What safeguards during construction are planned to decrease impact on river crossings?

Disposition:

The requested information is included in the Guidelines for the Preparation of the EIS for the project.

**Natural Resources** Should it be necessary to use the open trenching method for any stream or wetland crossings the DNR Fisheries Branch and regional fisheries staff should be notified well in advance of any instream work being carried out. The Proponent will also be expected to follow "Manitoba Stream Crossing Guidelines for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat". Construction disturbance which occurs in riparian areas, wetland areas, areas of native vegetation and areas of relief should be as narrow as possible and kept to a minimum. Fall construction is preferred as proposed. Construction should not take place during the May-July wildlife breeding and rearing seasons. Restoration of disturbed areas should be carried out using native species and local topsoil.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed as licence conditions.

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency** Western Economic Diversification (WED) has provided notification that an environmental assessment under *The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* will be conducted. CEAA and WED officials will participate in the review to provide process related advice. Fisheries and Oceans have requested further monitoring of the project review by their Habitat Management group.

**Fisheries and Oceans** DFO has an interest in the project pursuant to the fish habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act*. The proposed work is not expected to result in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat provided that the Swan River and creek crossings are directionally pushed or bored. If these techniques are not feasible and an open cut is required, information on the crossings must be submitted for approval by fisheries agencies prior to commencement of the crossing. Where site specific concerns exist, or if detailed information regarding fish habitat at the crossing location is unknown, a detailed investigation to evaluate the sensitivity of the location should be undertaken as described in the January, 1993 CAPP publication "Watercourse Crossing Guidelines for Pipeline Systems".

Disposition:

A licence condition should specify that only non-disruptive stream crossing techniques may be used. If an open cut crossing is required, separate approval should be obtained.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:**

Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were prepared by Manitoba Environment, CEAA and WED so that all information necessary for the federal and provincial reviews of the project could be compiled. The Guidelines were issued to the Proponent on July 15, 1997, and distributed to Public Registries and TAC

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members on July 16, 1997. The Proponent submitted the EIS on August 14, 1997. It was distributed to Public Registry locations and TAC members on August 20, 1997. The EIS was advertised as follows:

"An Environmental Impact Statement has been filed by Centra Gas Manitoba Inc. for its Proposal to construct and operate a natural gas pipeline to service the Swan River area. This Proposal was advertised in June, 1997. The development would consist of approximately 143 km of 100 mm diameter steel natural gas pipeline. The proposed route would begin at the existing transmission line located approximately 1.5 km south of Roblin. It would run west and north from the Roblin connection for about 3 km to PTH 5, then follow PTH 5 west for about 1.5 km. It would then proceed approximately 83 km northwest along PR 593 and PTH 83 through Duck Mountain Provincial Forest to Benito. From Benito the line would run northeast along road allowances and PTH 83 for approximately 35 km to Swan River. Then it would extend about 20 km east along road allowances and PTH 10 to the Minitonas area. With the exception of short lengths installed on easement immediately south of Benito and southeast of Swan River, all pipeline would be installed on provincial highway and road right-of-way and on municipal road allowances. It is anticipated that construction of the pipeline would begin in the fall of 1997.

The Environmental Impact Statement for this project is available for review at the Public Registry locations listed below.”

The EIS was advertised in the Dauphin Herald and the Roblin Review on Tuesday, September 2, 1997, and in the Swan River Star and Times on Wednesday, September 3, 1997. It was placed in the Main, Centennial, Eco-Network and North-West Regional Library (Swan River) public registries. It was also made available for public review in the office of the R. M. of Shell River in Roblin. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was October 1, 1997.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE EIS:**

No public comments were received.

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

**Manitoba Environment - Park-West Region** (By telephone) Terms and conditions similar to those for the Centra Gas Southwest Manitoba expansion licence should be used. Concerns are the same: fuel handling, disposal of waste materials, etc.

Disposition:

These suggestions can be included as licence conditions.

**Manitoba Environment - Air Quality Management** Given that Centra Gas has registered with the national Voluntary Challenge and Registry (VCR) program and has submitted a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, what measures are Centra taking to estimate the quantity of natural gas potentially released from the pipeline system through

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fugitive emissions, venting, accidents, etc.? What measures are proposed to reduce or mitigate these potential emissions? Have these measures been incorporated in the proposal submitted to the VCR?

Disposition:

These comments were forwarded to the Proponent for discussion. The Proponent responded that releases from the supply system would be rare and very small. These emissions are therefore considered to be insignificant, and no additional measures are proposed to further reduce them.

**Historic Resources** As outlined in Section 3.3 of the EIS, an archaeological assessment of sites along the pipeline corridor was completed in June, 1997. The assessment report

was forwarded to the Branch for review in August, 1997. The Branch concurs with the recommendations discussed in the heritage resource impact assessment. Section 4.3.1 of the EIS report discusses an implementation strategy for the recommendations in the assessment report. An archaeological survey of two short sections along the right-of-way will be completed prior to construction. All concerns to known and potential heritage resources are addressed in the EIS.

**Mines Branch** No concerns.

**Community Economic Development Branch** No concerns. Possible multi-use of the utility corridor could be considered. The Trans Canada Trail needs to link up with Saskatchewan through Madge Lake. Perhaps the natural gas corridor from Inglis or Russell could be used for this purpose and extended to Swan River.

**Natural Resources** Construction disturbance which occurs in riparian areas, wetland areas, areas of native vegetation and areas of relief should be kept to a minimum. Restoration in disturbed areas should be done with native species and local top-soil. If cut crossings become necessary at any sites that were scheduled for directional boring the NRO in Swan River should be notified in advance and crossing rehabilitation / erosion control site plans should be provided. The proponent should be aware that new stream crossing guidelines were published in 1996.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed as licence conditions.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

All comments received on the Proposal have been addressed in the EIS or additional information, or can be addressed as licence conditions. Therefore, it is recommended that

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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 Park-West Region.

PREPARED BY:

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Environmental Approvals - Environmental Land Use Approvals

October 9, 1997

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