

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Rural Municipality of Ritchot
PROPOSAL NAME: Rural Municipality of Ritchot - Red River Drive Slope Stabilization and Realignment
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Two
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation/Transmission - Two Lane Roads
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4466.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on August 16, 1999. It was dated August 13, 1999. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Rural Municipality of Ritchot to construct riverbank stabilization works and realign Red River Drive in River Lot 50, Parish of St. Norbert, which is adjacent to the Red River south of Marchand Road. Previous progressive slope failures at this location have led to the narrowing of the road and its diversion slightly to the west of its original alignment. The proposed stabilization works would consist of granular caissons installed along the lower river bank. Once the bank was stabilized, the road would be restored to its original width and alignment. Construction is proposed to begin in the fall of 1999.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Winnipeg Free Press on Saturday, September 4, 1999. It was placed in the Main, Centennial and Eco-Network public registries. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on August 30, 1999. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was October 1, 1999.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public comments were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Environment – Winnipeg Region - Concerning the slope stabilization, it is indicated that two additional observation wells will be installed. Are these permanent wells? Who will monitor them and what type of monitoring? In the section concerning surface water quality, it is indicated that excess water in the caissons will be removed by a vacuum truck for off-site disposal. Who will monitor the water level? Potential volume of water and disposal sites?

Disposition:

Additional information was requested concerning monitoring wells and contingency plans for groundwater blowouts.

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Manitoba Environment – Water Quality Management - Water Quality Management's concerns appear to have been addressed for the most part by the Proposal. The proposal indicates that temporary access roads will be graded and reclaimed. Provided that soil in these reclaimed areas is included in the sod work previously indicated in the Proposal, then all other environmental practices appear to be adequate.

Historic Resources - No concerns.

Mines Branch - No concerns.

Highway Planning - No concerns.

Community Economic Development Branch - No concerns.

Natural Resources - Prior to the redesign of this project, staff from Water Resources recommended that additional groundwater related investigations be conducted. Most of the items discussed have not been addressed in the proposal. The proponent should work with Water Resources staff to ensure that these items are adequately addressed before licensing occurs. No description of the construction methodology has been included in the proposal. Information on the specifications for the caissons as well as plans and cross sections showing the number, size and depth of the caissons is needed to evaluate the proposal. Details of the contingency plan to be implemented if a groundwater blowout occurs are required. This plan should address how possible saline groundwater will be controlled and disposed of and how the caisson will be sealed to prevent long term seepage from occurring. The proponent should be asked to comment on the extent of the unstable area and the anticipated impact of this project on adjacent lands as well as the likelihood and impact of continued instability of the adjacent riverbank. The disturbed areas should be replanted with an appropriate mixture of native plant species. The statement "no additional effects on wildlife" is questionable, as there will be habitat disturbance and cover removal during and after the construction phase of the project. During the construction and placement of the rock caissons, adequate sediment controls should be in place.

Disposition:

Additional information was requested to address these comments.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency - Application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this project will not be required. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Canadian Coast Guard and Natural Resources would be able to provide specialist advice in accordance with subsection 12(3) of the Act.

Fisheries and Oceans - The project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish and fish habitat after the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. The following measures, if incorporated into the project, will ensure that any potentially adverse effects on fish and fish habitat will be mitigated: 1. No instream activities should take place within the period of April 1 to June 15 of any year. 2. All streambanks should be revegetated immediately after construction to prevent erosion and sedimentation. 3. The deposit of deleterious substances into waters frequented by fish is prohibited under the Fisheries Act. Any excess soil associated with the installation of the granular caissons should be removed from the riverbank. All fueling, maintenance and repair of equipment should take place at least 100 m from the Red River.

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Disposition:

These comments can be addressed as licence conditions.

PUBLIC HEARING:

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information was requested by e-mail on September 9, 1999 and confirmed following the closing date for comments on October 4, 1999. Construction drawings and tender specifications were provided by the Proponent's consultant with a letter dated November 9, 1999. The specifications and drawings were reviewed by Environmental Approvals and Water Resources staff. This information addressed most TAC concerns about construction details and techniques, including measures to control and dispose of saline water from blowouts during caisson construction. The specifications contained no additional information concerning additional groundwater monitoring and the thickness of tills at the project site. This additional information was requested again in an e-mail of November 24, 1999. On December 20, 1999, the Water Resources Branch provided notice that the requested information had been provided and was satisfactory.

RECOMMENDATION:

All comments received on the Proposal have been addressed by additional information or can be addressed as licence conditions. Therefore, 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 retained by Environmental Approvals. (Inspections will be conducted in consultation with the Winnipeg Region and the Water Resources Branch.)

PREPARED BY:

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