

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: EXIDE CANADA INC.
PROPOSAL NAME: Waste Acid Batteries Transfer Facility
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: N/A
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Hazardous Waste – DGH&T Act
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4566.00

OVERVIEW:

On July 12, 2000, the Department received an Application from Exide Canada Inc. for the development and operation of a waste lead acid battery transfer facility. The Application was not complete and the Applicant was contacted and a more complete Application was received on September 28, 2000.

On October 12, 2000 the Department placed copies of the Application in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station), the Centennial Public Library and the Manitoba Eco-Network. As well, copies of the Application were provided to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members. The Department placed a public notification of the Application in the Winnipeg Free Press on October 21, 2000. The newspaper and TAC notification invited responses until November 17, 2000.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

A letter was received from the Friends of Omands Creek in which they indicated their concerns with respect to:-

- the proximity of the facility to Omands Creek,
- the number of batteries to be stored,
- safety precautions in the event of leakage, and
- whether the local drainage empties directly into Omands Creek.

Disposition:

These concerns were forwarded to the Applicant and the response was as follows:-

- The front extreme to the warehouse is approximately 220 metres to the bridge over Omands Creek at the corner of Sherwin Road and Dublin Street.
- The number of batteries to be stored at the facility is approximately 200 waste batteries.
- In terms of precautions in the event of leakage, there are always plenty of neutralizers on hand. As well, there are pallet bags to place any leaking batteries in.
- The City of Winnipeg Waterworks Department indicated that there are “no blueprints available for this area and no junction measurements available.”
- Manitoba Conservation contacted the city waterworks department to clarify this last statement and determined that:

- the reference to “no blueprints” and “no junction measurements available” referred to connections from the main sewer (under the road) to sewers inside the warehouse complex.
- any water going from the warehouse sewer would enter the waste water sewer system and end up in the Red River. (i.e. with all other “storm water”)
- run off from the parking area etc would only go to Omands Creek if the natural contours of the land (parking area) were such that water would flow west.
- if the warehouse and parking area complex is “modern” and the parking area is over 10 000 square feet, the parking area has to have a catch basin and water in the catch basin must go to the “land drainage system” which is basically the same as waste water system and would end up in the Red River.
- The warehouse complex owner was contacted and it was indicated that the warehouse complex dates back to the 1980’s and probably does not have drains in the parking area. None were observed during an inspection (during the winter). The contours of the parking area are not such that water will flow west towards Omands Creek. It is approximately 400 metres from Exide to Omands Creek to the west.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Natural Resources - No concerns.

Rural Development - No concerns.

Historic Resources - No concerns.

Health had the following concerns.

1. If they are transferring and/or storing less than 155 batteries, why are they utilizing 6000 square feet of space?
2. The Contingency Plan for a Spill does not, under item #6, indicate who the company contact is.

Disposition:

These concerns were forwarded to the Applicant and the response was as follows:-

1. We are a distribution centre for new batteries, which is why we occupy 6000 square feet of space. This is the major part of our business.
2. The contract name for the contingency plan is John Muzos.

Environment-Air Quality Management had the following comments:-

The proposal submitted by Exide Canada Inc. for its waste lead acid batteries transfer facility does not clearly describe the processes that are occurring at the site. For example, it does not provide any details on how the batteries are received, how they are processed, how they are stored, *etc.*

Disposition:

These comments were forwarded to the Applicant and the response was as follows:-

- Exide is a distributor of new batteries. New batteries are received on shrink – wrapped pallets. From there we pick customers orders and deliver the product via common carrier or our own trucks. We pick up core and warranty product from our customers at time of delivery.

- We try to deliver all cores to Chisick Metals (Winnipeg) the same day of pick up. If this is not possible, we would like to store approximately 200 batteries in our warehouse until the next day when they can be taken to Chisick Metals.

- Batteries are stored on pallets which according to law are properly stacked/wrapped and transported. We make every effort to ensure they are not broken in transit or in the warehouse.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency - The application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this proposal will not be required.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing is not required.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Applicant should be issued a Licence, in accordance with the attached draft, to operate the Waste Lead Batteries transfer facility. Enforcement of the Licence should be assigned to the Winnipeg Region.

PREPARED BY:

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