

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Corrections Canada
PROPOSAL NAME: Stony Mountain Penitentiary - Removal of Biosolids
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Waste/Scrap
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4608.00

OVERVIEW:

On March 12, 2001, the Department received a Proposal from AXYS Agronomics on behalf of Corrections Canada for a Development to apply biosolids removed from the Stony Mountain Penitentiary wastewater treatment lagoon, located in SE 2-13-2E, onto farmland. The biosolids from the wastewater treatment lagoon will be removed and spread on land owned by Roy Rossnagel and Barry Rossnagel. The lands onto which the biosolids will be applied are located in the east half of Section 35-12-2E in the Rural Municipality of Rosser.

The Department, on March 19, 2001, placed copies of the Proposal in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station), the Centennial Public Library and the Selkirk Community Library in Selkirk. As well, copies of the Proposal were provided to the Interdepartmental Planning Board and TAC members. The Department placed a public notification of the Proposal in the Stonewall Argus & Teulon Times on Monday, March 26, 2001. The newspaper and TAC notification invited responses until April 19, 2001.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

One telephone response was received to the public notification. The following are comments/concerns related to the proposal:

Hilary Versavel, Stonewall

- *Lagoons don't work in Manitoba, therefore untreated sewage will be applied to farmland.*
- *The standards for lagoon effluent quality are not stringent enough.*
- *Is there a chance of spreading viruses like Hepatitis C and HIV from the application of sewage to farmland?*

Disposition:

- A copy of the Draft Manitoba Water Quality Standards, Objectives and Guidelines and a copy of the Draft Nutrient Management Strategy were sent to Ms. Versavel and she was invited to participate in the review process.
- Manitoba Health was consulted regarding the potential for infection due to pathogens in biosolids. The following response was received from Dr. J. Popplow:

There are a number of papers on the subject of bio-sludge pathogens that argue the risk is confined to the immediate applicator (worker) and that even these risks can be managed with normal hygienic practices.

My working opinion is that properly managed and applied human biosolids are safe for human and environmental health.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Agriculture and Food

- *No concerns were identified at this time, pending the results of the spring site investigation.*
- *"nitrate-nitrogen (NO₃)" should read "nitrate-nitrogen (NO₃-N)"*
- *There is no mention of what sampling approach will be used in collecting the individual sub-samples that will make up each composite sample (e.g. random, grid, etc.)*

Disposition:

- None required. A copy of the spring site investigation results will be forwarded to Agriculture and Food.

Conservation – Programs - *No comment.*

Conservation – Regional Operations

- *From what source is the sodicity value of 15 taken and how does it relate to SAR?*
- *The subsurface soil condition of the site identified for spreading should be determined. Drilling should be done to establish the profile of soil to groundwater/bedrock.*

Disposition:

- The Proponent supplied a reference for sodicity. Sodicity can be measured either by exchangeable sodium percentage (ESP) or sodium adsorption ratio (SAR). The value of 15 refers to the ESP.
- The Proponent indicated that spring site investigations would include a visual inspection of soils to a depth of 1.5 meters. The draft Licence includes a clause prohibiting application of biosolids on sites with a depth of clay or clay till of less than 1.5 metres between the soil surface and the water table.

Conservation - Sustainable Resource Management - *No comment.*

Culture, Heritage & Tourism - Historic Resources - *No concerns.*

Health

- Response to public concern noted above.

Highways and Government Services

- *No objections to project.*
- *All trucks or hauling equipment should comply with the regulations of The Highway Traffic Act.*
- *The Applicant should be responsible for all costs associated with any cleanup of Highway property caused by spillage during the transportation of biosolids.*

Disposition:

- None required.

Intergovernmental Affairs - *No concerns.*

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

- *Application of The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this proposal will be required. The coordinating contact is Peggy Bainard Acheson, Public Works and Government Services Canada, on behalf of Corrections Canada.*

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Proponent should be issued a Licence to remove biosolids from its wastewater lagoon for sub-surface injection on the specified lands subject to the specifications, limits, terms and conditions of the attached draft. The Licence should be assigned to the Winnipeg Region.

PREPARED BY:

Siobhan Burland, EIT
Municipal, Industrial and Hazardous Waste Approvals
April 30, 2001

Telephone: (204) 945-7012
Fax: (204) 945-5229
E-mail Address: sburland@gov.mb.ca