

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

**PROPONENT:** Transportation and Government Services  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** Norway House to Island Lake Winter Road  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** 2  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Transportation  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 5161.00

### OVERVIEW:

The Environment Act Proposal was dated January 10, 2006 and received on January 11, 2006. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Manitoba Department of Transportation and Government Services (T&GS) to relocate the winter road linking the communities of Norway House and Island Lake. The purpose of this project is to improve safety and reliability of the winter road connection between Norway House and the Wasagamack community on Island Lake by relocating portions of the existing ice based route to land. The project is scheduled to be completed and opened for the winter road 2006 winter road season.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Thompson Citizen on January 13, 2006. Copies of the Proposal were filed in the following Public Registries: Main Registry, 123 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba Eco-Network and the Winnipeg Public Library. It was also distributed to the “Transportation” Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for comment. All comments were requested by January 27, 2006.

### PUBLIC RESPONSE

Letters supporting the proposal were received from:

- Manitoba Keewatinook Ininew Okimowin (MKO)-dated January 20, 2006
- St. Theresa Point First Nation – dated January 20, 2006
- Wasagamack First Nation Band Council Resolution – dated January 10, 2006

One letter of concern was received from:

Peter, McDonald and Joseph Harper  
Trapline #3 – Registered Trappers  
Wasagamack  
P.O. Wasagamack, MB R0B 1Z0

- Understand the need for the relocated winter road, however, concerned about adverse effects of the winter road on trapping, hunting and fishing through the crossing between Big Stone River and Begg Lake.

- Request that an alternate route be selected through this area and offer to assist in selecting an alternate location for the crossing.

Disposition: Letter forwarded to T&GS on January 26, 2006 with a request to follow-up to determine if the Harper's concern can be accommodated. The concern was subsequently resolved between T&GS, the Wasagamach Band Council and the Harpers. On January 27, 2006 the Harpers advised the Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch by telephone that they have withdrawn their objection to the proposed route. A written statement documenting the resolution will be provided by the Wasagamach Band Council.

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

#### **Conservation (Sustainable Resource Management Branch)**

- Band Council resolutions are required prior to dispositions on Treaty Land Entitlements
- T&GS is responsible to inspect the route prior to and during construction to determine if woodland caribou, the barred owl and other rare or endangered species are present. If species of concern are present T&GS should contact the Biodiversity Conservation Section of the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch.
- Suggest that as much of the existing route between Norway House and Stevenson Lake be used to avoid creating additional impacts from relocation.
- Route should be surveyed and flagged prior to clearing.

Disposition: The Licence requires that prior to construction of the section of winter road from Stevenson Lake to Wasagamack, copies of Band Council Resolutions from Wasagamack and St. Theresa Point be provided to the Director which document the land dispositions for portions of the road through Treaty land Entitlement (TLE) selections. The other comments can be accommodated in the Licence.

#### **Water Stewardship**

- Erosion control screens should be used where needed and practical.
- Water crossing sites should be keep free of debris and stabilized to minimize sediment transport .

Disposition: Comments can be accommodated as conditions of licensing.

#### **Intergovernmental Affairs & Trade** (Community Planning Services – Thompson)

No concerns

#### **Historic Resources** No concerns

**Mines Branch** No concerns.

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency** The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) advised that a screening under *The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* is required, as part of the decision making process related to funding the project.

- Transport Canada - Any permanent crossing structures require an application to Navigable Waters Protection.
- Environment Canada – No impacts to areas of interest to Environment Canada.
- Fisheries and Oceans
  - Ice crossings should adhere to the Manitoba Operational Statement for Ice Bridges to avoid the Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction (HADD) of fish habitat.
  - Effective sediment control measures should be used
  - Stream crossings and approaches should avoid known fish spawning areas.
  - All stream crossings on the new and decommissioned route should be assessed and monitored during open water in the spring

Disposition: Comments can be accommodated as conditions of licensing.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

A public hearing is not recommended. The TAC comments can be accommodated as conditions of licensing for the project. It is recommended that the Development be licenced under The Environment Act subject to the limits terms and conditions as described in the attached Draft Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended that enforcement of the Licence be assigned to the Manitoba Conservation Northeast Region.

PREPARED BY:

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