



Conservation and Water Stewardship

Environmental Stewardship Division
Environmental Approvals Branch
123 Main Street, Suite 160, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1A5
T 204 945-8321 F 204 945-5229
www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eal

File: 140.20

February 18, 2014

Randy Borsa
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Selkirk
200 Eaton Avenue
Selkirk, MB R1A 0W6
Via email: director_operations@cityofselkirk.com

Dear Mr. Borsa:

Re: Notice of Alteration – City of Selkirk Wastewater Treatment Facility

I am responding to the October 4, 2013 AECOM letter and report regarding a Notice of Alteration (NoA) relative to proposed alterations at the City of Selkirk Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). Environment Act Licence No. 2265 R applies to the WWTF.

The NoA indicates that the City is planning to replace the existing aeration system, add a chemical feed to remove phosphorus, and add a small building to house the chemical feed system and new aeration systems blowers at the WWTF. The report indicates that the only change to effluent quality will be a reduction in the total phosphorus concentration. The report also indicates that sludge solids will continue to be directed to and contained in existing, nearby lagoon cells and that no activities regarding the sludge solids or the cells are proposed at this time.

The Manitoba Water Quality Standards, Objectives, and Guidelines and the associated *Manitoba Regulation 196/2011, Water Quality Standards, Objectives and Guidelines Regulation* identify required standards for total phosphorus (1 mg/L) and total nitrogen and (15 mg/L) for wastewater treatment facilities that are new or expanding and that respectively serve populations greater than 2,000 and 10,000 people or equivalent due to industrial loading. The City's current population is reported as 9,834.

Upon consideration of the proposed alterations, I have determined that the short term environmental effects of these alterations are insignificant and may be carried out in accordance with a revised Environment Act licence to be issued in the near future. Given water quality issues in Lake Winnipeg, the City is encouraged to implement phosphorus reductions as soon as possible. The revised Environment Act licence will require effluent to meet 1 mg/L phosphorus by December 31, 2015.

However, given the size of the City of Selkirk and its discharge into the Red River, nitrogen removal is required to protect water quality. While removal of phosphorus is a good short term goal, phase two of the project should include nitrogen removal. A 15 mg/L total nitrogen limit will be included in the revised Environment Act licence for phase two of the upgrade. The revised Environment Act licence will require the City of Selkirk to implement a second stage of nutrient removal by June 30, 2017 that:

- removes nutrients primarily by biological methods through application of the best available technologies;
- minimizes the use of chemical methods to remove nutrients;
- recovers and recycles nutrients to the maximum extent possible through application of the best available technologies; and
- reuses wastewater sludge remaining after the treatment process.

A requirement to submit quarterly reports detailing the work completed toward upgrading the WWTF's treatment capabilities will be included in the revised Licence.

If you require any clarification of this letter or have any questions, please contact me at (204) 945-7071.

Yours truly,

“Original signed by”

Tracey Braun, M.Sc.
Director
Environment Act

c: Eric Hutchison, P. Eng., Project Manager – AECOM (via email Eric.Hutchison@aecom.com)
Don Labossiere, Director, Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch – Manitoba
Conservation and Water Stewardship
Public Registries