



MINISTER OF CONSERVATION

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

DEC 22 2006

Mr. Gerry Berezuk
Deputy Minister
Manitoba Water Stewardship
314 Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Mr. Ernie Gilroy
CEO
Manitoba Floodway Authority
200 – 155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 3H8

Dear Mr. Berezuk and Mr. Gilroy:

This is in response to Mr. Gilroy's letter of December 15, 2006 to Tracey Braun of the Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch regarding an alteration to the Red River Floodway Expansion Project. The letter provided a report detailing an alteration to the project licensed by Environment Act Licence No. 2691. The alteration primarily involves additional channel excavation and erosion protection in place of previously planned upgrading for four highway and two railway bridges. The design objectives of the altered project are unchanged from the previously licensed project, and the report concludes that the environmental effects of the alteration are not significant.

We have carefully reviewed the report and concur that the environmental effects resulting from the alteration are insignificant. Accordingly, the alteration is approved pursuant to Section 14(2) of The Environment Act.

This approval is subject to two additional conditions:

1. Details of additional erosion control measures to be undertaken in connection with the alteration must be provided prior to construction at all affected sites, including the GWWD railway bridge and the PTH 15 and PTH 59 North highway bridges. These details may be contained in Construction Phase Environmental Protection Plans for the contracts involved, and must be clearly identified as resulting from the alteration.

2. Plans for the removal of the superstructures of the GWWD and CEMR railway bridges during a major flood event are required. These plans may be provided in the Operation Phase Environmental Protection Plan (OPEPP) required by Clause 22 of Environment Act Licence No. 2691. The OPEPP is due by July 8, 2007. An addendum to the OPEPP addressing the removal of the superstructures of these two bridges must be provided by July 8, 2008. A report on progress on this addendum must be provided with the OPEPP by July 8, 2007, and notification must be provided if at any time it becomes apparent that the addendum cannot be completed on schedule. The addendum must provide details on when and how the superstructures would be removed, and what would be done to mitigate the loss of the bridges for the rail line users.

Yours sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
STAN STRUTHERS

Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation

- c. T. Sargeant, Clean Environment Commission
B. Gillespie, Red River Region, Manitoba Conservation
C. Lee / R. Webber, Red River Region, Manitoba Conservation
B. Konzelman, Red River Region, Manitoba Conservation
Don Rocan, Office of Drinking Water
Dick Menon, Manitoba Water Services Board
Keith Grady, Infrastructure Canada
Dan McNaughton, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
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