

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Rural Municipality of Woodworth
PROPOSAL NAME: Water Treatment Plant Upgrade
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: One
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Waste Disposal - Water Treatment Plants
(Wastewater)
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5631.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on February 1, 2013. It was dated January 30, 2013. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A proposal has been received from the Manitoba Water Services Board on behalf of the Rural Municipality of Woodworth for the upgrading of the municipality’s water treatment system serving Kenton and the surrounding rural area. The upgraded system would continue to obtain water from wells northwest of Kenton in NE 9-12-24W, and a new 150 mm raw water pipeline following the route of the existing pipeline is proposed to convey water from the wells to the upgraded water treatment plant. The upgraded plant would have a treatment capacity of 7.2 litres/second, and would continue to be located in N 6-12-23 in Kenton. The existing reservoir would be retained, and a larger treated water reservoir would be constructed adjacent to the existing reservoir. The existing water treatment equipment would be replaced with a system which treats most of the water using reverse osmosis filtration. A portion of the water would bypass the reverse osmosis process, and be treated by manganese greensand filtration. About 2.1 litre/second of reject water from the reverse osmosis treatment and backwash water from the manganese greensand filtration would be discharged to a third order drain connecting to Brierwood Creek and the Oak River to the east of Kenton. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2013.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Virden Empire Advance on Friday, March 8, 2013, and in the Brandon Sun on Saturday, March 9, 2013. It was placed in the online public registry, the Legislative Library, Eco-Network, Millennium Public Library (Winnipeg) and Western Manitoba Regional Library (Brandon) public registries, as well as in the office of the Rural Municipality of Woodworth as a public registry location. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on March 8, 2013. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was April 5, 2013.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public comments were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Sustainable Resource and Policy Management Branch, Lands Branch No concerns.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Parks and Natural Areas Branch

No comments.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Wildlife Branch

Wildlife Branch does not have any concerns with the proposed project Client File #5631.00, but offers the following comment:

It is important to note that this region of Manitoba attracts large numbers of migrating Canada Geese. Any future land use developments (e.g. green space, water features, lagoons) need to consider the possibility of attracting geese, which may create conflicts with neighbours or lagoon operations. Wildlife Branch recommends that the project proponent consider this potential conflict during the planning phase and incorporate any required mitigation.

Disposition:

This comment was forwarded to the proponent's consultant for information.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Lands Branch (Western Region)

No concerns.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Water Science and Management Branch

- Can the proponent please provide the concentration of nitrogen (total) and phosphorous (total) in the raw water?
- Can the proponent please provide the estimated concentrations of nitrogen (total) and phosphorous (total) in the reject water and the river at high and low flow?
- The Water Quality Management Section is concerned with any discharges that have the potential to impact the aquatic environment and/or restrict present and future uses of the water. Therefore it is recommended that the license require the proponent to actively participate in any future watershed based management study, plan/or nutrient reduction program, approved by the Director.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed through additional information and licence conditions.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Office of Drinking Water

The EAP proposes to discharge the process wastewater to a drain which flows to the Oak River and then to the Assiniboine River. The point of discharge is upstream of the water intake in the Assiniboine River for the City of Brandon water system. As such, ODW recommends that a provision be added to the Licence that if a major spill of deleterious materials (fuel etc.) into the river occurs, the Brandon water treatment plant operators be notified immediately.

Also, it should be noted that a Permit to Construct will need to be issued by ODW before construction of the proposed work begins. The Permit application package should be submitted to the Approvals Unit of ODW as soon as the construction drawings and specifications are finalized.

Apart from these points, ODW has no other concerns with the EAP.

Disposition:

In view of the long distance and travel time between Kenton and Brandon, the small contribution of Oak River flow to the Assiniboine River and the substantial dilution capacity of the Assiniboine River, the comment respecting spills was provided to the proponent's consultant for information rather than being addressed in a licence condition. The standard spill reporting requirement to Conservation and Water Stewardship can be included as a licence condition. Information concerning ODW regulatory requirements also was provided to the consultant for information.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Water Use Licensing

- The proponent will need to apply to the Department (Water Use Licensing Section) for an increase in the annual allocation authorized under their water rights licence, and
- The requested increase may trigger the need for the proponent to conduct additional hydrogeological investigations (including monitoring) to ensure that continued and additional withdrawals will be sustainable over the long haul.

Disposition:

These comments were provided to the proponent's consultant for information.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Water Control Works Licensing

I have no concerns with the proposed Upgrade at this time as long as industry standards are followed at the inlet pipe in the Third Order Stream and the discharge Outlet pipe into the Brierwood Creek.

Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation - Highway Planning and Design Branch No concerns.

Manitoba Health – Prairie Mountain Health

1. Environmental License clauses should ensure the following are addressed:

- i. adherence to the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality
- ii. adherence to The Public Health Act Manitoba Regulations 330/88R and to applicable regulations in The Drinking Water Safety Act
- a) monitoring of the Brierwood Creek or the Oak River should be considered to determine the environmental impact of the reject water from the water treatment process.

2. Other issues:

- i. Will the old WTP be decommissioned? If so, how will this occur? If not, will there be backflow protection?

Disposition:

All regulatory and monitoring requirements will be met through project design and licence conditions. With respect to decommissioning of the existing plant, the existing plant will be decommissioned by removing the old water treatment equipment following the commissioning of the new plant. There will be no potential for backflow or cross connection between the old and new treatment systems.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information was requested and received on April 11, 2013 concerning levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in the raw and reject water for the project. Regular raw water sampling for the current water treatment plant indicates that ammonia and total phosphorus are non-detectable in the raw water, and nitrate/nitrite and total kjeldahl nitrogen are low. Since concentrations of these parameters in the reject water from the treatment plant would also be low, the project would not significantly affect nutrient levels in the receiving waterways.

PUBLIC HEARING:

As no public comments were received and no requests for a hearing were filed, a public hearing is not recommended.

CROWN-ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION:

The Government of Manitoba recognizes it has a duty to consult in a meaningful way with First Nations, Métis communities and other Aboriginal communities when any proposed provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of a treaty or Aboriginal right of that First Nation, Métis community or other Aboriginal community.

The R. M. of Woodworth Water Treatment Plant Upgrade proposal involves a change in the water treatment process and the replacement of outdated components for an existing water supply and distribution system. Since resource use is not affected by the project, it is concluded that Crown-Aboriginal consultation is not required for the project.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Development be licensed under *The Environment Act* subject to the limits, terms and conditions as described on the attached draft Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended that enforcement of the Licence be assigned to the Western Regional office of the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

PREPARED BY:

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