

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROPONENT:** Snake Creek Sportsman Association Inc.  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** Birtle Dam Fishway Construction Project  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** Two  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Water Development and Control  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 4168.00

### **OVERVIEW:**

The Proposal was received on April 26, 1996. It was dated April 23, 1996. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Snake Creek Sportsman Association Inc. for the construction of a pool and riffle fishway at the Birtle Dam in SW 6-17-26W. The fishway would consist of a pipe with an inlet control at the north end of the dam and a sloped channel with a series of nine low rockfill weirs parallel to the dam on its downstream side. The fishway is intended to allow fish to move upstream of the dam to access spawning and nursery habitat. It would also increase angling opportunities in the upstream reaches of the creek. Construction is proposed for October, 1996.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Birtle Eye-Witness on Monday, May 13, 1996. It was placed in the Main, Centennial, Eco-Network and Border Regional Library (Virden) public registries. It was also distributed to TAC members on May 7, 1996. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was June 7, 1996.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

No public responses were received.

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

**Manitoba Environment - Water Quality Management** Water quality impacts will be some sediment loading during construction but will be minimal and short term. Construction will take place in October when these impacts will have minimal impact to fish and other biota. This is similar to the fishway established at Rapid City which has been very successful in terms of fish movement and public education.

**Historic Resources Branch** No concerns.

**Highway Planning and Design** No concerns.

**Mines Branch** No concerns.

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**Medical Officer of Health - Westman** As the river may be a potential source of water for domestic use, please minimize the risk of contamination by fuel or chemical spills during construction. Please ensure appropriate waste disposal as per existing environment regulations. Dust, noise, gaseous and particulate emissions during construction may be a concern.

Disposition:

Spills and the disposal of construction machinery wastes can be addressed in licence conditions. Other waste disposal is not a concern for this project as no demolition is involved. Emissions should not be a significant concern given the type of construction and the location.

**Natural Resources** No concerns.

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency** The Canadian Coast Guard cannot determine whether they have a Section 5 trigger at this time. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans will be responding directly.

**Fisheries and Oceans** The information provided is lacking in detail with respect to the design of the proposed fishway. The proposal should include a plan view showing the fishway entrance in relation to the dam. The velocities at the exit are high. What species and size of fish will use the fishway? DFO's Habitat Engineer may be contacted for design advice. Construction of fishways requires approval under Section 20 of the Fisheries Act.

Disposition:

Additional information was provided by DNR to DFO and design changes were made. DFO has advised that although the revised design does not meet DFO standards, it is acceptable in that it improves the potential for fish passage at this location.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

As no public concerns were identified, a public hearing is not recommended.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

All comments received on the Proposal other than the DFO comments can be addressed as licence conditions. DFO is willing to accept the design in its present form. Therefore, 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 Park-West Region.

**PREPARED BY:**

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Environmental Approvals - Environmental Land Use Approvals

June 10, 1996 Updated September 4, 1996

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