

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Minnedosa Fish Enhancement Committee
PROPOSAL NAME: Little Saskatchewan River Riffle
Construction - Minnedosa Area
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Two
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Water Development and Control
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4101.10

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on March 19, 1997. It was dated March 14, 1997. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Minnedosa Fish Enhancement Committee for the construction of 14 low rockfill riffle structures on a 10 kilometre reach of the Little Saskatchewan River immediately upstream of Minnedosa Lake. This reach extends upstream to the vicinity of PTH 10, and is in the Rural Municipality of Minto. The structures would each be 0.5 m in height and are intended to stabilize the riverbank and improve fish spawning habitat in the affected reach of the river. Construction of the first riffles is planned in the fall of 1997, with the remaining riffles to be completed by the fall of 1999.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Minnedosa Tribune on Tuesday, April 8, 1997. It was placed in the Main, Centennial, Eco-Network and Western Manitoba Regional Library (Brandon) public registries. It was also distributed to TAC members on April 2, 1997. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was April 30, 1997.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public responses were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Environment - Water Quality Management No water quality concerns. The riffles will be constructed in fall when fish species are not spawning. There may be some sediment disturbance during construction, but this should be relatively minor and of short duration. Riffles are considered beneficial in the long run since they help distribute stream flow energy and reduce stream bed and bank erosion.

Historic Resources Branch No concerns.

Mines Branch No concerns.

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Medical Officer of Health - Westman Comments from the previous proposal (File: 4101.00) apply. The licence for that project adequately addressed the previous comments. (Previous comments included concerns regarding fuel spills during construction, waste disposal and dust, noise, gaseous and particulate emissions.)

Disposition: Fuel handling can be addressed as licence conditions. Little or no waste material is generated by this type of project since no demolition is involved. Emissions during construction are not significant in the location under consideration.

Natural Resources No concerns.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this project will not be required. DFO advises that potentially adverse effects on fish and fish habitat can be mitigated.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans DFO - HM concludes that the project is not likely to cause significant adverse effect on fish and fish habitat after taking into account the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. The proposed works will have a number of positive impacts, including improved riparian habitat conditions, stabilized stream bed and banks, enhanced or restored fish spawning habitat and improved water quality. DFO - HM requests a copy of the finalized survey and riffle plans for this site. In order to prevent adverse impacts to fish and fish habitat during and following construction, the following measures are recommended: No instream construction should take place between April 1 and June 15. Every reasonable effort shall be made to minimize the duration of instream works, and construction should be halted during heavy precipitation events. Where clearing is necessary, the location and width of access lanes should be designated in advance. Erosion control measures should be implemented as soon as possible following completion of the works. The deposit of deleterious substances into waters frequented by fish is prohibited under the Fisheries Act. Refueling and servicing of construction equipment should take place at least 100 m from watercourses.

Disposition: These comments can be included as licence conditions.

PUBLIC HEARING:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

All comments received on the Proposal can be addressed as licence conditions. 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.

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PREPARED BY:

Bruce Webb
Environmental Approvals - Environmental Land Use Approvals
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Telephone: (204) 945-7021
Fax: (204) 945-5229
E-mail Address: bruce_webb@environment.gov.mb.ca