SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT:	**Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.**
PROPOSAL NAME:	**Natural Gas Expansion**
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:	**Two**
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:	**Transportation and Transmission - Pipelines**
CLIENT FILE NO.:	**4316.00**

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on March 17, 1998. It was dated March 13, 1999. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

"A Proposal has been filed by Centra Gas Manitoba Inc. for the construction and operation of natural gas pipeline systems to service portions of up to 18 rural municipalities in southern Manitoba. The number of municipalities involved depends upon the receipt of approvals from each municipality and the Public Utilities Board. The development would consist of steel transmission pipe and small diameter polyethylene distribution pipe. Steel transmission pipeline would be constructed in the rural municipalities of Rosser, Woodlands and Rockwood. This line would consist of 100 mm and 305 mm diameter pipe, and it would service several communities and provide a gas source for future distribution system expansion. Steel transmission pipeline with diameters of 60.3 mm and 100 mm would also be installed in the rural municipalities of Hanover and La Broquerie. Polyethelene distribution pipeline could be installed to service communities and rural residences in portions of the following municipalities:

- Western Manitoba - Grandview, Wallace
- Southeastern Manitoba - De Salaberry, Ste. Anne, Hanover, Tache, Springfield, East St. Paul, La Broquerie
- South Central Manitoba - Macdonald, Roland, St. Francois Xavier, Cartier, Stanley, Morris, Portage la Prairie
- Interlake - Woodlands, Rockwood

All pipeline would be installed at approximately one metre below grade on provincial or municipal road allowances or on easements. Polyethylene distribution pipeline would be installed by ploughing techniques, and steel transmission pipelines would be installed by trenching. No compressor stations are proposed. Construction is proposed to begin in all locations upon receipt of all required approvals from the affected municipalities and the Public Utilities Board."

The Proposal was advertised as follows:

Winnipeg Free Press Saturday, May 9, 1998

Headingley Headliner	Monday, May 11
Morden Times	Monday, May 11
Winkler Times	Monday, May 11
Altona Red River Valley Echo	Monday, May 11
Steinbach Carillon	Monday, May 11

…/2

Virden Empire-Advance	Tuesday, May 12
Portage Herald Leader	Tuesday, May 12
Grandview Exponent	Wednesday, May 13
Country Clipper	Monday, May 11
Stonewall Argus	Monday, May 11
Gimli Spectator	Monday, May 11

The Proposal was placed in the following public registries:

Main
Manitoba Eco-Network
Centennial Public Library (Winnipeg)
Selkirk Community Library
Brokenhead River Regional Library (Beausejour)
Jake Epp Public Library (Steinbach)
Portage Plains Regional Library
South Central Regional Library (Morden)
Border Regional Library (Virden)
Dauphin Public Library

The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on March 25, 1998. The closing date for comments from TAC members was April 27, 1998. At the request of the Proponent, advertisement of the Proposal was delayed until further contact with municipalities occurred. Once this was completed, the advertisements were placed and the closing date for public comments was set as June 9, 1998.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Three written public responses were received. In addition, numerous telephone inquiries were received. The telephone inquiries were all supportive of the project, and most concerned the anticipated date of service in the caller's location. These callers were referred to the Proponent's contact person for information on construction schedules. Summaries of the written comments follow.

Mr. And Mrs. Ralph Ebertz Own property in Rosser, building a home next year. Interested in gas service.

Disposition:

Referred to the Proponent's contact person.

A. H. Hnatyshyn Interested in connection to the proposed system, and the costs involved.

Disposition:
Referred to the Proponent's contact person.

J. Dumas (Petition with 26 names) Landowners in the R. M. of Woodlands affected by the project because taxes will go up for the next 20 years without any obvious benefit.

…/3

The proposal should be subject to public hearings so that the residents can examine all aspects of the proposal. The process for considering the proposal by the municipal council has been conducted without providing the ratepayers either adequate information on the specific costs and benefits or adequate opportunities for consultation. The Sustainable Development Act requires that all departments and agencies specifically consider the sustainability of all projects they handle. Evaluation of sustainability must include the economic, social and environmental aspects of the entire project. Such an evaluation has not been provided to the citizens of Woodlands. Nor has there been any "meaningful public involvement" that is required by the Act.

Disposition:
Concerns about costs and pricing will be reviewed in a Public Utility Board hearing which is anticipated for the project. Copies of the petition have been referred to the R. M. of Woodlands and the Public Utilities Board for information. A letter of response has been sent to Mr. Dumas.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Environment – Eastern-Interlake Region It is not possible to predict stream flow rates and identify site specific concerns where possible open cut stream crossings may occur. However, the open cut technique is a potential concern and the regional offices should be advised where open cut will be used.

Disposition:
This comment can be addressed as a licence condition. Stream crossings are a significant concern with the Proposal. Although the Proponent intends to use non-disturbing techniques to install lines under all streams, no site-specific investigations have been undertaken to confirm the technical feasibility of these techniques. Therefore, the Proponent will be requested to develop a procedure for obtaining authorization for open cut crossings where they are required. The procedure would include consultation

with Natural Resources and Environment staff, and specific approval on a site by site basis.

Manitoba Environment – Park-West Region The Proposal does not identify potential adverse impacts that may result from the Development nor the proposed environmental management practices that will be employed to mitigate such impacts. As well, for those sections of the Development that will be undertaken in the Park-West Region, no details have been provided as to where pipelines are to be constructed. The same licensing conditions should be applied to this development that have been applied to past developments of this nature.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed as licence conditions.

Manitoba Environment – South-Central Region No concerns.

…/4

Historic Resources Branch The application is extremely general, and while the majority of pipeline appears to be along road right-of-ways, there are several areas where the Branch will require additional information regarding the nature of construction. Eleven locations (listed in the comments) have been identified where potential concerns are present. Six areas involve proximity to cemeteries, one involves Lower Fort Garry National Historic Park, and the remaining locations are at river crossings – two on the Assiniboine River, one on the La Salle River and one on the Red River.

Cemetery locations are potential areas of concern because of the potential for unmarked burials to be present along the graveyard perimeter adjacent to the road allowance. Detailed information on the major stream crossings is also required. Depending on the location and method of installation, a heritage resource impact assessment by a qualified heritage consultant may be required prior to construction. Details on these requirements are provided.

In the event that human remains are exposed during facilities expansion, the Branch requires that all excavations at that location cease and the Branch be notified. This requirement should be included as a condition of the Environment Act Licence. The Branch contact is Patricia Badertscher, Manager, Archaeological Assessment Services (945-1830).

Disposition:

Additional information on the locations of interest will be requested. The suggested licence condition will be included in any licence for the Development .

Mines Branch No concerns.

Community Economic Development (Selkirk) No concerns.

Community Economic Development (Brandon) No land use concern in the R. M. of Wallace except for one part of the line. In SW 27-11-28W, the line would be fairly close to a house. The line should be far enough from the house and constructed with the necessary mitigating measures to protect the house and farmyard from possible fire and explosion. The line should also be located to allow normal agricultural production to occur. Alternatively, the line should be located on road allowances. The consent of the landowner should also be obtained.

Disposition:

Spacing between the lines and buildings is a standard design consideration. Concerns regarding disturbances to agricultural land may be addressed as a standard licence condition respecting topsoil handling. Landowner consents are required in all cases where lines are to be installed on easements.

Community Economic Development (Portage la Prairie) Development Plans, Basic Planning Statements and Zoning By-laws have been reviewed for the rural municipalities of St. Francois Xavier, Cartier and Macdonald. The project conforms to both the land designations and zoning of the areas involved. As a result, there are no concerns.

…/5

Community Economic Development (Morden) No concerns.

Urban Affairs No objection.

Natural Resources The maps provided indicate that the Proposal may fall within the boundaries of Birds Hill Provincial Park. If this is the case there may be a conflict with Backcountry Land Use Category, which prohibits natural gas development such as the proposed pipeline. The Proponent should consult Director of Surveys Plan 19804, which defines the park's external boundary, and Plan 19805, which defines the park's internal LUC boundaries. Any proposals which fall within a protected area will have to be relocated or additional public consultation would be needed to formally amend the boundaries.

It is unlikely that there is a land use conflict for Beaudry Provincial Park. Director of Surveys plans 19736 and 19803 should be consulted to confirm this. Plan 19851 should be consulted to minimize impacts on St. Malo Provincial Park. If open trench methods are necessary for stream crossings, the work should not be carried out until after June 15. If possible, construction near wetlands and other riparian areas should take place outside the May-July breeding and rearing season for wildlife. Vegetation disturbance through these areas should be kept to a minimum with native vegetation left intact as much as possible. Any works through the right of way should not involve change of drainage flow direction or movement of water away from existing wetlands.

The Proponent should contact DNR's Eastern Region staff to provide more information regarding the proposed pipeline routes.

Disposition:

These comments will be forwarded to the Proponent for consideration in the design of the project. All comments which are not addressed prior to licensing can be addressed as licence conditions.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency An environmental assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act will be conducted by federal officials in Western Economic Diversification and PFRA. Additional information has been requested. Environment Canada and Natural Resources Canada have offered to provide specialist advice. Fisheries and Oceans have requested that they be included in the distribution of further information

Disposition:

Contact will be maintained with WD, PFRA and DFO concerning the project. Any further information obtained will be forwarded to interested federal agencies.

Fisheries and Oceans The project has the potential to affect fish and fish habitat. At this time, DFO is not a Responsible Authority pursuant to Section 5 of CEAA. This may change if one or more of the waterway crossings will result in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. Should directional boring not be feasible and open cut methods be required for waterway crossings, detailed plans regarding

…/6

methodology, location, scheduling and erosion control methods must be submitted for approval by DFO. Where site specific concerns regarding fish habitat are unknown, a detailed fisheries and fish habitat investigation to further evaluate the sensitivity of the crossing should be undertaken, following the Watercourse Crossing Guidelines for Pipeline Systems (CAPP, 1993).

Disposition:

Additional information on waterway crossings will be forwarded to DFO for review as it becomes available. Any concerns not addressed in the additional information can be addressed as licence conditions.

Transport Canada Interested in the routing of pipelines with respect to railway crossings and railway rights-of-way.

Disposition:

Transport Canada's interest in the project will be brought to the Proponent's attention.

PUBLIC HEARING:

As no public concerns relating to environmental issues were identified, a public hearing is not recommended. Public concerns relating to costs and pricing will be considered in an anticipated hearing of the Public Utilities Board respecting the project.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information is needed to address a number of TAC concerns respecting stream crossings and routing near parks and cemeteries. The specific concerns have been provided to the Proponent.

For stream crossings, additional site investigations will be required to confirm the feasibility of directional drilling or boring the pipeline crossings. Where open cut techniques are required, the Proponent has been asked to consult with DNR, DFO and Environment staff for recommendations on techniques, construction scheduling and mitigation. Following this consultation, formal application for an open cut crossing will be made to Environmental Approvals. The application will note the procedures and mitigation to be followed at each site.

For pipeline routing in the vicinity of parks and cemeteries, the Proponent has been asked to confirm that no pipeline will be installed on park property, and to route pipeline adjacent to cemeteries on the opposite side of the road allowance to avoid potential impacts.

All direction provided to the Proponent in these matters will be reflected in licence conditions.

…/7

RECOMMENDATION:

All comments received on the Proposal can been addressed in additional information to be provided as licence conditions, or can be directly 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, South-Central, Winnipeg and Eastern-Interlake regions.

PREPARED BY:

Bruce Webb
Environmental Approvals - Environmental Land Use Approvals
June 17, 1998

Telephone: (204) 945-7021
Fax: (204) 945-5229
E-mail Address: bwebb@env.gov.mb.ca