

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Oak River Land Holding Co. Ltd.: Applicant
PROPOSAL NAME: Oak River Colony Wastewater Treatment Lagoon
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Wastewater Treatment Lagoon
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4348.00

OVERVIEW:

On May 27, 1998, the Department received a Proposal on behalf of the Oak River Land Holding Co. Ltd., to construct a wastewater treatment lagoon to service the Oak River Colony farmsite. The wastewater treatment lagoon will be located on the northwest quarter of Section 23-13-22 WPM in the Rural Municipality of Blanshard. The Proposal indicated that treated wastewater will be discharged between May 15 and November 1 of each year, by irrigation onto agricultural land owned by the proponent.

The Proposal prepared by Cochrane Engineering Ltd. indicated that the lagoon will have to be constructed with a liner. The liner would consist of a clay cutoff which would be keyed into an insitu clay layer located below the site.

The Department, on June 30, 1998, placed copies of the Proposal in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station); the Centennial Public Library and the Western Manitoba Regional Library and provided copies of the Proposal to the Interdepartmental Planning Board and TAC members. As well, the Department placed a public notification of the Proposal in the Hamiota Echo on Tuesday, July 6, 1998. The newspaper and TAC notification invited responses until July 31, 1998.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- No responses were received to the public notification.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Highways

- *No concerns.*

Rural Development

- *No concerns.*

Natural Resources

- *The dikes around the lagoon should be of sufficient height and stability to prevent 100 year flood events on the Oak River from inundating the lagoon.*

- *The discharge dates for spray irrigation of lagoon effluent onto colony land should be June 15 to October 15.*
- *A 30 metre no-spray buffer area should be maintained along the Oak River.*
- *Periodic testing of soil nutrients should be done to ensure the capacity of the land base to assimilate the effluent application rates.*

Disposition:

- The draft Licence addresses:
 - the requirements for flood protection to the 100 year flood level;
 - the discharge period for spray irrigation are restricted to June 1 to September 15 to reflect the active growing period for crops (the discharge period is not restricted to protect aquatic life because the discharge is onto agricultural land); and
 - a 100 metre no-spray zone along watercourses.
- The draft Licence does not include a requirement for periodic testing of soil nutrients because the level of nutrients in domestic wastewater is low and will be utilized by the growing of a crop. The level of nutrients in domestic wastewater should not be confused nutrient levels in livestock wastes and biosolids which are more concentrated.

Historic Resources

- *No concerns.*

Health

- *The health concerns are:*
 - *consideration of inclusion of odour nuisance clause;*
 - *no discharge to a watercourse or a municipal ditch;*
 - *protection of groundwater sources;*
 - *public safety i.e. fencing, gates and warning signs;*
 - *inclusion of a perimeter drainage swale to protect from surface runoff flow.*

Disposition:

- The draft Licence includes:
 - requirements to protect groundwater sources;
 - public safety requirements such as fencing to control access;
 - requirements to protect the berms from flooding (it does not specify the construction of a drainage swale however a drainage swale is included in the proposed design.)
 - restrictions on the method of discharge (effluent discharge is restricted to irrigation with setback distances to watercourses and municipal drains)
 - The draft Licence does not include an odour nuisance clause. The facility will be located on a farmsite with intensive livestock operations.

Environment-Operations Division

- *The following requirements should be included:*
 - *laboratory test results should be provided prior to discharge of the effluent;*
and
 - *irrigation of the effluent is limited to required set back distances and performed in such a manner as to not contaminate ground water.*

Disposition:

- The draft Licence addresses:
 - effluent testing and availability of results (Results must be available for review by an environment officer on request however submission of the results prior to discharge is not required. This is the normal requirement for small irrigation operations of this type.);
 - irrigation setbacks; and
 - controls to protect groundwater.

Environment-Water Quality Management

- *The following requirements should be included:*
 - *Effluent discharge should be restricted until June 15;*
 - *A buffer strip should be maintained between the irrigation area and the Oak River.*

Disposition:

- The draft Licence addresses:
 - the discharge period for spray irrigation are restricted to June 1 to September 15 to reflect the active growing period for crops (the discharge period is not restricted to protect aquatic life because the discharge is onto agricultural land); and
 - setback requirements along watercourses and drains.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

- *CEAA has indicated that application of The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this proposal will not be required.*

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing is not required.

RECOMMENDATION:

A Licence should be issued in accordance with the attached draft. Enforcement of the Licence should be assigned to the Approvals Branch until the soil testing has been completed.

PREPARED BY:

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Municipal & Industrial Approvals

Oak River Land Holding Co. Ltd.
Oak River Colony Wastewater Treatment Lagoon
Page - 5 -

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