

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Rural Municipality of Ritchot
PROPOSAL NAME: Rural Municipality of Ritchot - Rural Water Pipelines
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Two
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation/Transmission - Pipelines
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4463.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on August 6, 1999. It was dated August 5, 1999. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by PFRA on behalf of the Rural Municipality of Ritchot to construct water supply pipelines to supply rural residences. The system would be supplied with water from the municipality’s water treatment plant at the intersection of PR 305 and PR 200 near Ste. Agathe. The system would eventually consist of approximately 40 kilometres of pipeline installed in road allowances and on private easements over the next several years as funding becomes available. For 1999, proposed construction involves 13 kilometres of 200 mm diameter pipeline along PR 200 between Ste. Agathe and St. Adolphe.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Winnipeg Free Press on Saturday, August 14, 1999. It was placed in the Main, Centennial and Eco-Network public registries. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on August 9, 1999. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was September 3, 1999.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public comments were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Environment – Water Quality Management - Water Quality Management’s concerns should be met if directional boring or tunneling under streams, particularly under the Rat River, is done as per the Proposal.

Historic Resources - No concerns.

Mines Branch - No concerns.

Community Economic Development Branch - No concerns.

Natural Resources - The regional fisheries manager and the Fisheries Branch should be advised of the locations of watercourse crossings and the proposed construction schedules so that they may review them prior to licensing. Riparian vegetation should be disturbed

as little as possible and disturbed areas should be replanted with native species. Construction should not take place during the breeding and rearing season for wildlife (May through July). The regional wildlife manager should be kept informed during all stages of construction.

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Disposition:

These comments can be addressed as licence conditions. Since construction is proposed to occur over several years, contact with fisheries personnel should be on an annual basis rather than prior to licensing. This would accommodate possible future changes in schedule and route locations.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency - Application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this project is not required. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Environment Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard have offered to provide specialist advice.

Fisheries and Oceans - The proposal outlines plans to directionally bore/push/auger when crossing drainage ditches and the Rat River. Given the greatly reduced environmental impacts associated with non-trenching methods, DFO recommends this approach. In the event that an open cut crossing is required at the Rat River, the proponent should contact the Natural Resources regional biologist and DFO with details of the crossing. Based on the information provided, DFO concludes that the project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish and fish habitat with the implementation of the following mitigation measures: no instream activities should take place within the period from April 1 and June 15 in any year; appropriate crossing techniques should be applied, as detailed in the 1993 Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers publication "Watercourse Crossing Guidelines for Pipeline Systems"; all streambanks and rights-of-way should be stabilized immediately after construction to prevent erosion and sedimentation of waters flowing into the Rat and Red rivers; appropriate precautions should be taken to ensure that deleterious substances do not enter the Rat River or ditches flowing into the Red River; refueling and servicing of construction equipment should be conducted at least 100 m from the Rat River.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed 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 Winnipeg Region.

PREPARED BY:

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September 8, 1999

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