

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Hydro
PROPOSAL NAME: Natural Gas Pipeline - South Loop Project
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Two
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation and Transmission - Pipelines
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4901.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on January 28, 2003. It was dated January 27, 2003. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

"A Proposal has been filed by Manitoba Hydro for the construction and operation of a natural gas pipeline loop from Carman to the Morden/Winkler area. The project would involve the installation of six and eight inch steel pipeline from Carman to a point two miles south of PTH 23 in the summer of 2003. The route would begin north of Carman, and follow along the east side of the Carman Diversion to the railroad crossing, then proceed west and south to avoid built up areas. The route would continue southeast, joining the existing natural gas pipeline corridor on the south side of SE 23-6-5W. From this point, it would continue south beside the existing line through farmland. The existing pipeline is approximately 2 kilometres west of PTH 3. In the future, the loop would be extended the remaining distance to the Morden/Winkler area along the same alignment. All pipeline would be located on easements or on purchased land.."

The Proposal was advertised in the Carman Valley Leader, Morden Times and Winkler Times on Monday, February 10, 2003. It was placed in the Main, Centennial Public Library, Eco-Network and South Central Regional Library (Morden) public registries. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on February 3, 2003. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was March 10, 2003.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public responses were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Conservation - Sustainable Resource Management - The proponent should refer to the "Manitoba Stream Crossing Guidelines for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat" when constructing the stream crossings. Disturbance of the riparian habitat at the stream crossings should be kept to a minimum. If feasible, the proponent should bore across the entire riparian zone at each of the crossings.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed as licence conditions. Reference will be made in the licence to the Watercourse Crossings publication of the Canadian Pipeline Water Crossing Committee, which provides more specific direction for pipeline crossings.

Historic Resources Branch - No heritage sites have been recorded within the proposed right-of-way, however, archaeological site distribution in the area indicates a high potential for heritage resources within 100 m of streams. Under Section 12(2) of the Heritage Resources Act, if the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism has reason to believe that heritage resources or human remains are known, or thought likely to be present on lands that are to be developed, then the owner/developer may be required to conduct, at his/her own expense, a heritage resource impact assessment and mitigation, if necessary, prior to the project's start. It is recommended that Manitoba Hydro contract an archaeological consultant to conduct a survey of the proposed right-of-way within 100 m of all stream crossings, in order to identify and assess any heritage resources that may be negatively impacted by the pipeline construction. If desirable, the Branch will work with Manitoba Hydro and its consultant to draw up terms of reference for this project.

Disposition:

This recommendation was forwarded to the applicant for consideration.

Mines Branch - No concerns.

Petroleum Branch - No jurisdiction. The pipeline should be constructed and operated in accordance with the Gas Pipeline Act and the appropriate CSA standards.

Disposition:

This comment can be addressed through licence conditions.

Community Economic Development Services - No concerns.

Medical Officer of Health - Central Region - No health concerns.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency - There are no federal interests in the project and accordingly, application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act will not be required. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard are able to provide specialist advice. The Canadian Coast Guard will require additional information regarding the proposal.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Based on the information reviewed, the proposed works will not likely result in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat, provided the work is carried out as proposed and the following mitigation measures are implemented:

1. All activities related to the proposed project follow the procedures specified in Watercourse Crossings.

2. Construction activities near water do not take place during the April 01 to June 15 fish spawning and incubation period.
3. The deposit of deleterious substances into water frequented by fish is prohibited under the Fisheries Act. Appropriate precautions must be taken to ensure that potentially deleterious substances do not enter any watercourse.
4. Equipment operating near any waterbody is free of external fluid leaks, grease and oil. The cleaning, fuelling and servicing of equipment is conducted at least 100 m away from any watercourse.
5. Suitable short term erosion and sediment control measures are installed to prevent soil laden runoff from entering any watercourse, and they remain in place until the vegetation is reestablished.
6. Effective short term and long term erosion control measures are implemented where necessary at crossing sites. This includes stabilizing and seeding disturbed slopes after construction and ensuring they are reclaimed to vegetation within one growing season. Crossing sites are monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of erosion and sediment control measures, and physical stability of the creek banks and beds. If monitoring identifies any problems appropriate actions are taken immediately to rectify the situation. DFO is to be advised of the situation and any corrective measures taken.
7. Spoil from excavated trenches is stockpiled where it will not erode into any watercourse.
8. A designated person routinely inspects all erosion and sediment control structures and immediately carries out any necessary maintenance.

Disposition:

These measures can be addressed as licence conditions. DFO did not indicate a desire to participate in the provincial assessment of the project.

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 Red River Region.

PREPARED BY:

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