

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Frontier School Division
PROPOSAL NAME: Jack River School Wastewater Treatment Plant Replacement
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Sewage Treatment Plants
CLIENT FILE NO.: 263.10

OVERVIEW:

On May 13, 2014 the Department received a Proposal from Alliance Engineering Services Inc., on behalf of the Frontier School Division, pursuant to *The Environment Act* for the construction and operation of a new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) located on Lot 63, in the settlement of Norway House, Manitoba. The new WWTP will replace the existing WWTP at Jack River School and consists of the following key process components: a new equalization tank, a Bio-Wheel™ Tank using an integrated fixed film and activated sludge process, a new clarifier tank and a final ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system. Treated effluent will be discharged into the Jack River via an existing 100 mm diameter outfall.

On June 17, 2014, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship placed copies of the Proposal in the Public Registries located at Legislative Library, 200 Vaughan St., Winnipeg; Millennium Public Library, 4th Floor, 251 Donald St., Winnipeg; and Online Registry, <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eal/registries/index.html>. Copies of the Proposal were also provided to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members. The Department placed public notification of the Proposal in the Grassroots News on Tuesday, June 17, 2014. The newspaper and TAC notifications invited responses until July 16, 2014.

On July 30, 2014 Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship forwarded requests for additional information from the TAC to the proponent's consultant. On November 4, 2014 the consultant submitted responses to the comments and requests from the TAC. All additional information necessary for the review was placed in the Public Registries.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No comments were received from the public.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC):

Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation– Highway Planning and Design Branch, Environmental Services Section (July 2, 2014)

- *No concerns*

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship - Lands Branch (July 16, 2014)

- *No concerns*

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Regulatory Services Branch, Water Use Licensing Section (June 17, 2014)

- *No concerns*

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Land Management and Planning, Thompson (July 8, 2014)

- *No concerns*

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Water Control Works and Drainage Licensing Section (June 18, 2014)

- *No concerns*

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship - Air Quality–Environmental Programs & Strategies Branch (July 8, 2014)

- *The proposal is not expected to have a significant impact on air quality provided that the measures cited are implemented.*
- *The odour clause is suggested to be included in the Licence.*
- *The noise clause is suggested to be included in the Licence.*

Disposition:

- The draft licence contains clauses regarding odour and noise nuisance.

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development - Agri-Industry Development and Advancement Division

- *No comment*

Manitoba Labour and Immigration – Office of Fire Commissioner (July 8, 2014)

- *At this time, the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) will require the proponent to obtain a valid building permit from the Building Code authority, the OFC. Prior to any use of the completed facility, the proponent shall obtain a valid occupancy permit from the Building Code authority, the OFC.*

Disposition:

- No action needed. In addition to the draft Licence requirements, the proponent will be responsible to comply with all other applicable federal, provincial and municipal regulations and by-laws.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Office of Drinking Water (July 15, 2014)

- *I reviewed the above noted EAP. The EAP notes the point of return of treated effluent to the environment will be the existing WWTP discharge pipe into the Jack River. The EAP does not note how far the treated effluent discharge point is from the water treatment plant raw water intake and whether the raw water plant intake is upstream or downstream of the wastewater treatment plant discharge outfall. I am concerned about this and would like to know the relative locations of the water plant intake and wastewater plant discharge points and which is upstream from the other.*
- *Apart from this point, Office of Drinking Water has no other concerns with this EAP or the proposed development.*

Proponent Response (November 4, 2014)

- We confirm that the water treatment plant raw water intake is upstream of the waste water treatment plant outfall; based on existing drawing documentation the separation between the intake and outfall is approximately 70-m; the existing situation has been in place since 1972 and is not being altered by our development other than the replacement of the intake screen on the WTP raw water intake.

Disposition:

- The additional information from the proponent was forwarded to the Office of Drinking Water.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch (June 18, 2014)

- *The region welcomes this needed development. However, concerns exist about the sludge disposal method and location. Sludge has posed a problem in many communities in the region and it is the understanding of the region that the community Lagoon (which is the assumed receiver of the sludge) was having difficulty managing sludge within that lagoon. While an alternate location exists on First Nation, it would be helpful to know whether an agreement exists for disposal there and for the proponent to consider that option.*

Proponent Response (November 4, 2014)

- We confirm that Frontier School Division has an agreement in place with Wilson's Water & Sewer Ltd., Norway House, Manitoba to collect and haul sludge from the Jack River School WWTP. Harold Wilson of Wilson's Water & Sewer Ltd has indicated that he has approval to dispose of the sludge in the Norway House Cree Nation effluent treatment lagoon.

Disposition:

- The additional information from the proponent was forwarded to Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

COMMENTS FROM FEDERAL REPRESENTATION:

- The application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (the Act)* will not be required for this project.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- A public hearing is not recommended because no comments were received from the public.

CROWN-ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION:

The Government of Manitoba recognizes it has a duty to consult in a meaningful way with First Nations, Métis communities and other Aboriginal communities when any proposed provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of a treaty or Aboriginal right of that First Nation, Métis community or other Aboriginal community.

This facility will replace an existing plant and would be no infringement of aboriginal or treaty rights under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Therefore, it is concluded that Crown-Aboriginal consultation is not required for the project.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Proponent should be issued a Licence for the construction and operation of a new wastewater treatment plant in accordance with the specifications, limits, terms and conditions of the attached draft Licence. An inspection should be completed by an Environmental Engineer/Environment Officer from the Environmental Approvals Branch prior to transferring the Licence to the Region for enforcement.

A draft Environment Act Licence is attached for the Director's consideration

PREPARED BY:

Siobhan Burland Ross, M.Eng., P.Eng.
Manager
Municipal and Industrial
Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
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Telephone: (204) 945-7015
Fax: (204) 945-5229
E-mail: siobhan.burlandross@gov.mb.ca