

July 8, 2005

Assistant Deputy Minister's Office
Program Operations Branch
Manitoba Region
200-303 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3G7

Mr. Ernie Gilroy
Chief Executive Officer
Manitoba Floodway Authority
Room 200, 155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8

Dear Mr. Gilroy:

Subject: Red River Floodway Expansion Project
Record of Decision of Responsible (Federal) Authorities

A copy of the signed "Record of Decision of Responsible Authorities following a Screening of the Red River Floodway Expansion Project under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act" is enclosed for your records.

Infrastructure Canada looks forward to working with you in the implementation of environmental measures, as stipulated in the May 2005 "Screening Report" and in applicable federal and provincial environmental laws.

Please contact the undersigned at (204) 983-3627 or at kettler.tony@infrastructure.gc.ca if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Kettler
Senior Project Liaison Officer
Program Operations

cc K. Grady, B. Webb *BW*

**Record of Decision of
Responsible Authorities following a Screening of the
Red River Floodway Expansion Project
under the
Canadian Environmental Assessment Act**

Infrastructure Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Transport Canada (the responsible authorities) have completed the screening of the Red River Floodway Expansion Project (the Project) under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). The screening has considered the factors specified in section 16 of the Act. A Screening Report has been prepared and the public has had an opportunity to examine and comment on the Screening Report and on other records filed on the public registry for the Project.

After taking into consideration the Screening Report and the comments filed by the public, the responsible authorities have determined, pursuant to subsection 20(1)(a) of the Act, that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures identified in the Screening Report. The Screening Report also describes requirements for monitoring, follow-up and reporting to ensure that mitigation measures are implemented and are effective in addressing adverse environmental effects that the Project may cause.

This decision enables the responsible authorities to make or authorize payments or to issue licences, permits or other approvals that would allow the Project to proceed in whole or in part.

Signatures

Infrastructure Canada



for Cécile Cléroux
Assistant Deputy Minister
Program Operations
JUL - 6 2005

Date:

Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

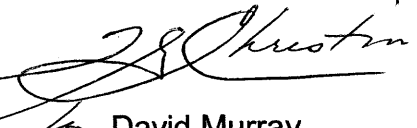


Garry Linsey
Director Habitat Management
and Environmental
Assessment

Date:

8 July / 05

Transport Canada



for David Murray
Regional Director General
Prairie and Northern

Date:

July 7, 2005

Red River Floodway Expansion Project Summary and Analysis of Public Comments on the Screening Report

Introduction

On May 20, 2005, Infrastructure Canada, Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (the responsible authorities) released the Screening Report for the Red River Floodway Expansion Project for public review in accordance with section 18(3) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (Act). The public was invited to submit comments on the Screening Report and on other documents in the public registry for the Project until close of business on June 22, 2005.

A total of 14 submissions were received from individuals and groups during the period for public comment. In some cases, this included submissions made at the recent public hearing of the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC). Submissions to the CEC were considered in preparing the Screening Report that was released for comment on May 20, and are referenced in summary form in Appendix B of the Screening Report.

The responsible authorities have reviewed the comments received, and will consider this information when exercising their decision-making responsibilities under section 20 of the Act.

The following table provides a summary and analysis of the comments received from the public.

Red River Floodway Expansion Project Summary and Analysis of Public Comments on the Screening Report

Organization/ Individual	Summary of Comment	Analysis
A. Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles	1. The Floodway has to incorporate removing excess water out of the Red River via alternative additional natural and man-made ways	The screening has included consideration of reasonable alternatives. Alternatives will be further considered during the review of environmental protection plans for Project components.
	2. Who shall consist of the over-sight committee that shall verify the work being done?	The Oversight Committee includes Federal and provincial representatives, with responsibility among other things for verifying that work is undertaken in accordance with the terms and conditions of environmental approvals for the Project
	3. The baseline is not correct and not publicly set	Issue raised previously. Baseline information was considered adequate for screening purposes. Monitoring and follow-up studies are required to verify prediction of effects and requirement for adaptive management, as specified in the Screening Report.
	4. All the baselines and cumulative effects are defined by an independent third party for a Panel review	Project was determined to require a screening level of assessment under the CEAA.
	5. Baseline need to ensure ecosystem, fish, and habitat sustainability	See A3 above.
	6. Buy out at fair market values the farmers that are affected	Issue raised previously. Screening included consideration of proposed compensation measures as a form of mitigation.
	7. Ensure road safety, salted and cleared in the winter	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. Details of measures to ensure traffic management and safety will be provided in environmental management and protection plans that must be prepared and approved prior to work proceeding on bridges and roads.
	8. Tree lines and forests get planted to help absorb the sitting water	Comment noted and will be raised with MFA and Province. Screening considered requirement for revegetation and restoration following construction. Details will be provided in environmental protection plans.
	9. All mitigation and buy outs be publicly approved and in place before the West Dyke is completed	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. MFA required to consult stakeholders on environmental protection plans which will detail mitigation measures, as noted in the Screening Report..
	10. Five borrow areas will result from digging for the West Dyke. Where are they?	The borrow pits are located at Station 0+744 to 4+400 near the eastern end of the West Dyke and are proposed to be developed into semi-permanent wetland habitat following construction.
	11. A comprehensive third party health review need to be undertaken in the region study area	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening in accordance with the CEAA. Measures to address health related concerns identified in the Screening Report. Comment will also be raised with MFA and Province.
	12. Needs clearer communication and interaction and respect between MFA, EMO, RM and public	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. Screening Report identifies measures to be taken to ensure consultation and communication amongst these parties.

Red River Floodway Expansion Project Summary and Analysis of Public Comments on the Screening Report

Organization/ Individual	Summary of Comment	Analysis
	13. Need a third party Human resource consultant to deal with fears, emotions, pressure and stress	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. See A11.
	14. Flood proof the communities, graveyards, and St. Peter's church	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. Screening Report identifies measures required to protect communities and these sites.
	15. Peguis FN should be given equal protection from flooding	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. Screening report identifies measures required to protect Peguis lands along the Red River.
	16. The healing plants that the Peguis FN determines to be rare and medicinal should be protected in the whole study area	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. Screening Report identifies measures required to protect medicinal plants used by aboriginal peoples.
	17. A community liaison committee needs to be established to promote and establish trust	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. MFA required to provide for ongoing community consultations.
	18. The compensation / easement / buy-out mitigation should be in effect, publicly approved and involved before any part of this expansion project is operate able	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. See A9.
	19. MFA needs to distribute pamphlets that go to the real estate agencies to inform people that they live in a Rule 4 Artificial flooding area	Comment noted and will be forwarded to the MFA and Province.
	20. Ice jamming is a real effect of the project that can be inexpensively helped	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. Although the Project is not expected to affect the occurrence of ice jams north of the floodway, efforts should continue to identify causes and mitigate effects of ice jams, as noted in the Screening Report. This issue will be raised with the MFA and Province.
	21. The floodway expansion has to have a large in-house physical green component	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. Detailed measures to protect the environment will be identified in environmental management and protection plans that the MFA must prepare for approval prior to proceeding with construction.
	22. Agree with the CEC report to have all the mosquito breeding places totally repaired to their natural state by the MFA commencing in 2005	Comment noted and considered in screening. This issue should be considered in the context of ongoing consultations and communications between the MFA and regional health authorities. See A11.
	23. Stop utilizing all non human / environmentally safe fertilizers, herbicides in the floodway area	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. Details of measures to ensure the safe use of herbicides and pesticides must be provided in environmental protection plans that the MFA must prepare for approval, as indicated in the Screening Report.
	24. Please provide the details for the habitat that will be lost	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. Details of plans and measures required by the MFA to ensure the protection of wildlife habitat including protected species and species at risk are provided in the Screning Report.

Red River Floodway Expansion Project Summary and Analysis of Public Comments on the Screening Report

Organization/ Individual	Summary of Comment	Analysis
	25. What happens to the fish when the gates are in operation for one month, six weeks, two weeks at a time?	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. Requirements to ensure fish passage as well as protection of fish and fish habitat are described in the Screening Report.
	26. Bank erosion, stability and re-vegetation has to be monitored and mitigated for the whole study area	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. Mitigation measures, monitoring and adaptive management requirements relating to riverbank/floodway erosion control, bank stability and re-vegetation must be specified in environmental protection plans that the MFA prepares for approval, as indicated in the Screening Report.
	27. Animal dens and fish salvaging need to be done in areas that receive artificial flooding	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. Details of plans and measures required by the MFA to ensure the protection of wildlife habitat and protected species and the prevention of fish stranding are provided in the Screening Report.
	28. The follow-up reports after a major flood should be done by an independent third party	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. The environmental management and protection plans should provide for such follow-up reports to be forwarded to the responsible authorities along with proposals from the MFA to respond to any deficiencies noted. This issue will be raised with the Province and MFA.
	29. Summer operations are killing, drowning, uprooting thousands of trees. What is the government going to do about it?	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. Shoreline trees and vegetation also impacted by natural flooding. See A26.
	30. We need a long term plan of action that will start monitoring and recording the long term health risks	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. See A.11.
	31. MFA has to do some serious erosion control, habitat clean-up work, and re-vegetation plans immediately following each and every floodgate operational event	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. See A26 and A27.
	32. A serious non-toxic environmentally friendly mosquito reduction plan and action has to take place for the people in the artificially flooded area	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. See A22.
	33. Better signage, more pamphlets, what to do's, phone numbers, advance warning clean up crews are needed	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. Screening Report specifies requirement for MFA to prepare traffic management plan, provide public notice of construction activity and floodway operations, procedure for responding to complaints regarding noise and dust, navigation safety signage, etc.
	34. More respect and system needs to be put in place to deal with the real fears and emotions of the elderly, vulnerable and the young when operating the floodway	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. See A11.
	35. A flood agreement should be reached so that upstream and downstream people are automatically compensated without going through the claims process, including the courts	Issue raised previously. Requirements for mitigation including compensation considered in the screening in accordance with the CEAA.

Red River Floodway Expansion Project Summary and Analysis of Public Comments on the Screening Report

Organization/ Individual	Summary of Comment	Analysis
	36. A much better job of planning and action needs to take place to ensure the habitat of the Monarch butterfly, Bald eagles, etc. are planned for, protected and salvaged	Issue was raised previously and considered in the screening. See A24 and A27.
	37. Flood proofing deductibles should be refunded to all residents outside of ring dikes	Issue was raised previously. Requirements for mitigation including compensation considered in the screening in accordance with the CEAA.
	38. The cost benefit analysis was never accurate in the first place	Need for the Project was considered in the screening in accordance with the CEAA. A detailed review of the cost benefit analysis was not required.
	39. Long term sustainable true scope alternatives never did get addressed or recorded properly in the MFA comments, CEC, and Federal screening reports	Alternatives considered in the screening are considered reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances.
	40. The EMP shall be provided a minimum of 120 days prior to the initiation of construction. When is that date?	Appendix C, page 2 of the Screening Report refers to this notification requirement. MFA has begun preparing the EMP but has requested approval of environmental protection plans to enable construction to proceed on certain project components prior to the review and approval of the EMP. This is consistent with the terms of the Screening Report. At this time, it is anticipated that the EMP would be available in the next month or so for review and approval and would apply to the balance of construction activities commencing in late fall/early winter 2005.
	41. One in 700 years is a false sense of security. Tell the people how much water volume it is?	This information was provided in the environmental impact statement which contained details of flow levels and volumes under a number flood scenarios.
B. PE Clifton	1. There is no agreement on "Natural"	Responsible authorities note the comment and consider the approach taken to be reasonable and appropriate.
	2. The assessment of compensation, flood or annual flooding rights is not at all founded	It is the view of the responsible authorities that adequate information was available through the cooperative assessment process to carry out the screening in accordance with the CEAA.
	3. Rule # 4 was unilaterally implemented	Comment noted.
	4. No cumulative assessment of upstream damage through the current and ongoing "summer emergency operations"	Issue was previously considered in the screening and it is the view of the responsible authorities that adequate information was available through the cooperative assessment process to carry out the screening in accordance with the CEAA.
C. Cynthia Cohlmeier	1. Would like to see Seine River Crossing replaced by a structure that allows fish passage	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. The Screening Report identifies the Project that has been subject to review. A more detailed description is provided in the environmental impact statement and supplemental filing. The responsible authorities consider the approach taken assessing this Project to be reasonable and appropriate.

Red River Floodway Expansion Project Summary and Analysis of Public Comments on the Screening Report

Organization/ Individual	Summary of Comment	Analysis
D. Karl H. Pohl	1. A number of vital concerns are not listed in the "Public Concerns Section" table	The Screening report is intended to communicate the principal findings and conclusions of the assessment and, in particular, the requirements for mitigation, monitoring and follow-up as determined by the responsible authorities. Concerns of the public were considered through the assessment process.
	2. The link that appeared in the Selkirk Journal did not access the report directly	Responsible authorities note the comment
	3. An independent peer review would expose a number of hidden flaws in the MFA proposal	Comment noted. With respect to the protection of the environment, terms and conditions of federal and provincial environmental approvals must be implemented and measures including inspections and compliance documentation will be required to verify that this has occurred.
	4. The only concerns that CEC addresses in its recommendations are the need for a drinking water supply monitoring network	Responsible authorities note the comment.
	5. MFA can't excavate when the existing floodway is being used during the construction season to divert water in summer. If severe and consecutive rain storms occur during construction, Winnipeg will lose the benefits of existing floodway	Responsible authorities note the comment. Issue was previously considered during the screening and responsible authorities note that Rule 4 includes a decision-making process to determine whether to operate the Floodway.
	6. The added sedimentation of the lower Red River and the south basin of Lake Winnipeg will further restrict the already compromised flow capacity of the lower Red River	Issue raised was previously considered in the screening. The Screening Report identifies the Project that has been subject to review. A more detailed description is provided in the environmental impact statement and supplemental filings. The responsible authorities consider the approach taken assessing this Project to be reasonable and appropriate.
	7. The lengthy traffic delays and detours on Provincial Trunk Hw 59 caused by the floodway expansion construction have not been adequately addressed	Issue raised was previously considered in the screening. Responsible authorities note that traffic management issues will be further considered in the development of the CPEPP and OPEPP.
	8. Both reports (CEC and the screening report) fail to address the near failure of the control structure during the peak of the 1997 flood	Issue raised was previously considered in the screening. Responsible authorities note the terms and conditions of the federal and provincial approvals must be implemented and include requirements to address the results of the Dam Safety Review.
	9. Suggestion to consult with engineers from an earthquake prone area to do the recertification of the floodgates and to install a row of precision laser motions on the top of the control structure	Issue raised was previously considered in the screening. Responsible authorities note the terms and conditions of the federal and provincial approvals must be implemented and include requirements to address the results of the Dam Safety Review.
	10. The secondary gate structure should be a pre-requisite prior to any additional flood protection work	Issue raised was previously considered in the screening. Responsible authorities note the terms and conditions of the federal and provincial approvals must be implemented and include requirements to address the results of the Dam Safety Review.

Red River Floodway Expansion Project Summary and Analysis of Public Comments on the Screening Report

Organization/ Individual	Summary of Comment	Analysis
E. Harold Thwaites	1. Need to have the Seine River Siphon replaced with a structure that allows fish passages and adequate water levels to sustain critical river habitat	Issue raised was previously considered in the screening. See C1.
	2. There should be an expansion of the Seine River Siphon	Issue raised was previously considered in the screening. See C1.
	3. The trash rack in the inlet structure should be re-designed to make it self-cleaning	Issue raised was previously considered in the screening. See C1.
	4. The Grande Point control structure design should be reassessed	Issue raised was previously considered in the screening. See C1.
F. Manitoba Wildlands	1. All plans, reports and documentation required by federal RAs should be placed in the CEAA's federal public registry, and the Manitoba Conservation public registry	Documents related to the screening have been and will continue to be placed on the public registry for the Project.
	2. Disappointed that the Screening report does not specifically require the MFA to address public concerns on the EIS and Supplementary Filing	The Screening report is intended to communicate the principal findings and conclusions of the assessment and, in particular, the requirements for mitigation, monitoring and follow-up as determined by the responsible authorities. Concerns of the public were considered through the assessment process.
	3. The report does not explicitly indicate whether or which public concerns are reflected in the RA's requirements of the MFA	Comment noted. The Screening Report has been prepared to address requirements of the CEAA.
	4. Manitoba Wildlands' comments and recommendations have not been addressed	See F3.
	5. The information still required to be filed is: in relation to the federal requirements - a) the Environmental Management Plan, b) 15 Construction Phase Environmental Protection Plans, c) 9 Operation Phase Environmental Protection Plans, d) 15 Monitoring and Follow-up Plans, e) 19 Progress and Compliance Reports, and f) other reports, documents, and programs. In relation to CEC recommendations - 15 different plans, reviews, process documentation, or programs. Public access and scrutiny of all these plans and reports is necessary	The Screening Report identifies a number of outstanding information requirements that must be addressed by the MFA following completion of the screening. It also indicates the requirement for the MFA to continue to consult stakeholders during the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the Project.
	6. A joint federal - provincial registry should be established for the Floodway materials	Comment noted. The responsible federal authorities must address public registry and information requirements of the CEAA. However, this will continue to be done in a coordinated manner with the Province of Manitoba to the greatest extent possible through implementation of the project.
	7. Manitoba EIS Guidelines not fulfilled	It is the view of the responsible authorities that adequate information was available through the cooperative assessment process to carry out the screening in accordance with the CEAA.
	8. MFA needs to learn and apply improved community relations	Comment noted. See F5. Community relations and public liaison is the subject of continuing discussions with the MFA and Province.
	9. There is a need for an independent third party review of audit of the MFA operations	Comment noted. With respect to the protection of the environment, terms and conditions of federal and provincial environmental approvals must be implemented and measures including inspections and compliance documentation will be required to verify that this has occurred.

Red River Floodway Expansion Project Summary and Analysis of Public Comments on the Screening Report

Organization/ Individual	Summary of Comment	Analysis
G. NASECA Manitoba	1. The expertise of the hired consultant (Jennifer Hildebrand) has not been adequately reflected in the erosion plan	Responsible authorities note the comment. The comment will be forwarded to the MFA and Province for follow-up.
	2. The Tender C1 was released without appropriate erosion and sediment controls	Responsible authorities note the comment. Responsible authorities note that further detail on erosion and sediment controls is to be provided in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and the EMP, CPEPP and OPEPP.
	3. There is a great concern by many members regarding the implementation of an effective erosion plan	Responsible authorities note the comment. Responsible authorities note that further detail on erosion and sediment controls is to be provided in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and the EMP, CPEPP and OPEPP.
	4. Issues of erosion are not understood and there is concern that temporary erosion control has been limited only to nurse crops.	Responsible authorities note the comment. The responsible authorities note that further detail on erosion and sediment controls is to be provided in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and the EMP, CPEPP and OPEPP.
	5. The comments and suggestions of temporary erosion control measures by the workshop participants be included in the planning and design details for the lower section of the floodway	Responsible authorities note the comment. Responsible authorities note that further detail on erosion and sediment controls is to be provided in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and the EMP, CPEPP and OPEPP.
	6. Many of the erosion and sediment control measures intended for the project have been limited in scope and material	Responsible authorities note the comment. Responsible authorities note that further detail on erosion and sediment controls is to be provided in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and the EMP, CPEPP and OPEPP.
	7. There are potential risks with the floodway expansion project, but they can be reasonably mitigated	Responsible authorities note the comment.
H. North Richot Action Committee (NRAC)	1. There is no evidence that the issues raised by NRAC have been addressed since originally identified	Comment noted.
	2. The screening report provides little information on the environmental assessment, and little if any quantitative assessment of the environmental effects	Comment noted. As indicated above in F2, it is the view of the responsible authorities that the Screening Report addresses the requirements of the CEAA.
	3. The screening report does not summarize the information but merely provides a series of conclusions unsupported by any analyses	See H2.
	4. The MFA approach includes a lack of definition of what the project is, confusion over what constitutes an environmental effect and cumulative environmental effects, a lack of any quantitative or even qualitative analysis of the significance of the environmental effects, a lack of consideration of the socio-economic impacts, a distorted or misguided consideration of the efficacy of the proposed mitigation, and the absence of any legitimate consideration of the concerns of those likely to be adversely affected by the project	Comment noted. See F7.
	5. There is a lack of recognition of the cumulative effect of the floodway particularly with regard to upstream interests	Comment noted. See F7.

**Red River Floodway Expansion Project
Summary and Analysis of Public Comments on the Screening Report**

Organization/ Individual	Summary of Comment	Analysis
	6. There is no evidence to suggest that any measures have been proposed or can be proposed to alleviate or mitigate the environmental effects of the operation of the floodway under extreme conditions, especially as it related to socio-economic conditions	Comment noted. See A28.
	7. The Appendixes provide no evidence how the concerns raised were incorporated or rejected in the screening process	Comment noted. See F2 and H2.
	8. The concerns from the public should have been heard under a federally mandated panel	The Project was determined to require a screening level of assessment under the CEAA. Ministers confirmed this determination in correspondence with stakeholders.
	9. Before rendering any decision, the RA must make a determination as to whether public concerns warrant references to a mediator or review panel	In reaching their respective decisions under section 20 of the CEAA, the responsible authorities must determine whether public concern about the Project warrants referral to a panel or mediator. The decision in this case, pursuant to section 20(1)(a) of the CEAA that the Project with mitigation is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, means that a referral is not considered warranted.
	10. The consideration of mitigation is another deficiency in the screening report. There is no evidence to suggest that the mitigation will be effective or whether it would be adequate to reduce the potential environmental effects to insignificance	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. With respect to certain impacts, e.g. construction generated dust, the effectiveness of mitigation measures is well understood. The Screening Report provides for a more comprehensive approach in respect of other potential impacts, including a requirement for construction and operational environmental protection plans that describe specific mitigation measures to be undertaken, inspection programs, monitoring and follow-up and contingency plans or adaptive management provisions in the event of unexpected effects or of ineffective mitigation. The MFA must obtain stakeholder input and approval from government authorities on these plans and measures.
	11. The floodway was never intended to operate to an elevation of 778 ft	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. The Screening Report identifies the Project that has been subject to review. A more detailed description is provided in the environmental impact statement and supplemental filing. The responsible authorities consider the approach taken assessing this Project to be reasonable and appropriate.
	12. The only way that the flood levels of the magnitude of 778 ft could ever be achieved is by the virtue of increasing the elevation of the west dyke and that component is clearly under the scope of the current project	See H11.

Red River Floodway Expansion Project Summary and Analysis of Public Comments on the Screening Report

Organization/ Individual	Summary of Comment	Analysis
	13. Operated to its limits the proposed project would inundate thousands of homes and displace thousands of residents, cause significant property damages and create long lasting suffering and hardship on those residing upstream of the floodway	Issue raised previously and considered in the screening. The assessment examined flow levels and associated impacts that would be expected under various flood conditions. The responsible authorities consider the approach taken in the screening to be reasonable and appropriate.
	14. There is a need for a federal panel to closely examine all the alternatives to the project, and its environmental effects	See H8.
	15. The report is missing an understanding of the issues relevant to each side	See H2.
I. Coalition for Flood Protection North of Floodway	1. The socio-economic impacts are not addressed adequately	Comment noted. See F7
	2. There will be impacts on the quality and the quantity of the groundwater	Issue raised was raised previously and considered in the screening. The assessment considered potential impacts to groundwater and measures to address potential groundwater effects are provided in the Screening Report. The Screening Report provides a comprehensive approach in respect to potential impacts, including a requirement for construction and operational environmental protection plans that describe specific mitigation measures to be undertaken, inspection programs, monitoring and follow-up and contingency plans or adaptive management provisions in the event of unexpected effects or of ineffective mitigation. The MFA must obtain stakeholder input and approval from government authorities on these plans and measures.
	3. There are other engineering solutions to the proposed project	Alternatives considered in the screening are considered to be reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances.
	4. The property owners upstream should be compensated or their properties be bought upfront	Issue was raised and previously considered in the screening. The screening included consideration of proposed compensation measures as a form of mitigation
	5. Dunning Road Crossing is very important for the communities	Issue was raised and previously considered in the screening. The Screening Report identifies the Project that has been subject to review and the screening included an examination of the issues associated with the Dunning Road Crossing. Measures to address potential adverse effects associated with the closure of the crossing during operation of the Floodway are included in the Screening Report, including a requirement for the MFA to develop a traffic management plan. The responsible authorities consider the approach taken in assessing this Project to be reasonable and appropriate.
J. Ritchot Concerned	1. The environmental assessment for the floodway expansion project was too restricted in scope	Comment noted. As indicated above in F2, it is the view of the responsible authorities that the Screening Report addresses the requirements of the CEAA.

Red River Floodway Expansion Project Summary and Analysis of Public Comments on the Screening Report

Organization/ Individual	Summary of Comment	Analysis
Citizens Committee	2. There is lack of clarity in relation to baseline and cumulative impacts	Issue raised previously. Baseline information was considered adequate for screening purposes. Monitoring and follow-up studies are required to verify prediction of effects and requirement for adaptive management, as specified in the Screening Report.
	3. MFA must meet all the requirements of the EMP in order for the proposed project to not cause significant adverse environmental effects	Comment noted. The Screening Report identifies a number of outstanding information requirements that must be addressed by the MFA following completion of the screening. It also indicates the requirement for the MFA to continue to consult stakeholders during the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the Project.
	4. There is a need for a formal and structured approach to the proposed EMP, including public involvement in the development and operation of the project	Comment noted. The Screening Report provides for a comprehensive approach to the EMP, including a requirement for construction and operational environmental protection plans that describe specific mitigation measures to be undertaken, inspection programs, monitoring and follow-up and contingency plans or adaptive management provisions in the event of unexpected effects or of ineffective mitigation. The MFA must obtain stakeholder input and approval from government authorities on these plans and measures. It also indicates the requirement for the MFA to continue to consult stakeholders during the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the Project.
	5. There is a need for a formal process to permit the representatives from RCCC and other on-going role in developing and monitoring implementation of the EMP	Comment noted. See J4 above.
K. Rural Municipality of Ritchot	1. The scope of the project is too limited and it does not deal with the artificial flooding caused by floodway operations	Comment noted. As indicated above in F2, it is the view of the responsible authorities that the Screening Report addresses the requirements of the CEAA.
	2. In the Socio-economic environment, the report poorly describes the effects that the artificial flooding will have on the residents of RM of Ritchot	It is the view of the responsible authorities that adequate information was available through the cooperative assessment process to carry out the screening in accordance with the CEAA
	3. The existing floodway was never designed for summer operations and by its very nature causes artificial flooding upstream of the floodway control structure	Issue raised was previously and considered in the screening. See H11.
	4. The project baseline design of 780 ft ASL at the inlet control structure for the 700 year flood event is far too high. This causes our whole municipality to become reservoir . The baseline design must not be allowed to exceed 770 ft ASL	Issue raised was previously and considered in the screening. See H11.
	5. The added expense for engineering solutions to mitigate upstream artificial flooding can be easily justified	Issue was raised previously and considered in the screening. See H11.

**Red River Floodway Expansion Project
Summary and Analysis of Public Comments on the Screening Report**

Organization/ Individual	Summary of Comment	Analysis
L. Rural Municipality of Springfield	1. Municipalities need to be recognized as having a meaningful role in the process of construction and on-going operation	Comment noted. The Screening Report provides for a comprehensive approach to the EMP, including a requirement for construction and operational environmental protection plans that describe specific mitigation measures to be undertaken, inspection programs, monitoring and follow-up and contingency plans or adaptive management provisions in the event of unexpected effects or of ineffective mitigation. The MFA must obtain stakeholder input and approval from government authorities on these plans and measures. It also indicates the requirement for the MFA to continue to consult stakeholders during the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the Project.
	2. The project should fund the Peer Review Committee and the Municipalities' involvement	Comment noted. See L1 above.
	3. It is critical that the RA not only establish a citizen liaison committee but that the Municipalities be appointed to such committee and then not by the MFA	Comment noted. See L1 above.
M. Rural Municipality of St. Clement	1. Concerned that the Screening report was released prior to the CEC recommendations	Responsible authorities note the comment.
	2. It is important that the RM be allowed to play a role in the project until finalization	Comment noted. The Screening Report provides for a comprehensive approach to the EMP, including a requirement for construction and operational environmental protection plans that describe specific mitigation measures to be undertaken, inspection programs, monitoring and follow-up and contingency plans or adaptive management provisions in the event of unexpected effects or of ineffective mitigation. The MFA must obtain stakeholder input and approval from government authorities on these plans and measures. It also indicates the requirement for the MFA to continue to consult stakeholders during the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the Project.
	3. There is a need for a Peer Review Committee	Comment noted. The Screening Report provides a requirement for the MFA to describe to the responsible authorities how it plans to consult stakeholders during the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the Project. See also M2 above.
	4. There is a need for a Liaison Committee and that members from each RM be allowed to sit on it	Comment noted. The Screening Report provides a requirement for the MFA to describe to the responsible authorities how it plans to consult stakeholders during the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the Project. See also M2 above.

**Red River Floodway Expansion Project
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Organization/ Individual	Summary of Comment	Analysis
	5. The issue of ground water protection has been the forefront of the RM's concerns	Issue raised was raised previously and considered in the screening. The assessment considered potential impacts to groundwater and measures to address potential groundwater effects are provided in the Screening Report. The Screening Report provides a comprehensive approach in respect to potential impacts, including a requirement for construction and operational environmental protection plans that describe specific mitigation measures to be undertaken, inspection programs, monitoring and follow-up and contingency plans or adaptive management provisions in the event of unexpected effects or of ineffective mitigation. The MFA must obtain stakeholder input and approval from government authorities on these plans and measures.
	6. The subject of mitigation of water loss does not address the issue of the present state, it only addresses from now onward	Issue raised was previously considered in the screening. The screening considered the potential effects associated with the project and proposed measures to address those effects. The responsible authorities consider the approach taken in the screening to be reasonable and appropriate.
	7. The concern being brought forward by the three RMs on the Dunning Crossing is based on the need and the usage of the crossing, for now and for the future. The solution is to erect a level crossing of the Floodway at either the Dunning Road crossing or between Bird's Hill Park and Donald road	Issue was raised and previously considered in the screening. The Screening Report identifies the Project that has been subject to review and the screening included an examination of the issues associated with the Dunning Road Crossing. Measures to address potential adverse effects associated with the closure of the crossing during operations of the Floodway are included in the Screening Report, including a requirement for the MFA to develop a traffic management plan. The responsible authorities consider the approach taken in assessing this Project to be reasonable and appropriate.
N. Rural Municipality of Springfield, Rural Municipality of East St. Paul, and Rural Municipality of St. Clements	1. The ALARA principle be adopted when considering the floodway expansion and its environmental effects.	Responsible authorities note the comment. The Screening Report provides for a comprehensive approach to the EMP, including a requirement for construction and operational environmental protection plans that describe specific mitigation measures to be undertaken, inspection programs, monitoring and follow-up and contingency plans or adaptive management provisions in the event of unexpected effects or of ineffective mitigation. With respect to the protection of the environment, terms and conditions of federal and provincial environmental approvals must be implemented and measures including inspections and compliance documentation will be required to verify that this has occurred.
	2. A third party review committee be established with representation from the Municipalities	Issue raised was previously considered in the screening. See M3 and M4 above. The responsible authorities note the requirement for the MFA to describe how it plans to consult stakeholders during the construction, operation and maintenance

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Organization/ Individual	Summary of Comment	Analysis
		phases of the Project.
	3. Clear guidelines be set out for meaningful participation and input by the Municipalities where that input is suggested in the screening report	Issue raised was previously considered in the screening. See M3 and M4 above. The responsible authorities note the requirement for the MFA to describe how it plans to consult stakeholders during the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the Project.
	4. A health based risk assessment be a condition of approval of the project	Issue raised was previously considered in the screening. The assessment considered potential impacts to groundwater and measures to address potential groundwater effects are provided in the Screening Report, including the need to consider use of a health-based risk assessment approach in relation to groundwater issues. The Screening Report provides a comprehensive approach in respect to potential impacts, including a requirement for construction and operational environmental protection plans that describe specific mitigation measures to be undertaken, inspection programs, monitoring and follow-up and contingency plans or adaptive management provisions in the event of unexpected effects or of ineffective mitigation. The MFA must obtain stakeholder input and approval from government authorities on these plans and measures.
	5. The Screening report established conditions of approval including a comprehensive baseline study, a comprehensive groundwater monitoring program, ensure that there is no additional groundwater leakage to the floodway, establish procedures and protocols to deal with diverse water quality and quantity effects, and establish a arms-length appeal body for adjudication of claim regarding groundwater issues	Comment noted. With respect to the protection of the environment, terms and conditions of federal and provincial environmental approvals must be implemented and measures including inspections and compliance documentation will be required to verify that this has occurred.
	6. The MFA be directed to consult with the Municipalities to design and implement strategies to minimize the loss of groundwater into the floodway	Issue raised was previously considered in the screening. The responsible authorities note the requirement for the MFA to describe how it plans to consult stakeholders during the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the Project. Se also M3 and M4 above.
	7. Place a condition of the expansion of the Floodway requiring the MFA to rebuild and replace the bridge at Dunning road, or construct a new bridge between Birds Hill Park and Donald Road	Issue was raised and previously considered in the screening. The Screening Report identifies the Project that has been subject to review and the screening included an examination of the issues associated with the Dunning Road Crossing. Measures to address potential adverse effects associated with the closure of the crossing during operations of the Floodway are included in the Screening Report, including a requirement for the MFA to develop a traffic management plan. The responsible authorities consider the approach taken in assessing this Project to be reasonable and appropriate.