



Infrastructure  
Canada

Ottawa, Canada  
K1P 5B4

**MAR 17 2005**

Mr. Ernie Gilroy  
Chief Executive Officer  
Manitoba floodway Authority  
Room 200, 155 Carleton Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 3H8

Dear Mr. Gilroy:

Thank you for your letter of March 3, 2005 concerning the federal environmental assessment of the Red River Floodway Expansion Project (Project).

Your letter raises many points that were previously set out in my letter of February 16, 2005, to which was appended a summary of outstanding information requirements.

I must remind you that the responsible authorities will be deciding the question of significance after appropriate mitigation measures, not whether the effects “would be temporary and the longer term benefits would outweigh the harm caused by the non-operation” as set out on page 3 of your letter.

You state in your letter of March 3, 2005 that, during construction of the Project, studies will be conducted to inform a possible future decision by the province to operate the expanded floodway outside of emergency needs, such as in summer for recreational purposes. It is our current understanding that operations of the Floodway will be limited to the emergency-operating regime described in Rules 1 through 4. If that is not the case, you need to advise us as soon as possible, so that we may consider what additional information we require for the purposes of our review.

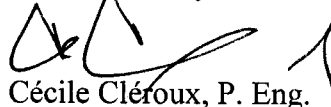
As far as timing is concerned, at a meeting on February 25, MFA and federal officials agreed on a work plan and schedule for providing the information requested in my February 16 letter. Mr. Doug McNeil subsequently confirmed by email to Mr. Keith Grady, that this will involve consultants retained by Infrastructure Canada assisting the MFA to assemble information on potential Project effects on fish and fish habitat for discussion by federal, provincial and MFA staff at workshops this week. It also involves a meeting of federal and MFA officials on March 23, 2005 and the continuing exchange of information on assessment related issues in the meantime.

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As previously indicated, if federal authorities receive the required information within this timeframe, we anticipate concluding the federal environmental assessment and the responsible authorities making their respective screening determinations by July 11, 2005, which corresponds to the schedule for the cooperative environmental assessment attached as Appendix B of your letter of March 3, 2005.

In view of their interests in this Project, I am forwarding a copy of our correspondence to my colleagues at Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, Environment Canada and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. A copy has also been sent to the Project Administration Team and to the federal public registry for the Project.

Yours sincerely,



Cécile Cléroux, P. Eng.  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Program Operations

c.c. Sue Kirby, Fisheries and Ocean Canada  
Ronald Sully, Transport Canada  
Barry Stemshorn, Environment Canada  
Paul Bernier, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
Trent Hreno, Project Administration Team  
Public Registry

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