

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Rural Municipality of Wallace
PROPOSAL NAME: Rural Municipality of Wallace Water Supply System
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Two
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation/Transmission - Pipelines
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5029.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on March 5, 2004. It was dated March 1, 2004. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Manitoba Water Services Board on behalf of the Rural Municipality of Wallace to construct a water supply system to provide potable water throughout the municipality. Water for the system would be supplied from a proposed well located near PTH 83 immediately south of the Assiniboine River. Raw water would be piped to a water treatment plant adjacent to PTH 83 in NW 31-12-26W. The water would be treated by nanofiltration, and nanofilter reject water would be discharged to a ravine in NW 6-13-26W. Treated water would be distributed throughout the municipality in pipes installed in road allowances. The system would initially produce an estimated average daily volume of 1.3 million litres of treated water and 325,000 litres of reject water. Initial annual raw water use for the system is estimated to be 631 cubic decametres or 511 acre-feet. By the year 2020, water consumption in the system is projected to be double the initial amounts. Construction of the system is proposed to begin in the spring and summer of 2004.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Virden Empire Advance on Saturday, March 27, 2004. It was placed in the Main, St. James-Assiniboia, Eco-Network and Border Regional Library (Virden) public registries. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on March 24, 2004. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was April 26, 2004.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public comments were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Sustainable Resource Management Branch Prior to construction, the proponent should conduct a survey of the affected areas, in particular the undeveloped road allowance, to determine if any rare or endangered plant or animal species are present.

There are a few parcels of Crown land that lie beside the proposed alignment of some water supply lines. Activities along such sites should ensure that natural habitats are not inadvertently disturbed by project activities.

Consideration should be given to having a Watershed Protection Plan for well sources of domestic water within the watershed. A Watershed Assessment Program should also be considered for the surrounding area.

A contingency plan should be provided describing how alternate sources of water will be provided in the event the well becomes inoperable at any given time.

Since chlorination is being used after the filtration process to protect the water supply, standby equipment of sufficient capacity is recommended during shutdowns.

There is no indication in the proposal of water quality monitoring to ensure that the concentrate stream is adequately diluted prior to entry into the Assiniboine River.

Instream and riparian work should also be done in accordance with the Manitoba Stream Crossing Guidelines, as well as Watercourse Crossings, Second Edition.

Erosion and sediment control practices should be implemented before, during and after construction in all disturbed areas around watercourses.

The final distribution system layout should be determined with input from Manitoba Water Stewardship Fisheries Branch to ensure that there will be minimal disturbance to fish and fish habitat.

Disposition:

Rare and endangered plants and animals and natural habitats can be protected through licence conditions. Water quality monitoring and the use of appropriate construction guidelines and practices can also be addressed through licence conditions. Watershed protection plans and assessment programs should be implemented by watershed planning authorities on a watershed scale, as provided for in new provincial legislation. Comments concerning backup plans for water supply and equipment maintenance were provided to the proponent's engineering contact for information. Short term supply needs during planned or unplanned service disruptions are normally provided by treated water storage facilities in the water supply system.

Historic Resources Branch The Historic Resources Branch has concerns with regard to this project's potential to impact heritage resources. Section 5 (f) indicates that

the Historic Resources Branch will be contacted once pipeline routes are finalized. It is understood that this applies to each phase of the project, prior to installation or trenching.

Disposition:

These comments were forwarded to the Proponent's representative for information. Compliance with the Heritage Resources Act can be required as a licence condition.

Mines Branch

No concerns.

Petroleum Branch

Section 4.7 – The list of contacts should include the Petroleum Branch's Virden District Office. The District Office can provide the proponent with information on oil and gas pipelines & flowlines that are to be crossed by the proposed water supply pipeline. As indicated in Section 4.4 the proponent will be required to enter into crossing agreements with the pipeline & flowline operators. All crossings are to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of CSA Standard Z662 – Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems.

In order to assist the Branch in identifying potential pipeline & flowline crossing the proponent should be requested to provide our Virden District Office with a large scale drawing showing the exact route of the proposed water supply system. The contact person for our Virden District Office is the Senior Petroleum Inspector.

Disposition:

This information was forwarded to the Proponent's representative. Contact with the Petroleum Branch can be addressed as a licence condition.

Highway Planning and Design Branch

- All proposed installations within highway right-of-way will require approval from the Department. Permits from the Highway Traffic Board will also be required for any installations within Control Areas adjacent to highway rights-of-way (under the Highways Protection Act). Detailed plans should be forwarded to the Department for review and approval once they become available.
- All work areas on highway property must be rehabilitated as soon as practical and maintained within a 2-year period. Topsoil should be stipulated as top dressing to promote re-establishment of vegetation.
- Erosion control measures should be used during and after construction to prevent erosion within highway right-of-way, especially on steep slopes.
- Erosion is of particular concern at the proposed site of concentrate water disposal. The steep slopes of this ravine are predominantly loose shale. The concern is that erosion of the slope could impact Provincial Trunk Highway 83.

- Another concern is that the discharged effluent may back up, during winter months, into the culvert through PTH 83 at the bottom of the ravine, causing icing problems. Further concerns at the PTH 83 culvert site are: corrosion of the pipe due to the quality of effluent and aggravation of existing beaver problems due to increased flow at the site.
- Contacts for the above concerns are the Brandon Regional Technical Services Engineer and the Regional Planning Technologist.

Disposition:

These comments were forwarded to the Proponent's representative for information. Most of the comments can be addressed as licence conditions.

Community Planning Services Branch

- Development of the proposed rural water supply system in the RM of Wallace clearly serves an well-identified need in this community. There appears to be a high degree of support for the project by residents of the Rural Municipality of Wallace as is evidenced by the 275 ratepayers who have paid in advance a deposit to secure future access to the water distribution system when built.
- Development of the rural water distribution system as proposed will contribute incrementally to an overall change in the land use character of the municipalities served by the rural water system. Larger diameter portions of the water distribution system closely parallel existing major hydro utility and transportation corridors (i.e. PTH # 83, The Trans Canada Highway). The addition of a reliable water source along these major utility and transportation corridors will increase demand for highway commercial, large scale industrial and rural residential forms of development along and immediately adjacent to these corridors. Care should be taken in prematurely allowing these types of development where they might otherwise be accommodated in existing urban communities.
- I would recommend that a copy of the Environmental Act proposal be circulated to the each of the affected municipal councils for information and comment.

Disposition:

These comments were forwarded to the Proponent's representative for information (second comment). The Manitoba Water Services Board has held several meetings with the adjacent R. M. of Miniota to discuss the project.

Soils and Crops Branch No concerns from an agricultural perspective, provided that any impacts that the installation of the proposed pipelines may have on agricultural land are minimized.

Disposition: Most proposed pipeline installation would be on road allowances. Impacts of pipeline construction on agricultural land can be addressed through licence conditions.

Medical Officer of Health – Assiniboine and Brandon RHAs A properly designed and operated water supply system will allow review of the need for the existing boil water advisory on the community of Kola as well as to provide a potable water supply to the other networked communities. Will the proposed design incorporate the standards established in the new Drinking Water Act?

Disposition:

The design will accommodate present and future water quality requirements.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration has provided notification that an environmental assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (the Act) will be required with respect to the project. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has indicated that they require additional project information prior to making a determination of whether they will require an environmental assessment under the Act. Specifically, DFO requires information on the water crossings that will not be directionally drilled and expected flows on intermittent streams are required.

Since this project requires a multi-jurisdictional environmental assessment, CEAA will act as the Federal Environmental Assessment Coordinator (FEAC). The EA review will be conducted pursuant to the Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation.

PFRA, DFO, Environment Canada and Health Canada would be able to offer specialist information in regards to the project review, and have determined that they have an interest in the project and would like to participate in the provincial review, pursuant to Clause 59 of the Agreement. For purposes of coordination, please contact the departmental representatives provided.

Transport Canada Navigable Waters Protection has provided the proponent with pipeline and directional drill policy information. A copy of this correspondence is attached. Based on the project information submitted by the proponent, Navigable Waters Protection has no other interests in this project.

(PFRA and DFO indicated a desire to participate in the provincial review. Environment Canada and Health Canada indicated no desire to participate in the review, but Health Canada provided comments on the Proposal.)

Health Canada

- Will the membrane system be piloted to confirm the quality of permeate and determine whether excessive membrane fouling will be an issue?
- Will construction workers be exposed to hazardous working conditions during the construction phase of the project (e.g. heavy equipment, chemicals, welding)? What mitigation measures are planned?

- During the operation phase, will waterworks operators be exposed to hazards typically associated with chemicals and equipment use, etc.? If so, are mitigation measures planned?
- Will measures be required to safeguard pedestrian and vehicular traffic during the construction phase of the project e.g. excavations, heavy equipment etc.?
- Is additional site security planned for the WTP/reservoir during construction and operation to protect the water resource, the facility and safety of trespassers?

Disposition:

Issues relating to WTP performance will be addressed by the Manitoba Water Services Board and the equipment supplier. Monitoring of wastewater from the WTP can be addressed as a standard licence condition. Matters relating to workplace safety and health are generally addressed through contract and labour regulations. Public safety during construction and operation is addressed through contract and design features.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

No additional information is required to address the comments received.

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, or have been forwarded to the Applicant's representative for information. Therefore, it is recommended that the Development be licenced 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 Western Region.

PREPARED BY:

Bruce Webb
Environmental Approvals - Environmental Land Use Approvals
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Telephone: (204) 945-7021 Fax: (204) 945-5229
E-mail: bwebb@gov.mb.ca