

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Hydro
PROPOSAL NAME: Canexus Load Addition Project
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transmission
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5508.00

OVERVIEW:

An Environment Act Proposal for the Canexus Load Addition Project, dated February 25, 2011, was received from Manitoba Hydro on March 1, 2011. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by Manitoba Hydro to construct and operate the Canexus Load Addition Project located in the industrial east end of Brandon. Manitoba Hydro’s existing 115 kilovolt (kV) BK41 transmission line currently supplies the Canexus Chemicals Ltd. plant in Brandon and Brandon 65th Street East Station. In response to a request by Canexus for additional load, Manitoba Hydro is planning to construct approximately 4.9 km of new 115kV line from Brandon Generating Station to Brandon 65th Street East Station. In addition, line reterminations and upgrades at Brandon Generating Station and a new line retermination at the Brandon 65th Street East Station are required. Construction is planned for the fall/winter of 2011.”

The proposal was advertised in the Brandon Sun on Saturday, April 2, 2011.

Copies of the Proposal were placed in the following Manitoba Conservation Public Registries: Conservation & Environment Library, the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Millennium Public Library, and the Western Manitoba Regional Library. It was also distributed to the “Transmission” Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for comment. Comments from the public and TAC were requested by May 4, 2011.

PUBLIC RESPONSE

No public comments were received regarding the project.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Following is a summary of TAC comments on the Environmental Assessment Report. Copies of the original comments from TAC are available in the Public Registries.

Manitoba Conservation

Air Quality Section

- There is no significant air quality concerns from this proposal. Emissions could be generated from the operation of heavy equipment and vehicles, dust during construction and roadways but will be managed appropriately by adhering to the industry standard construction practices.

- No mention is made in the proposal application about potential noise associated with splicing of wires. What is the method of splicing that will be used? If implosive splicing will be utilized, noise may be a concern during the construction phase. When the implosion splice is detonated, it creates a brief sound similar to a loud thunderclap. Provincial guidelines for sound pollution are expected to be met, otherwise adequate noise control measures is suggested or splicing should be done only on certain hours of the day where it will have lesser environmental effect.

Disposition: The comments were forwarded to Manitoba Hydro for information.

Parks and Natural Areas Branch

No comments.

Sustainable Resource Management Branch

No concerns.

Climate and Green Initiatives Branch

The proposed additional 115 kV line for the planned expansion of the Canexus plant in Brandon will result in an additional and significant amount of electrical capacity required at the plant (perhaps upwards of 100 MW?). A few questions with regards to the proposal are:

- 1) what is the expected additional electrical load to the Canexus plant, and
- 2) what additional volume of natural gas will be consumed and subsequent GHG emissions produced in order to provide the additional electricity?

It is important to try and properly assess the GHG impacts of such a significant project on the province of Manitoba.

Disposition: This information was not requested from Manitoba Hydro for this project. The environmental effects of the expansion of the Canexus plant would be reviewed as part of an assessment of the plant expansion.

Environmental Operations, Western Region

No comments or concerns.

Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation

No concerns.

Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy, and Trade – Mines Branch

No concerns.

Manitoba Water Stewardship

No comments.

Manitoba Local Government

Community Planning Services

1. The proposal contained substantial information to consider, including applicable policies and requirements contained in Brandon Area By-laws
2. The proposed development appears to be consistent with those local land use planning documents.
3. We note that the routing of the proposed transmission line (BB65) moves easterly from the Brandon Generating Station property towards PR110 and appears to cross over lands currently under water as a result of spring flooding
4. Spring 2011 has witnessed overtopping of the banks of the Assiniboine river which is located about a ¼ mile north of this part of the proposed line routing
5. This year's high water event has resulted in the spring flooding of low lying lands adjacent to the river, including lands chosen for the transmission line routing located west of PR110
6. Casual observations suggest that the subject lands along this part of the proposed line route have been overtaken by a few feet of flood waters in the first week of May.

Disposition: The comments were forwarded to Manitoba Hydro for information.

Manitoba Health

1. Air emissions – ensure air emissions criteria will be met regarding dust, gaseous and particle emissions during construction.
2. Water – Please minimize the risk of surface or ground water contamination by fuel or chemical spills during construction.
3. Wastes/Chemicals – a) ensure that any discharge of wastes or removal of wastes is in compliance with Manitoba Environment's guidelines, and b) ensure reporting and appropriate disposal of all hazardous wastes.
4. Property ownership – were any concerns raised by landowners and occupants within 1.5 km of the proposed site?
5. Noise – Noise level during construction may be a potential concern. Please ensure that this concern is appropriately addressed.

Disposition: The comments were forwarded to Manitoba Hydro for information.

CEAA

Based on responses to the Federal survey, application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act will not be required.

RECOMMENDATION:

A public hearing is not recommended. The TAC comments were forwarded to the Proponent for information as noted above. It is recommended that the Development be licensed under The Environment Act subject to the limits, terms and conditions as described in the attached Draft Environment Act

Licence. It is further recommended that enforcement responsibility of the licence is transferred to the Western Region of Manitoba Conservation.

PREPARED BY:

Elise Dagdick
Environmental Assessment & Licensing
June 7, 2011
Telephone: (204) 945-8173
Fax: (204) 945-5229
e-mail: elise.dagdick@gov.mb.ca