

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROPOSAL NAME:** Town of Grand Rapids  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** Town of Grand Rapids Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** One  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Waste Disposal - Water Treatment Plants (Wastewater)

**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 5657.00

### **OVERVIEW:**

The Proposal was received on June 14, 2013. It was dated June 12, 2013. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A proposal has been received from the Manitoba Water Services Board on behalf of the Town of Grand Rapids for the upgrading of the Grand Rapids water treatment plant. Reject water from the existing reverse osmosis treatment process would be discharged by pipeline to the Saskatchewan River instead of the Town’s wastewater treatment lagoon. The reject water contains elevated levels of hardness and total dissolved solids; removing this wastewater stream from the lagoon would reduce hydraulic loading on the lagoon by approximately 20%. Construction of the upgraded plant is proposed for the fall of 2013.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Winnipeg Free Press Saturday, July 18, 2013. It was placed in the online public registry, the Legislative Library, Eco-Network, Millennium Public Library (Winnipeg) public registries and the Town of Grand Rapids office as a public registry location. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on July 18, 2013. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was August 16, 2013.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

No public comments were received.

**COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:****Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch**

North West Region are supportive of this proposal in efforts of reducing wastewater flows to the existing sewage lagoon.

**Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Watersheds and Protected Areas Branch and Lands Branch**

The Watersheds and Protected Areas Branch have no concerns. The Lands Branch notes that the proponent shall, prior to development on Crown land apply for and obtain the appropriate land tenure allocations in accordance with The Crown Lands Act, from the Crown Land and Property Agency.

Disposition:

This information was provided to the applicant for information.

**Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Parks and Natural Areas Branch**

No comments.

**Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Wildlife Branch**

No comments.

**Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Water Science and Management Branch, Water Quality Management Section**

No concerns.

**Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Fisheries Branch**

Fisheries Branch has reviewed this request to discharge membrane concentrate from the recently Grand Rapids water treatment plant via a pipeline to the Saskatchewan River. The line will be horizontally drilled at the drain outlet to eliminate excavation within the riparian zone and the outlet will be rock rip rapped to prevent erosion. The consultants indicate that approximately 37,000 m<sup>3</sup> (1.4 L/s) of concentrate will be discharged to the Saskatchewan River and the impact of the discharged concentrate is negligible due to both the large volume of water and high flow rate of the Saskatchewan River. They

indicate that the Town of Grand Rapids will perform long-term sampling of the river water to verify water quality impacts.

Generally as long as the standard clauses that address the mitigation identified in this proposal (i.e. implementing erosion and sediment control, use of clean rock, etc) are included in the licence fisheries concerns should be addressed. We'd like to see a clause requiring adherence to DFO's direction drilling operational statement. We would also be supportive of a monitoring requirement. While they indicate there has been no significant adverse effects on water quality from other systems where discharge has been discharged to surface waters, what factual information is this statement based on? It would be beneficial to include a summary of those results in this or future proposals.

We would also request a clause to address minimizing the spread of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. The following or a re-iteration has been included in other licences. The Licencee shall, during construction and maintenance of the Development, prevent the introduction and spread of foreign aquatic and terrestrial biota by ensuring all equipment, including transport equipment, is clean before use at each location.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed through licence conditions.

#### **Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Office of Drinking Water**

No concern.

#### **Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Water Use Licensing Section**

No concerns.

#### **Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Water Control Works and Drainage Licensing Section**

No concerns.

#### **Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation - Highway Planning and Design Branch, Environmental Services Section**

No concerns.

**Manitoba Health – Northern Health Region, Medical Officer of Health**

Pertaining to Section 5.9. Socioeconomic Implications, I would encourage that any possible benefit to the local economy be maximized during this project, including utilization/training of the local workforce.

Disposition:

This comment was provided to the applicant for information.

**Office of the Fire Commissioner**

No comments.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

No additional information was required to address Technical Advisory Committee comments.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

As no public comments were received and no requests for a hearing were filed, a public hearing is not recommended.

**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.

The proposal involves a change in the discharge location for the reject water from the reverse osmosis water treatment process which will eliminate this source of hydraulic loading on the Town's wastewater treatment lagoon. The reject water contains no constituents that would be removed in the lagoon, so all of the dissolved material in the reject water is discharged to the Saskatchewan River with the current situation or the proposed upgrade. Since resource use is not affected by the project, it is concluded that Crown-Aboriginal consultation is not required for the project.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Development be licensed 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 Northwest Regional office of the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

PREPARED BY:

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August 23, 2013

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