

AMENDED SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

June 2, 2005

PROPONENT: Norquay Holding Co. Ltd.
PROPOSAL NAME: Proposal for an Environment Act Licence for
(NORQUAY) MILLTOWN COLONY
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Waste/Scrap - Wastewater Lagoon
CLIENT FILE NO.: 3084.10

OVERVIEW:

On September 22, 2000, Manitoba Conservation received a Proposal from DGH Engineering Ltd. on behalf of the Norquay Holding Co. Ltd. requesting approval for the alteration of discharge method from the existing wastewater treatment lagoon. The wastewater treatment lagoon is located on NE Section 7 - Township 12 - Range 4WPM in the R.M. of Portage la Prairie.

Manitoba Conservation, on October 10, 2000, placed copies of the Proposal in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station) Main Floor, the Centennial Public Library and at Portage la Prairie City Library and provided copies of the Proposal to the appropriate Interdepartmental Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Advertisements regarding general details of the proposal were published in two newspapers, namely the Portage Daily and the Portage Herald Leader. The newspaper and TAC notifications invited responses until November 13, 2000.

On November 7, 2000 the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) submitted information to Manitoba Conservation indicating that an environmental assessment under The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (the Act) would not be required by federal officials with respect to the project.

On November 17, 2000 notice was provided to the proponent that one objection to the proposal rendered the proposal unacceptable while comments from the public and the TAC were also generated. The one objection that rendered the proposal unacceptable originated from the R.M. of Portage la Prairie. The R.M. of Portage la Prairie disallowed the use of municipal ditches to convey effluent from the lagoon to Mill Creek. Several members of the public requested a public hearing.

On June 1, 2001 the R.M. of Portage la Prairie withdrew their letter wherein the use of the municipal ditches was disallowed. On June 6, 2001 the response to the comments submitted by the TAC and public was submitted. On June 13, 2001 the response information was distributed to the Public Registries and all residents that had submitted comments pertaining to the original

EAP were informed of the availability of the response information. On June 14, 2001 the response information was distributed to those members of the TAC that had submitted comments pertaining to the original EAP. Comments were requested by June 28, 2001 and it was specified that a non-reply would be considered as indicating no concerns.

The TAC submitted no concerns regarding the response information while two letters from the public were submitted. The public expressed concerns regarding potential negative impacts to groundwater and surface water.

On September 6, 2001 the request to alter Environment Act Licence No. 1336 was refused. The reason for the decision was that the characteristics of the effluent proposed to be discharged exceed levels recommended by Manitoba Surface Water Quality Objectives. Specifically, the Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR) exceeded recommended levels.

On October 5, 2001 Norquay Holding Co. Ltd. provided new information, indicating that the SAR of the effluent would be reduced once the farmsite was connected to the Cartier Regional Water Cooperative Inc. water supply. The correspondence included a request to reconsider the proposal and alter the Licence. On October 17, 2001 Manitoba Conservation responded, indicating that the September 6, 2001 decision remained unchanged.

On October 26, 2001, following discussions with the proponent's consultant, Manitoba Conservation agreed to hold the alteration request in abeyance until confirmation that Norquay Holding Co. Ltd. had connected the Milltown Colony at this location to the Cartier Regional Water Cooperative Inc. During the interim, Environment Act Licence No. 1336 would remain in force.

On January 3, 2003, the proponent's consultant provided a copy of a December 24, 2002 letter from the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie confirming that the Milltown Colony is connected to the Cartier Regional Water Cooperative Inc. It was claimed that the SAR of the effluent would now be expected to be lower than those measured during the time when water softeners were used.

On January 30, 2003 Manitoba Conservation responded, acknowledging receipt of the January 3, 2003 letter request from the proponent and indicating that a site visit, sampling and analyses event by Manitoba Conservation would occur.

On May 14, 2003 Manitoba Conservation obtained representative water and wastewater samples from the farmsite to determine the SAR. The softened water and the wastewater samples obtained from the secondary cell exceeded the allowable limit for SAR. The proponent indicated that softened water would no longer be used to the extent that it had been and that lower SAR values should be expected the following year.

On August 6, 2004 Manitoba Conservation obtained representative wastewater samples from the cells of the wastewater treatment lagoon and submitted them for SAR analyses. The SAR values from the primary and the secondary cells were both below those identified in the Manitoba Water Quality Standards, Objectives, and Guidelines.

On November 19, 2004 Manitoba Conservation distributed letters to the public that had requested a public hearing to discuss matters regarding this Environment Act Proposal. The letters informed the public that the Director decided not to recommend to the Minister that he cause the Clean Environment Commission to hold a public hearing. The reasons for not recommending a public hearing were: 1) Any Environment Act Licence issued will address appropriate environmental requirements to protect downstream water uses; and 2) The Colony was connected to the Cartier Regional Water Cooperative Inc. water supply network in September, 2002 and water softeners are not used for the Colony's primary water supply. There were no appeals.

The proponent was requested to provide information regarding the means by which effluent would be transferred to the municipal drains. A May 27, 2005 letter from the proponent's consultant identified that a discharge pipe with related ancillary components would be installed for the secondary cell.

SUMMARY:

The original proposal was modified significantly when the proponent identified they would connect to and use the Cartier Regional Water Cooperative Inc. water supply network as their primary water source. Although the public still have an interest in the proposal, no further correspondence expressing opposition has been received. Concerns identified by the Technical Advisory Committee have been addressed through the inclusion of related Clauses in the draft Environment Act Licence.

RECOMMENDATION:

The request to alter Environment Act Licence No. 1336 to allow effluent discharge to municipal drainage ditching with eventual discharge to Mill Creek as proposed be approved with limits, terms and conditions as identified in the attached draft Environment Act Licence.

PREPARED BY:



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