

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: MR. DAVID ROURKE
PROPOSAL NAME: MINTO ETHANOL
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 1
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: MANUFACTURING -
FARM PRODUCTION PLANT-ETHANOL
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5200.00

OVERVIEW:

On June 26, 2006, Manitoba Conservation received a Proposal dated June 20, 2006, for the operation and construction of a manufacturing plant to produce ethanol fuel and distribution facilities to be located on the SE¼ 28-5-19 WPM in the Rural Municipality of Whitewater. The proponent intends to construct/install an integrated on farm ethanol production facility in conjunction with their existing Hog Hill Farms finishing site. An approximate 24' x 28' building to encompass an approximate 500 thousand litre/year ethanol production facility will be constructed adjacent to the existing pig finishing barns. In addition they plan to install several storage tanks for raw and finished ingredients. The distillers grain (mash) will be sieved and pressed to remove excess moisture and incorporated into a swine ration at their adjacent feed mill. No set hours of operation have been established.

No public concerns were received in response to the advertisement of this proposal in the Boissevain Recorder published on Friday July 7, 2006. The proposal was placed in the Public Registries at the Winnipeg Public Library, the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Lakeland Regional Library and the Environment Library (Main). The proposal was distributed to TAC on July 4, 2006, with the closing date for TAC and Public comments on August 9, 2006.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public responses were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Historic Resources Branch has no concern with regard to its potential impact on heritage resources.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency state that based on their staff survey, application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* with respect to this proposal is not required.

Environment Canada has reviewed the project description and state that the proposal lacks details and layout of Environmental Impacts and any necessary mitigation measures. They question the reuse of distillation water to feed the pigs and any residues of chemicals used in the process and plans for removal prior to supplying to the pigs. They are also

concerned about the production of carbon dioxide and its containment to prevent release into the environment. They state that chemicals used in the process should be reviewed to ensure regulation compliance. The proposal lacks a site drainage plan and measures to control spills.

Disposition

The information was provided to the proponent for response. The proponent provided additional information. Concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

Sustainable Resource Management Branch has reviewed this proposal and provided the following comments: The proponent has provided no information regarding potential emissions to the atmosphere and therefore no assessment of potential impacts on the environment of any such releases. As the small facility appears to be a packaged unit it should come with some environmental performance data and compliance data from other jurisdictions. They have concerns on who will be undertaking the plant equipment set up, commissioning and operation of the production facility to ensure compliance with design specifications and intended operations. The branch is concerned that this operation could be precedent setting and therefore want to ensure that environmental requirements related to air emissions are appropriate including release of substances contributing to odour nuisance, release of volatile organic compounds and other air pollutants.

Disposition

The information has been provided to the proponent for response. The proponent states that the only significant emission that will be exhausted is carbon dioxide-approximately 450 tonnes annually. Concerns are addressed in draft licence.

Transportation & Government Services state that they have reviewed the proposal and have no concerns.

Ecological Services-Water Stewardship stated that water use by this development should be more specific in order to deal with water rights licence and possibly drainage licence. They also state that location of potable water sources were not mentioned in the proposal. They request any baseline water quality data which has or will be collected to assess the status of the local groundwater quality, or the status of water quality during the ethanol production. They state that proposed activities should not affect the groundwater/surface water qualities on adjacent properties and activities along with appropriate mitigation should be identified by the proponent. Fisheries Branch stated that if well water does not exceed the facilities current water allocation and there is no waste water discharge from the plant, they have no concerns. They do comment about how a drought cycle may affect the groundwater source and in particular the potential to affect surface water. In a supplementary comment concerns were raised about potential discharges resulting from water softening and dilute bleach use in storage cleaning and request additional specific information on the quantity, content and quality of waste that may be generated and require some disposal.

Disposition

The information has been provided to the proponent for response. Additional information was provided by the proponent. Concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

Regional Health Authority state they have reviewed the proposal and have concerns that air emission criteria is met, including the need for air dispersion monitoring if necessary. In additional licence clauses should include odour, noise and dust emissions and monitoring.

Disposition:

The comments/concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives state they have reviewed the proposal and have no comments or concerns related to this proposal.

Western Regional Operations state they have no immediate concerns regarding this Environment Act Proposal.

PUBLIC HEARING:

No public hearing will be conducted.

RECOMMENDATION:

TAC concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

The responsibility for enforcement of the Licence should remain with Environmental Assessment & Licensing Branch until the proponent complies with Clauses 5, 7, 16, 17, 18, and 20.

A draft Environment Act Licence is attached for the Director's consideration.

PREPARED BY:

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September 7, 2006

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