

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Hydro
PROPOSAL NAME: Kelsey Generating Station Sewage Lagoon
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Wastewater Treatment Lagoon
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5839.00

OVERVIEW:

On May 17, 2016, the Department received an Environment Act Proposal (EAP) on behalf of the Manitoba Hydro for the construction and operation of a wastewater treatment lagoon that would service the Kelsey Generating Station. The wastewater treatment lagoon will be located in NW 24-81-6EPM. Two existing wastewater treatment plants currently serving the generating station will be decommissioned once the wastewater treatment lagoon is commissioned. Treated wastewater from the wastewater treatment lagoon may be discharged between June 15th and November 1st of any year into a swale that will direct it into a natural wetland that drains into a creek that drains into the Nelson River.

The Department, on June 16, 2016, placed copies of the EAP report in the Public Registries located at the Legislative Library, 200 Vaughn St., Winnipeg; the Millennium Public Library, 4th Floor, 251 Donald St., Winnipeg; and the Online Registry, <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eal/registries/index.html>, and provided copies of the EAP report materials to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members. As well, the Department placed public notifications of the EAP in the Thompson Nickel Belt on Friday, June 17, 2016. The newspaper and TAC notifications invited responses until July 18, 2016.

There were no comments or requests for additional information presented by the public and there were no requests for additional information presented by the TAC.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Water Control Works and Drainage Licensing Section – Conservation and Water Stewardship

- *Any water control works (drains, culverts, dykes, dams, etc.) associated with this project will require licensing under the Water Rights Act. Any works on Crown Land require a decommissioning plan, which should be submitted with the application. Any inquiries in this regard may be directed to the local Water Resources Officer. Their contact may be found at:*

http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/waterstewardship/licensing/pdf/officer_areas_of_focus_30mar2015.pdf

Lands Branch – Sustainable Development

- *No concerns.*

Climate Change and Air Quality – Sustainable Development

- *The proposal is not expected to have a significant impact on surrounding air quality;*
- *The odour and noise clause are suggested to be included in the License.*

Disposition:

- *The draft Environment Act Licence contains clauses regarding noise and odour nuisances.*

Environmental Services Section – Infrastructure

- *MIT has reviewed the proposal under the Environment Act noted above and we do not have any concern with the proposed development.*

Office of Drinking Water – Sustainable Development

- *No concerns.*

Community and Regional Planning – Indigenous and Municipal Relations

- *No concerns.*

Ag Resources Branch – Agriculture

- *No concerns.*

Parks and Regional Services – Sustainable Development

- *No concerns.*

Parks and Protected Spaces Branch – Sustainable Development

- *No comments or concerns.*

Wildlife Branch – Sustainable Development

- *No concerns.*

Water Use Licensing Section – Sustainable Development

- *No comments.*

Water Science and Management Branch – Sustainable Development

- *The following effluent standards should be in place for Manitoba Hydro Kelsey Generating Station as per the Manitoba Water Quality Standards, Objectives and Guidelines Regulation (196/2011).*
 - *BOD 25 mg/L,*
 - *TSS 25 mg/L,*
 - *E.Coli 200 MPN / 100 mL, and*
 - *Total Phosphorus <1 mg/L.*
- *The Water Quality Management Section is concerned with any discharges that have the potential to impact the aquatic environment and/or restrict present and future uses of the water. Therefore it is recommended that the license require the proponent to actively participate in any future watershed based management study, plan/or nutrient reduction program, approved by the Director.*

Disposition:

- The draft Environment Act Licence contains clauses that requires that the Licencee shall, prior to each effluent discharge campaign, obtain grab samples of the effluent and have the samples analyzed for:
 - a) organic content as indicated by the five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) and expressed as milligrams per litre;
 - b) total suspended solids content expressed as milligrams per litre;
 - c) fecal coliform content as indicated by the MPN index and expressed as MPN per 100 millilitres per sample;
 - d) total phosphorus content expressed as milligrams per litre; and
 - e) unionized ammonia expressed as nitrogen (N) expressed as milligrams per litre.

- The draft Environment Act Licence contains a clause that requires that the Licencee actively participate in any future watershed based management study, plan/or nutrient reduction program, approved by the Director.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing has not been requested.

CROWN-INDIGENOUS CONSULTATION

The Government of Manitoba recognizes it has a duty to consult in a meaningful way with Indigenous communities when any proposed provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of the Indigenous rights of that community.

The proposal indicates that the project site is located approximately 14 km south of Tataskweyak Cree Nation lands and 25 km west of York Factory First Nation lands. A trapper from Tataskweyak Cree Nation reportedly occupies a cabin on the shore of the Nelson River approximately 625 metres north of the proposed wastewater treatment lagoon. The proposed location of the lagoon was reviewed on site by Manitoba Hydro with the trapper during the preliminary design stage of the lagoon. The proposed lagoon would replace two existing licenced wastewater treatment plants and would be located approximately 600 metres southwest of the existing Kelsey Generating Station powerhouse. The identified total area required for the proposed lagoon and associated components is small and the site is generally remote. There are no apparent indications of impacts on indigenous rights. The proposed lagoon site is on Crown Land that is within the proponent's existing Kelsey Generating Station severance line under *The Water Protection Act* licence.

No impact is anticipated on Indigenous rights and it is concluded that Crown-Indigenous consultation is not required for the project.

RECOMMENDATION:

Issue an Environment Act Licence in accordance with the attached draft. Enforcement of the Licence clauses that relate to construction of the wastewater treatment lagoon soil liner should be assigned to the Environmental Approvals Branch until testing of the soil liners of each cell and testing of and reporting on the soil liners of the cells has been completed. The Licence should be jointly enforced by the Environmental Approvals and the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branches as appropriate and as each component of the Development is implemented.

PREPARED BY:

Robert Boswick, P. Eng.
Environmental Engineer
January 25, 2017

Telephone: (204) 945-6030
Fax: (204) 945-5229
E-mail Address: robert.boswick@gov.mb.ca