

File: 4272.00

Summary of Comments/Recommendations

Re: Beaver Creek Holding Co. Ltd.; Applicant
Aspenhein Colony Wastewater Treatment Lagoon

On September 11, 1997, a Proposal was filed for the construction and operation of a wastewater collection system and a wastewater treatment lagoon which would service the Aspenhein Colony farm site. The lagoon facility would be located on the south-west quarter of Section 16-12-9 WPM in the Rural Municipality of North Norfolk. Effluent would be disposed of by irrigation onto agricultural land owned by the Licencee.

The Department, on September 22, 1997, placed copies of the Proposal in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station); the Centennial Public Library and the Portage Plains Regional Library and provided copies of the Proposal to the Interdepartmental Planning Board and TAC members. As well, the Department placed a public notification of the Proposal in the Portage Herald on Tuesday, September 30, 1997. The newspaper and TAC notification invited responses until October 27, 1997.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public responses were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Highways

- *No concerns.*

Natural Resources

- *No concerns.*

Historic Resources

- *No concerns.*

Health

- *The health concerns with a wastewater treatment lagoon are:*

- *minimization of odours*
- *protection of ground water sources*
- *public safety i.e. fencing*

Disposition:

- The draft Licence includes clauses which address these concerns.

Rural Development

- *No concerns.*

Environment-Operations Division

- *If spray irrigation is used, it should not be done in windy conditions.*

Disposition:

- The draft Licence includes a clause which addresses this concern.

Environment-Water Quality Management

- *The following concerns should be addressed in the licence:*
 - *the effluent should not be discharged to any natural or man-made drains or waterways*
 - *effluent irrigation is conducted in a manner which will not cause ponding and surface runoff*
 - *effluent should meet the Manitoba Surface Water Quality Objectives for field crop irrigation Class 4B to protect soil quality*

Disposition:

- The proposal indicates that effluent will be disposed of by irrigation onto agricultural land and the draft licence restricts the disposal to this method and applies operating restrictions to prevent ponding and surface runoff.
- The proposal indicates that the effluent generally meets Class 4C objectives (Field Crop Irrigation) except for total dissolved solids and conductivity slightly exceeds the values sited in the guideline. Class 4C, not 4B, was considered to apply in this application since irrigation will not take place for prolonged periods and non sensitive crops can be grown. In addition, the SAR values are relatively low. The irrigation disposal system will be replacing an ejector system which concentrates all the wastewater in one location. The proposed disposal method will reduce the concentration of salts on the soil surface and allow for greater leaching to occur.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

- *CEAA has indicated that application of The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this proposal will not be required. Health Canada indicated that there is an interest in the project and that it would like to participate in the provincial review.*

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing is not required.

RECOMMENDATION:

A Licence be issued in accordance with the attached draft. Enforcement of the Licence should be assigned to the Approvals Branch until the soil testing has been completed.

PREPARED BY:

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