

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Northlands First Nation: Applicant
PROPOSAL NAME: Northlands First Nation Sludge Drying Bed
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Sludge Drying Bed
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4510.00

OVERVIEW:

On March 8, 2000, the Department received a Proposal from Northlands First Nation to construct a sludge drying bed that would be used to dewater and store sludge from a new sewage treatment plant. The sludge drying bed would be located on Section 21, Township 111, Range 24 WPM near the Northlands First Nation at Lac Brochet, Manitoba. The Proposal indicated that the drying bed will have a 20 year storage capacity. The sludge will eventually be disposed of in a landfill or the dried sludge will be capped within the existing sludge drying bed and additional drying bed cells will be constructed.

The Department, on April 4, 2000, placed copies of the Proposal in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station); the Centennial Public Library, the Northlands First Nation Council Office 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 Drum on April 6, 2000. The newspaper and TAC notification invited responses until August 25, 2000.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- No responses were received to the public notification.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Highways

- *No concerns.*

Conservation (Natural Resources)

- *No concerns.*

Historic Resources

- *No concerns.*

Intergovernmental Affairs

- *No concerns.*

Health

- *No comment.*

Environment-Operations Division

- *There is no objection to the proposed facility as outlined in the March 2000 proposal and the supplementary map issued by the proponent.*
- *The facility access control mechanism (i.e. a gated fence) as described in the proposal should be a licence requirement to ensure its installation and continued maintenance.*

- *Consideration should be given to require the proponent to develop an Operations and Maintenance Manual for the proposed facility as a formal requirement of the licence. The manual should make specific reference to acceptable methods of sludge placement, sludge removal from the facility, including the type of vehicular traffic the drying bed floor can sustain.*

Disposition:

- The draft licence includes clauses that require the installation of a fence and the preparation of an operation and maintenance manual.

Environment Management

- *The proposal indicates that monitoring wells are proposed for the area around the sludge drying beds. Presumably these wells would be installed in order to determine if seepage or movement of contaminants is occurring. The report makes no reference to these monitoring wells, nor does it indicate which variables will be monitored and what the sampling frequency will be. Construction details are not provided for the monitoring wells and there is no discussion of the local geology/hydrogeology at the site*

Disposition:

- The draft licence includes clauses that address these concerns. The licensee will be required to submit plans, for the Directors approval, addressing groundwater monitoring well location, construction and monitoring.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

- *Indian Affairs has indicated that an environmental assessment under CEPA will be required by federal officials with respect to the project.*

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing is not required.

RECOMMENDATION:

A Licence should be issued in accordance with the attached draft. Enforcement of the Licence should be assigned to the Approvals Branch until the construction has been completed and the groundwater monitoring system has been approved.

PREPARED BY:

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May 10, 2000

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