

Webb, Bruce (CON)

From: Kaita, Adara (CON) on behalf of +WPG1212 - Conservation_Circulars (CON)
Sent: October-13-11 8:51 AM
To: Webb, Bruce (CON)
Subject: EA Proposal - Salt Lake Water Level Control Project - File 5538.00

The Sustainable Policy and Resource Management Branch and the Land Programs Branch have no concerns with the noted EA Proposal.

Webb, Bruce (CON)

From: Elliott, Jessica (CON)
Sent: October-11-11 9:46 AM
To: Webb, Bruce (CON)
Subject: Salt Lake Water Level Control Project (file 5538.00)

Parks and Natural Areas Branch has reviewed the proposal filed pursuant to the Environment Act for the Salt Lake Water Level Control Project (file 5538.00). The Branch has no comments to offer.

Jessica

Jessica Elliott, M.E.Des.

Ecological Reserves and Protected Areas Specialist
Parks and Natural Areas Branch
Manitoba Conservation
Box 53, 200 Saulteaux Cres
Winnipeg MB R3J 3W3

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email: Jessica.Elliott@gov.mb.ca



Before printing, think about the environment

Avant d'imprimer, pensez à l'environnement

Webb, Bruce (CON)

From: Arnold, Ginger (CON)
Sent: October-17-11 2:48 PM
To: Webb, Bruce (CON)
Cc: Missyabit, Ron (CON)
Subject: Salt lake Water level Control Project
Attachments: crown-aboriginal_consultation_initial_assessment_and_record_of_conclusion.docx

Hi Bruce,

Even though the Salt Lake water level control project only effects private land owners, ARB maintains that every department that undergoes an activity must fill out the consultation initial assessment form attached and also found on the Manitoba Crown Aboriginal Consultation Website <http://gww.internal/mcacr/>.

Regards,

Ginger Arnold

*Senior Policy Analyst
Aboriginal Relations Branch
Corporate Policy Division
Manitoba Conservation
200 Saulteaux Crescent
Winnipeg MB, R3J 3W3
Ginger.Arnold@gov.mb.ca
(204) 945-0007*

Webb, Bruce (CON)

From: Bezak, Dave (CON)
Sent: October-17-11 2:59 PM
To: Webb, Bruce (CON) BW
Cc: Molod, Rommel (CON)
Subject: FW: Salt Lake Water Level Control Project (5538.00)

Bruce, we have no air quality-related comments on the above EA development proposal. Thanks. DB.

From: Molod, Rommel (CON)
Sent: October-17-11 1:57 PM
To: Bezak, Dave (CON)
Subject: Salt Lake Water Level Control Project (5538.00)

Dave,

I have no comment on the above proposed project. The proposal has no significant impact on air quality.

Contact Person: Bruce Webb

Rommel

Rommel Molod
Air Quality Specialist
Climate Change and Environmental Protection Division
Manitoba Conservation
Suite 160 123 Main Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5
T (204) 945-7047
F (204) 945-1211

DATE: October 17, 2011

Memorandum

TO: Bruce Webb
Water Development and Control
Assessment Officer
Environmental Assessment and
Licensing Branch
Manitoba Conservation
123 Main Street, Suite 160
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1A5

FROM: William Weaver, M.Sc.
Environmental Review Officer
Manitoba Water Stewardship
200 Saulteaux Crescent, Box 14
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 3W3

TELEPHONE: 945-6395
FACSIMILE: 945-7419

CC: Ed MacKay
James Stibbard

SUBJECT: *ENVIRONMENT ACT PROPOSAL FILE: 5538.00*
SALT LAKE WATER LEVEL CONTROL PROJECT

Manitoba Water Stewardship has reviewed the referenced file, forwarded for comment on September 15, 2011.

- **Manitoba Water Stewardship requires an Environment Act Licence to include the following:**
 - **The Licencee is required to submit an application for a Water Rights Licence to Construct Water Control Works, prior to the commencement of any construction.**
 - **A contact person is Mr. Ed MacKay, C.E.T., Senior Water Resource Officer, Water Control Works and Drainage Licensing, Manitoba Water Stewardship, 1129 Queens Avenue, Brandon, Manitoba R7A 1L9, telephone: (204) 726-6226, email: ed.mackay@gov.mb.ca.**
- **Manitoba Water Stewardship submits the following requirements:**
 - **The proponent must obtain written consent from all affected landowners before an Environment Act Licence is issued. A map displaying the affected lands and their owners must be produced to assist in securing appropriate consent from affected landowners.**
 - **A detailed plan of the proposed control structures (penstocks), their operating rules, and channel slope and erosion control methods must be provided.**

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- All field drains that will be tied into the proposed project through culverts C2, C3, C4, and C6, must be licensed before the commencement of the installation of the culverts.
 - A reference is made to using excavated material to fill in low areas. Wetland filling is not permitted without authorization, the designated spoil sites must be identified.
 - Manitoba Water Stewardship submits the following recommendations:
 - Manitoba Water Stewardship recommends retrieving water quality samples in the main channel of the Oak River upstream and downstream of the current outflow from the South Salt Lake basin.
 - Manitoba Water Stewardship recommends that water quality analysis shall be conducted by a laboratory accredited by the Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation Inc.
 - Manitoba Water Stewardship recommends omitting proposed culverts C2 and C4 until drainage is authorized, as it is not part of this proposal.
 - Note: There is reference to providing better drainage for the Winstone property on the NW 22-16-22. The proposed culverts C2 and C4 appear to convey water into the proposed outlet via unauthorized drainage channels.
 - On page 35, the proposal advocates plugging or removing the existing culvert through Bakers Road, Manitoba Water Stewardship recommends removal. If the culvert becomes "unplugged" outside of an agreed period of operation, impacts to agriculture could result. Manitoba Water Stewardship recommends that any culverts installed through the road or berm adjacent to the channel south of Bakers road shall be implemented at prairie elevation and shall not facilitate unauthorized drainage from the NW 22-16-22.
 - Manitoba Water Stewardship submits the following concern:
-

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- **With respect to water quality:** In the absence of the analysis of the effects of elevated levels of Aluminum, Iron, Manganese, Uranium, Calcium, Sodium, Sulphur, Potassium, Magnesium, Salinity, and conductivity, the proposal indicates conducting years of monitoring after construction is completed. The limited water testing that was conducted does not properly explain the effects of adding several hundred acre-feet of water into South Salt Lake and downstream into the Oak River system. The significance, stating the tolerable level of glyphosate, is not clear without elaborating on the test results, if they are available. The proposal does not adequately explain the location where the water samples were retrieved on the Oak River system.
- **With respect to the proposed target water level of 566.00 metres above sea level, how does this level compare to the levels of the railroad crossing and Provincial Truck Highway No 16 culvert? How does it compare with the historic median water level (based on photo history)? What does the abbreviation HAE mean?**
- **Under the explanation of alternatives, Route No. 5 was discarded because Manitoba Water Stewardship does not allow underground systems. This statement is not correct. Manitoba Water Stewardship has licensed several tile drainage systems in the recent past.**
- **Numerous references are made to the uncontrolled overflow of Baker Road in 2011 and how this proposal would prevent this flow from reaching South Salt Lake. In 2010, the proponent supported the construction of a channel that resulted in a significant flow to South Salt Lake.**
- **On page 32, the statement of a 1 metre drop in elevation over a mile is deemed to be a low slope and not prone to erosion. Manitoba Water Stewardship supports that a slope of less than 30 centimetres per mile would be considered a low slope. The proposed slope of 1 metre per mile could result in erosion if mitigation measures are implemented. Additional erosion control measures such as drop structures or geotextile may need to be implemented.**
- **On page 38, the proposal refers to diversions from one watershed to another under a "social exemption." Manitoba Water Stewardship's current policy regarding the authorization of water control works is that approval will not be "given for drainage which crosses a**

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watershed boundary unless substantiated by science, engineering, and social needs.”

- On page 9, it is mentioned that agricultural operations will not be affected by this proposal. Impacts may occur to agriculture, downstream of South Salt Lake as a result of this proposal. The capacity of the Oak River system downstream of South Salt Lake has been identified as poorly defined, low lying, and prone to flooding. If this is the receiving watercourse and it is prone to flooding, there is a high potential for flooding impacts. The proposal does not mention how the downstream channel will react to outflows from the proposed 90-cm outlet culvert. The proposal indicates that some pasture and cropland may be affected during the operating period of releasing floodwaters from Salt Lakes.
- An indication is made that additional freshwater being flushed through the system would become a downstream benefit; there is no evidence to support this thought.
- The proposal identifies the southern culvert, located on Riley Road, as a possible indicator pipe for outflows from the project. This culvert is located on a 1st order drain and this culvert may not serve as a good indicator.
- A statement is made that this proposal would mitigate shoreline erosion along South Salt Lake. When compared to natural conditions that would preclude outflows from North and Central Salt Lake, this does not appear possible.
- To what height would the service road be armoured to in order to maintain the integrity of the embankment?
- The proposed development plans to release of excess water from the salt lakes around Strathclair into Oak Creek. Available information indicates Oak Creek itself is not used as a source of drinking water, but it empties into the Assiniboine River at the Sioux Valley Indian Reserve. Downstream of this point, the Assiniboine River is used as the water source for several large communities including Brandon, Portage la Prairie and the Cartier Regional Water Cooperative. The limited water analysis results given with this proposal indicated that arsenic levels in the lake water are significantly above recommended

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background levels for surface water. Manitoba Water Stewardship has recently observed small but noticeable increases in arsenic levels in raw water in the Assiniboine River. These increased arsenic levels could cause water systems to exceed the maximum allowable concentration of arsenic in their treated water. The proposal did not mention how the discharge of Salt Lake water would increase levels of minerals such as arsenic in the Assiniboine River. While the effect may not be significant, Manitoba Water Stewardship needs this information.

- **Manitoba Water Stewardship submits the following comments:**
 - **Manitoba Water Stewardship does not object to this proposal, at this time.**
 - **The proponent needs to submit an application for a *Water Rights Licence to Construct Water Control Works* and provide all of the requested information, soon to allow a complete assessment of the proposed development.**
 - **The proponent needs to be advised of the need to comply with *Manitoba Water Stewardship's Drainage Policy*:**
 - **The net loss of semi-permanent or permanent wetlands shall not occur. Wetlands are defined as areas that are periodically or permanently inundated by surface or ground water long enough to develop special characteristics including persistent water, low-oxygen soils, and vegetation adapted to wetland conditions. These include but are not limited to swamps, sloughs, potholes, marshes, bogs and fens.**
 - **A proponent shall establish and maintain an undisturbed native vegetation area with at least a 30-metre width.**

William Weaver, M.Sc.

Webb, Bruce (CON)

From: Jones, Chuck (IEM)
Sent: September-26-11 3:36 PM
To: Webb, Bruce (CON)
Cc: Miskimmin, Barb (IEM)
Subject: Salt Lake Water Level Control Project

Mines Branch has reviewed the above and has no concerns.



Local Government

Community and Regional Planning Branch
P.O. Box 22147 – 2022 Currie Boulevard
Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7A 6Y9
T 204-726-6267 F 204-726-6290

October 14, 2011

OUR FILE: 14-3-191-2011-0601
YOUR FILE: 5538.00

Bruce Webb
Water Development and Control Assessment Officer
Manitoba Conservation
123 Main Street, Suite 160
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 1A5

Dear Mr. Webb:

RE: Request for Comments – Salt Lake Water Level Control Project (RM of Strathclair)

Please be advised that I have reviewed the above referenced proposal and offer the following comments for your review and consideration.

The intent of this project is to construct a water drainage trench (and its associated control structures, berms and access road) from the southerly limit of North Salt Lake southward across part of Sections 27 and 22 of Township 16, Range 22WPM. Said water drainage trench would terminate in an intermittent pond located immediately north and west of and feeding into South Salt Lake from which excess flows will be conveyed into the upper reaches of the Oak River system via an existing outlet on South Salt Lake.

COMMENTS:

1. According to the South Riding Mountain Planning District Development Plan By-law No. 01-DP-2010 and RM of Strathclair Zoning By-law No. 15-86, the subject lands are designated RURAL / AGRICULTURE AREA and zoned "A80" – General Agriculture respectively. The proposed development is generally consistent with the requirements of these planning documents.
2. From the TAC circulation cover letter attached to this project, it was not possible to determine whether this project proposal has been circulated to the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District for review and comment. An integrated watershed management plan (IWMP) has been adopted for this area and the project proponent is therefore encouraged to consult with the watershed planning authority to determine if this project is consistent with the goals, priorities objectives and policies of the IWMP now in effect.
3. The preferred route identified for the proposed development would see the water drainage trench, associated berming and proposed access road located on what is at the present time privately owned lands. The proposal makes no clear indication of the means by which the proposed development is to be accommodated along the preferred route other than to mention the possibility of expropriation. This should be clarified by the project proponent. An alternative option the proponent may wish to consider is an easement agreement and plan of easement

registered as a caveat on the title to all affected landowners subject to their agreement. In any case, a key consideration should be whether the proponent intends to establish, operate and maintain the proposed access road as a private gated road or an open public road.

4. The preferred route for this development will require crossing Provincial Trunk Highway No. 16, a municipal road, and a Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way. The proponent should therefore consult with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation, the RM of Strathclair and Canadian Pacific Railway regarding any permits or approvals which may be required dealing with the location of all proposed crossings, timing of construction, traffic control and safety measures etc.
5. The proposed development has the potential to impact other existing or proposed above and underground utilities in the vicinity of the proposed development such as telephone, hydro and/or natural gas infrastructure and the proponent should therefore be encouraged to consult with and co-ordinate the installation of the proposed development with all other owners/operators of other infrastructure facilities in the area to minimize disruption of service, and to provide for public safety during construction.
6. The proposal does not include any plans concerning the post construction establishment of a corridor of native vegetation along the banks of the proposed drainage trench and/or its upslope riparian corridor or along the limits of the former landfill which have already been eroded as a result of previous flooding and high water events. I therefore encourage the proponent to consult with staff from Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Water Stewardship about the potential benefits of establishing a natural shelterbelt adjacent to the proposed drainage trench as this would serve to promote bank stability, minimize erosion and promote fish and wildlife habitat.
7. The proposal suggests converting the Salt Lakes to "designed reservoirs" (see p. 13 of the proposal for further information). On this point, perhaps staff from Manitoba Water Stewardship and/or Manitoba Conservation can offer some thoughts concerning the possible benefits of having the Salt Lakes and the immediately surrounding area being regulated under the "Designated Reservoir Area" Regulation MR 22/88R. From a planning perspective, one benefit of such an approach would be that all new development within the area subject to the regulation would require a permit from the Minister of Water Stewardship. This would be useful in helping to guide and inform the location additional cottage and recreational development that may be proposed in the future bordering portions of South Salt Lake.
8. Staff from Manitoba Water Stewardship, Manitoba Conservation and possibly the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans are best positioned to offer comments regarding the need for flood level, fishery habitat and/or salinity monitoring instrumentation within and immediately downstream of the limits of this project area that may be useful in informing controlled releases of water into the Oak River system during high water events.

Best regards,

Please consider this a signed original

Peter Andersen,
Community Planner