

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPOSAL NAME: **Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
Thicket Portage Water Treatment Plant**

PROPOSER: **Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs**

CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: **One**

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: **Waste Disposal - Water Treatment Plants
(Wastewater)**

CLIENT FILE NO.: **5633.00**

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on March 7, 2013. It was dated March 7, 2013. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A proposal has been received from Stantec Consulting Ltd. on behalf of Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs for the upgrading of the Thicket Portage water treatment plant. The upgraded plant would be located at the site of the existing water treatment plant, and would utilize pre-ozonation, slow sand filtration and chlorine disinfection to treat water for the community. Raw water for the system would continue to be pumped from Landing Lake, using an upgraded pumphouse and an upgraded supply line. Wastewater from the water treatment process would consist of filter backwash and cleaning water, and rinse water following cleaning. Backwash and cleaning water would be settled in a holding tank, with the settled water discharged to Landing Lake. Rinse water would be discharged to Landing Lake without settling. Construction of the upgraded plant is proposed for the late spring of 2013.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Thompson Nickel Belt News on Friday, March 22, 2013. It was placed in the online public registry, the Legislative Library, Eco-Network, Millennium Public Library (Winnipeg), Thompson Public Library and MKO (Thompson) public registries. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on March 14, 2013. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was April 22, 2013.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public comments were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Sustainable Resource and Policy Management Branch, Lands Branch

No concerns.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Parks and Natural Areas Branch

No comments to offer as this does not impact any parks or ecological reserves.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Wildlife Branch

No wildlife related concerns.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Environmental Programs and Strategies, Air Quality Management Section

No comment. No significant air quality impact.

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

No concerns. However, where there is the potential for siltation/erosion of infrastructure and natural watercourses, I request that erosion control measures be implemented.

Disposition:

This comment can be addressed through a licence condition.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Water Use Licensing Section

No concerns.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Fisheries Branch

Fisheries Branch has reviewed this request to upgrade the Water Treatment Plant at Thicket Portage. Raw water is drawn from Landing Lake via the existing intake line. Backwash waste will be directed to an underground storage tank with the capacity to hold the backwash from one cycle prior to discharge (allow for solids to settle). The outfall line from the concrete tank discharges into an existing drainage course (~1km in length) which leads to Landing Lake. The rinse to waste stream that occurs immediately after a

backwash cycle will bypass the concrete storage tank and be discharged directly into the drainage course as it is considered clean with no chemical additions. The proponents indicate that there is the potential for *chlorine residual to be released into the natural environment and for the drainage course to freeze over in the winter months*. To mitigate against the discharge pipe freezing they plan to use insulated pipe and surround it with insulation. They will try time the backwash and rinse waste cycles with mild winter weather and if drain freeze up occurs not local operators will be provided with the tools to break up ice formation in the drainage course.

As long as the backwash effluent is tested prior to release and meets or exceed Manitoba Water Quality Standards, Objectives and Guidelines and the proponents implement the mitigation measures (erosion and sediment control measures for excavation, fuelling away from surface water, etc) they've identified in the proposal any fisheries concerns should be addressed. They do not indicate whether the raw water intake pipe is screened. Landing Lake is a fish bearing water and the intake should be screened according to the Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guideline. This does not appear to be a condition on their Water Rights Licence can it be included as a condition of their Environment Act Licence.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed through licence conditions.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Office of Drinking Water

I reviewed the above noted EAP for disposal of process wastewater for an upgraded community water treatment plant for Thicket Portage. My review did not notice any concerns from a drinking water safety standpoint with the EAP, however, it should be noted that the water plant upgrading project will require Permit to Construct or Alter a Public Water System under *The Drinking Water Safety Act*. MANA and the consulting engineer should be aware of this requirement.

Disposition:

This information was forwarded to the proponent's consultant for information.

Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation - Highway Planning and Design Branch

No concerns.

Manitoba Local Government – Community and Regional Planning Services Branch

The Thompson Community and Regional Planning Branch is in support of the application and as such have no comment to offer.

Office of the Fire Commissioner

The OFC has reviewed the proposal and recommends that the licensee be required to obtain the required building and occupancy permits from the OFC, and that a fire safety plan be developed with the Thicket Portage Community Council / FD prior to Occupancy.

Disposition:

This comment will be forwarded to the proponent's consultant for information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

No additional information was required to address comments on the proposal.

PUBLIC HEARING:

As no public comments were received and no requests for a hearing were filed, a public hearing is not recommended.

CROWN-ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION:

The Government of Manitoba recognizes it has a duty to consult in a meaningful way with First Nations, Métis communities and other Aboriginal communities when any proposed provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of a treaty or Aboriginal right of that First Nation, Métis community or other Aboriginal community.

The proposal involves a change in the water treatment process and the replacement of outdated components for an existing water supply system. Since resource use is not affected by the project, it is concluded that Crown-Aboriginal consultation is not required for the project.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Development be licensed under *The Environment Act* subject to the limits, terms and conditions as described on the attached draft Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended that enforcement of the Licence be assigned to the Northeast Regional office of the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

PREPARED BY:

“Original signed by”

Bruce Webb, P. Eng.

Environmental Approvals Branch – Energy, Land and Air Section
for Mines and Wastewater Section

April 25, 2013

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