

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Highways and Transportation
PROPOSAL NAME: South Bay – South Indian Lake Access Road
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4324.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was dated and received on April 24, 1998. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

A Proposal filed by the Manitoba Department of Highways and Transportation to construct an all weather access road from South Bay to the Community of South Indian Lake. The road will be approximately 27.4 km in length with a top width of 8.4 meters within a 70-meter right-of-way. The proposal also includes a new cable ferry crossing and ferry terminals located at the east and west sides of Southern Indian Lake at its narrowest point north of the Community of South Indian Lake. The Manitoba Department of Highways and Transportation will proceed with finalizing project design details once all Provincial and Federal government agencies' requirements have been met.

The Proposal was advertised in the Thompson Nickel News on May 4, 1998 and in the April 1998 Issue of the Cree Nation. The Proposal was filed at the public registries located at the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Centennial Public Library and the Thompson Public Library. A copy was also made available for review at the South Indian Lake Community Council. It was also distributed to the "Transportation" TAC members for comment. Comments were requested by May29, 1998.

PUBLIC RESPONSE

No public response was received as a result of the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Natural Resources

Recommend that the overburden from the borrow sites be stockpiled and used for future reclamation of the sites. Recommend a 40 meter minimum buffer width between the right-of-way and the borrow sites. Regional wildlife staff should be consulted to assess and develop mitigative measures for wildlife use in the area.

Disposition: Recommendations can be accommodated as conditions of licencing.

Rural Development

No planning concerns.

Mines Branch

No concerns.

Environment (Water Quality)

Recommend that no-fueling or oil changes occur within 100m of any waterbody, water course or drainage ditch which would be the same setback as bulk storage of fuels and lubricants.

(Northern Region)

The Proposal has addressed all issues raised by the Northern Region during the pre-licencing environmental screening of the project. The Northern Region has no remaining issues or concerns regarding the project.

Disposition: Recommendations can be accommodated as conditions in the Licence.

Historic Resources

A Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA) of a portion of the project was conducted in 1996 in conjunction with the HRIA of Manitoba Hydro's Ruttan Lake Station "A" to South Indian Lake 66 kV transmission line. A copy of the report was included with Highways Environment Act Proposal. The report recommended additional assessment in two areas, the final approach to the cable ferry and an esker between Wupow Bay and South Bay. Historic Resources staff plan to be in the South Indian Lake during July 1998 and will examine these areas to determine the presence and significance of any heritage resources. In the event that significant heritage resources are recorded at either location, the Historic Resources Branch will contact Highways to implement a mutually acceptable heritage resource management strategy. Should Highways require that these areas be examined prior to July, they have agreed to hire a heritage consultant to complete the field assessment.

Disposition: The requirement to undertake the HRIA can be accommodated as a condition of licencing.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CCEA)

The Canadian Coast Guard notified CCEA that an environmental assessment under The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act will be conducted by federal officials.

Fisheries and Oceans concluded that adherence to the mitigative measures identified in the Proposal will provide adequate protection to fish habitat. An Authorization under the Fisheries will not be required.

Disposition: The Licence will require that the Licencee construct and operate the Development in accordance with the Environment Act Proposal.

RECOMMENDATION:

Public hearings on the Proposal are not recommended. It is recommended that the Proposal be Licenced under the Environment Act as proposed and in accordance with the limits, terms and conditions as noted in the attached draft Environment Act Licence.