

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Hydro
PROPOSAL NAME: Maple Leaf Meats Inc. 115-25kV Transformer Station
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transmission
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4339.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was dated and received on March 25, 1997. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal filed by Manitoba Hydro to construct a new 115-25 kV Transformer Station to provide electricity to Maple Leaf Foods’ new Brandon hog processing facility. The Station will be located in SE 16-10-18WPM in the industrial east end of Brandon, on the same quarter section of land as the new hog processing facility. The project includes a short, 200 metre transmission line to connect the station to the existing transmission line, which runs along the north side of Richmond Avenue. An Environmental Assessment Study has been undertaken by Manitoba Hydro in support of the Proposal. Station construction of will take place over 13 month period, with in-service by May 1, 1999”

The Proposal was advertised in the Brandon Sun on May 30 and June 6, 1998, the Portage Daily on May 30, 1998 and the Portage Herald on June 2, 1998. It was placed in the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Centennial Public Library, the Western Regional Library in Brandon and the Portage Plains Regional Library. It was also distributed to the "Transportation" TAC members for comment. All comments were requested by June 19, 1998.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No comments were received from the public in response to the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Natural Resources

Suggest that an evaluation for the presence of White Lady’s Slippers located south of the site be undertaken to determine if this or other endangered species exist in the proposed development area. Request that the proponent

contact the DNR regional wildlife staff to arrange for the evaluation.

Disposition: Comment can be accommodated as a licencing condition.

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Historic Resources Branch

No concerns with regard to the project's potential to impact heritage resources.

Mines Branch

No concerns

Environment (Water Quality)

Water Quality concerns relate to the method of oil containment for the transformer oil.

Disposition: Manitoba Hydro intends to conduct an oil containment assessment and will incorporate measures to minimize potential effects on ground and surface waters based on the results of the assessment. . The risk to groundwater pollution can be minimized by including a condition in the Licence which requires that the Licencee submit for the approval of the Director, Plans and Specifications for the construction, supply and installation of oil containment equipment prior to beginning construction of the Development.

(Park –West Region)

Comments include:

- a) The facility should be maintained in a high standard of operating condition.
- b) Limits are included in the licence to limit noise emissions such that levels will not impact on residential activities.
- c) The results of the oil containment assessment should be provided to the Director prior to constructions and implementation.

Disposition: The comments regarding the high standard of operating condition can be accommodated by including a general reference in the licence to the proposed mitigation and

management practices documented in the Proposal.

Noise emissions from the station can be controlled by including a clause in the Licence which requires that the Licencee comply with the Province of Manitoba Sound Pollution Guidelines. This requirement is consistent with licencing other Manitoba Hydro distribution stations of the same size. The guidelines state that the Licencee shall not cause or permit the emission of sound from the station, which when measured at the property line of the station in a residential area, to exceed an hourly equivalent of 45 dB(a) during

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the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. As a result of discussions between TAC and Hydro concerning acceptable station sound levels for stations at the 115 kV level or greater, it was concluded that the Provincial Guidelines could be achieved and should therefore generally apply to all stations of this size licenced under the Environment Act. The 45dB(a) maximum sound level will therefore be included as a condition of Licencing of the Maple Leaf Meats Ltd. Station. It is recommended that, as a condition of Licencing, Hydro be required to submit their Plans and Specifications on oil containment to the Director of Environmental Approvals prior to construction of the oil containment equipment. This requirement is consistent with the Licencing conditions of similar stations, where significant amounts of insulating oil are involved and where Hydro's Transformer Oil Containment Assessment Report recommends that oil containment is required.

Health

Note that the inclusion in the Environment Act Licence of the proposed environmental mitigation and management practices described in the Proposal are expected to prevent or mitigate potential health hazards from the project.

Disposition: The comments can be accommodated by including a general reference in

the licence to the proposed mitigation and management practices documented in the Proposal.

Highways

Advise that Manitoba Hydro has been in contact with Highways Regional staff in Brandon regarding the Proposal. Request that the Hydro continue to contact the Highways Regional Technical Services Engineer in Brandon with pertinent information relating to the project such as construction schedules.

Disposition: Highways request will be noted in the licence letter of transmittal.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CCEA) Based on responses received from the federal reviewing Departments, application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* with respect to the project will not be required.

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Recommendation

The comments received from the technical review of the Proposal can be accommodated as conditions of licencing. It is therefore recommended that the project be licenced pursuant to the Environment Act in accordance with the terms and conditions described in the attached draft Environment Act Licence.