

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Highways and Government Services
PROPOSAL NAME: Swan River By-pass
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4498.00

OVERVIEW:

The Environment Act Proposal was dated January 17, 2000 and was received on January 21, 2000. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by Manitoba Highways and Government Services to relocate sections of Provincial Trunk Highways 83 and 10A in the Town of Swan River area to provide a bypass route for heavy truck transportation. The Bypass is required to accommodate the significant increase in traffic volumes on PTH 83 and PTH 10A through the Town of Swan River since the development of the Louisiana Pacific plant site near Minitonas. Manitoba Highways will finalize roadway design details and proceed with acquisition of additional right-of-way once all Provincial and Federal government agencies’ requirements have been met.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Swan River Star & Times on Tuesday, February 8, 2000. It was made available for public review at registries located at 123 Main Street, Union Station, Winnipeg, the Centennial Public Library, and the North-West Regional Library in Swan River. Copies of the Proposal were distributed to the "Transportation" TAC members for comment. Any comments were requested by March 2, 2000.

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Donald F. Dennis
P.O. Box 14
Swan River MB R0L 1Z0

- letter dated February 14, 2000.
- objects to the proposed closure of the municipal road intersected by the by-pass. Concerned that closure of the municipal road would interfere with the traditional route used by farmers for grain hauling and also for Agricore and Pioneer Grain Farm Suppliers. Suggests that the by-pass needs the access for east-west traffic to accommodate this area. Suggest that Alternative A, Figure 4 of the plan should be the preferred alternative as it interferes the least with agricultural land.

Disposition: Approvals Branch advised Mr. Dennis by letter, dated March 7, 2000, that Highways has been contacted with regard to his concern and that staff from Highways Regional Office will follow-up directly and advise Approvals Branch of the result of their

discussions with him. On March 15, 1999, Highways provided Approvals Branch a summary of their meeting on March 13, 1999 with Mr. Dennis. Highways response to the two concerns expressed by Mr. Dennis are as follows:

...2

- 2 -

1. *Alternative "A" vs. Highways' preferred Alternative "C" interferes the least with agricultural land and is therefore more environmentally friendly.*
Highways agreed that Alternative "A" would impact agricultural land to a lesser extent, however, they explained that the Alternative "A" was rejected because it resulted in a sub-standard radius of curvature to allow for a proper crossing of the CNR track.
2. *Provide an access onto the curve of the by-pass.* Highways concurred that this would again affect the least agricultural land and provide a more direct access for traffic turning West onto the by-pass. Highways explained that for safety reasons it would be against Department Policy to design an access onto a curve of a major roadway.

Following their discussions with Mr. Dennis, Highways concluded that after taking the above noted factors into consideration, they remain of the opinion that Alternative 'C' as proposed remains the most acceptable option.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Conservation (Policy Coordination Branch) - Any construction should ensure that the existing drainage patterns are maintained. Any alterations in natural drainage will require a Water Rights Licence. Provincial Stream Crossing Guidelines should be followed and construction at crossings should not occur between April 15 and June 15.

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

Conservation (Water Quality) - Construction and removal of any stream crossings should be carried out in accordance with the Provincial Stream Crossing Guidelines. Appropriate erosion control measures should be used during construction. Exposed bank areas should be seeded following construction.

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

Conservation (Park-West Region) - Recommend that material from the Swan River Waste Disposal Ground remain at the site for possible use as cover material.

Disposition: The Licence will require that the Licencee not use hydrocarbon contaminated soils from the Swan River Waste Disposal Ground without prior approval from Manitoba Conservation.

Historic Resources - No concerns with regard to the project's potential to impact heritage resources. Note that the project's potential to impact heritage resources are addressed in the Proposal wherein potential borrow areas will be referred to Historic Resources Branch to determine if a field reconnaissance is required.

Mines Branch - No concerns.

Rural Development - No planning concerns.

...3

- 3 -

Health - The proposed environmental management practices outlined in the Proposal should prevent or mitigate potential health related impacts.

Disposition: The Licence will require that the Licencee adhere to the environmental protection measures as outlined in the Proposal.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CCEA) - Based on responses from reviewing federal departments and agencies, application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* will not be required. Fisheries and Oceans conclude that the by-pass is not likely to cause significant adverse effects to fish and fish habitat provided that the following measures are followed:

1. Manitoba Stream Crossing Guidelines should be followed for all instream work.
2. No instream work between April 15 and June 15. The duration of instream work should be minimized.
3. Disturbed areas of the watercourse should be stabilized using measures such as rip-rap and seeding. All debris and temporary structures associated with in stream construction should be removed upon completion of the work.
4. The deposit of deleterious substances into the water is prohibited under The Fisheries Act. Appropriate precautions should be taken to ensure that deleterious substances do not enter Tamarack Creek. Refueling and servicing of equipment should not occur within 100 meters of the watercourse.

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

Recommendation

Public hearings on the Proposal are not recommended. It is recommended that the development be licenced under the Environment Act in accordance with terms and conditions described in the attached draft Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended the Director of Environmental Approvals notify the respondent to the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal that a licencing decision for the highway

has been reached and that the decision to licence the highway is appealable to the Minister of Environment within 30 days of the date of the Licence.

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