OVERVIEW:

On May 13, 2002, the Department received an Application from Stephen Paul Wood, operating as Art Wood Scrap Metal for the operation of a waste lead acid battery transfer facility at 40 Pacific Avenue in Roland, Manitoba.

On May 28, 2002 the Department placed copies of the Application in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station), the Winnipeg Centennial Public Library, the Manitoba Eco-Network and the South Central Region Library in Morden. As well, copies of the Application were provided to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members. The Department placed a public notification of the Application in the Winkler Times on June 3, 2002. The newspaper and TAC notification invited responses until June 28, 2002.

RELEVANT COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No comments were received from the public.

RELEVANT COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

1. Historic Resources - The Historic Resources Branch has no concerns with regard to this project’s potential to impact heritage resources.

2. Conservation had the following comments:

   It would appear that the steel storage shed is too small for this scale of operation. It is only 120 sq feet and the storage of 500 batteries would require approximately 117 sq feet.

   Other battery transfer facilities stack the batteries 3 deep on a pallet, shrink wrap the stack and then load it onto a truck with a fork lift. The proposal does not indicate how the batteries will be handled after storage but it is assumed it will be by hand. Any other handling method other than by forklift has a significant risk of spillage. In order to accommodate a forklift the storage shed would have to be much bigger.
There should be a paved loading pad to prevent any soil contamination when loading or unloading batteries at the shed. The loading pad would also need an appropriately sized sump to catch contaminated runoff, either from washing it down or from precipitation. The preferable option would be to drive the trucks into the shed to load and unload the batteries under cover and on the sealed concrete floor of the shed.

Approval should not be given for having a drain in the floor of the shed that leads to a storage bottle. There is no indication that there is proper containment such as a sealed concrete pad with a curb that the bottles would sit on while being filled.

The acid should drain to a sealed concrete sump. The acid would then be transferred into an approved storage vessel with an acid compatible pump. The storage vessels must then be stored on a sealed concrete pad with a curb to contain the volume of all stored liquid. This storage area would also have to be in a secure building protected from the weather.

Disposition:

The statement by the Applicant that 500 batteries would be stored was based on the maximum number of batteries that may be stored. The expected number of batteries stored will be closer to 100-200. The batteries will not be stored on pallets as this is a small operation where small numbers of batteries will be handled manually. The batteries that are collected by truck from the surrounding farmers will be taken to the recycler in Winnipeg on the same day in most cases.

The door area of the storage building will have a deck so that batteries can be easily transferred from the truck to the building. There will be a cement pad at the area where the truck backs up to the storage building. The drain system from the battery storage area will lead to a cement lined sump containing the spill collection container.

3. Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency noted that application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this proposal will not be required.

4. Transportation and Government Services has no concerns.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing is not required.
**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Applicant should be issued a Licence, in accordance with the attached draft, to operate the Waste Lead Batteries transfer facility. Enforcement of the Licence should be assigned to the Red River Region.

PREPARED BY:

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