

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPOSAL NAME: FPM PEAT MOSS COMPANY LTD.
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 1
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: BULK HANDLING -
PEAT MOSS PROCESSING FACILITY
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5327.00

OVERVIEW:

On February 29, 2008, Manitoba Conservation received a Proposal dated June 15, 2007, to construct and operate a peat moss processing/packaging facility, storage warehouse and distribution facilities to be located on the W½ 29-1-13 EPM in the Rural Municipality of Piney. FPM currently operates over six peatlands and three processing/packaging facilities in New Brunswick. It also has plants in South Carolina, Florida and Texas and will supply and service these markets from Manitoba. FPM has been providing quality Canadian *Sphagnum* peat moss, professional peat based soil-less growing mixes, potting soils and landscape bark products to professional growers and hobby gardeners throughout North America. The 20 hectare facility will initially require approximately 10 hectares for onsite facilities and finished goods storage. Peat will be processed, bagged, placed on pallets and stored before transport to markets. The facility will be constructed in three stages with the first two stages producing only screened and packaged peat with no additives (approximate 30 m x 100 m building). Stage three will require an expanded facility (in 3 to 5 years) to include peat based growing mixes with value added ingredients such as fertilizers, perlite, vermiculite and others additives. The plant will employ approximately 33 permanent staff and an additional 46 seasonal employees and the year round hours of operation will be 8 hour shifts, 5 days a week.

No public concerns were received in response to the advertisement of this proposal in the Steinbach Carillon published on Thursday March 13, 2008. The proposal was placed in the Public Registries at the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Jake Epp Public Library (Steinbach), the Millennium Public Library and the Conservation Library (Main). The proposal was distributed to TAC on March 4, 2008, with the closing date for TAC and Public comments on April 7, 2006.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public responses were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Historical Resources Branch Branch they state they have no concerns with regard to this project's potential to impact heritage resources.

Sustainable Resource Management state they have concerns that the proponent use care and caution during construction to ensure that no endangered species are present as any removal or destruction is a contravention of the “*Endangered Species Act*”. In addition any killing or harming migratory birds or destruction of their nests or eggs is prohibited by the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

Disposition

The concerns have been provided to the proponent for information and compliance.

Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives have reviewed the proposal and have no issues or concerns from an agriculture or an agriculture crown lands management perspective.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency state that based on their staff survey, application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* with respect to this proposal is not required. Environment Canada advised that the proponent diesel storage tank may be subject to federal regulations. Fisheries and Oceans state that the project does not appear to be in or near fish bearing waters.

Disposition:

The information was provided to the proponent for information.

Transportation & Government Services state that the proposed development is to be located adjacent to the Vassar Access Road at the intersection of PTH 12 which is a limited highway under the jurisdiction of the Highway Traffic Board. They request some preliminary traffic projections to determine if any highway improvements would be required and that any improvements would have to be designed and constructed to standards and specifications acceptable to the highways department at the applicant expense. They also have concerns regarding drainage of any contaminated liquids from the site to highway drainage.

Disposition

The concerns were provided to the proponent for information and response. Additional information was provided. Concerns are addressed in the Draft Licence.

Water Stewardship state that water rights licensing is required for this project as the daily average water use exceeds 25,000 litres per day and may involve “water control works”. They have concerns with nutrient loading to surface waters and state nutrient loss from this facility should be controlled to a minimum. In addition they state that fertilizer and other added value ingredients should be stored in weather and leak proof containers and measures should be taken to prevent accidental spillage onto ground surfaces and an emergency response plan be required to address accident/spill response. They request further information regarding permanent or semi permanent wetlands

located East of the proposed development. They note that the east half of south west 29-1-13 EPM contains some land with a *Canada Land Inventory* Soil Capability Classification for Agriculture classified as 04WL; pursuant to the Nutrient Management Regulation of *The Water Protection Act*, these lands will fall into Nutrient Management Zone N4. Under the Nutrient Management Regulation, no person shall apply a substance containing nitrogen or phosphorus to land within nutrient management zone N4 or the nutrient buffer zone. The Nutrient Management Regulation also prevents the siting of Onsite Waste Water Management Systems (excluding holding tanks and composting toilets) in areas defined as Zone N4.

Disposition

The information, concerns and requests for further clarification have provided to the proponent for response. The proponent supplied additional information and clarification. Concerns are addressed in the Draft licence.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

TAC concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

The responsibility for enforcement of the Licence should be assigned to the responsible region.

A draft Environment Act Licence is attached for the Director's consideration.

PREPARED BY:

K.W. Plews P.Ag
Manager
Pesticide/Fertilizer Approvals
April 22, 2008

Telephone: (204) 945-7067
Fax: (204) 945-5229
E-mail Address: kplews@gov.mb.ca