

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Rural Municipality of Woodworth
PROPOSAL NAME: Woodworth Rural Water Supply System
Expansion
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Two
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation/Transmission - Pipelines
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5400.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on March 25, 2009. It was dated March 18, 2009. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Manitoba Water Services Board on behalf of the Rural Municipality of Woodworth to expand its rural water supply system. New distribution pipelines would be constructed in road allowances to provide new connections in the Lenore area. A new 7 litres/second manganese greensand filtration water treatment plant and 500,000 litre reservoir would be constructed west of Kenton in NW 3-12-24W to provide potable water to the existing water system (including Kenton) and new connections. A 4,000 cubic metre retention pond would be constructed for filter backwash disposal. Backwash stored in the winter would be discharged after spring thaw to a 5 hectare slough south of the treatment plant, which would ultimately discharge to the Assiniboine River (40 - 50 km downstream). The existing filtration system in NE 9-12-24W would be discontinued, with the 110,000 litre reservoir remaining in use. The system would be capable of delivering 380,000 litres/day of treated water on average, with peak day use of 480,000 litres/day. Construction is proposed to occur in 2010.”

The Proposal was advertised in The Rivers Banner on April 10, 2009 and the Melita New Era on April 11, 2009. It was placed in the Main, Millennium Public Library, Eco-Network and Western Manitoba Regional Library (Brandon) public registries. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on April 3, 2009. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was May 11, 2009.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Howard J. Norek

I am a resident, a property owner and a retired Chief Administrative Officer of The Rural Municipality of Woodworth. As a resident, of the RM of Woodworth, I am likely to be affected by this proposal. I am very concerned with the need for safe drinking water. As a property owner, I am concerned that not having safe drinking water devalues my property. As

a recently retired C.A.O. of the municipality, I am concerned with the shortcomings of the current water system.

The quality of the water at my residence is my biggest concern. Over the nearly 40 years I have lived on this farm, the water quality has deteriorated and now is no longer recommended for drinking, so, I must bring drinking water in. This is not an ideal or reasonable situation and drilling a new well may not even change that. Having a reliable, treated water supply would ensure safe drinking water.

The quantity of water supply in the area of my farm is very limited due to the porous nature of the land. This is another serious concern. There is a very shallow soil layer over shallow layers of shale and aggregate. Water is relatively easy to access in most places, however, capacity is usually very limited. This situation would also be eliminated with a public water supply system.

Since the inception of the rural water pipeline system in the eastern half of this municipality, many new customers have been added. Many of the customers were heavy consumers and some have increased their water consumption and are large volume users. This added demand has put a lot of stress on the water treatment plant. The system has outgrown the original reservoir, which is over 40 years old. The system and particularly the reservoir should be enlarged to provide more reserve capacity for the current and future water customers. If new customers are to be considered, there is an absolute requirement to expand and upgrade the system.

The quality of the water in and around the village of Lenore is very poor. Most, if not all of its residents get drinking water elsewhere. There certainly is a need to make safe drinking water available to those residences.

For the aforementioned reasons, I am in full agreement with the proposal filed by The Rural Municipality of Woodworth to expand its rural water supply system, including a new filtration water treatment plant and reservoir, a 4,000 cubic metre retention pond and new connections in the Lenore area. Please accept this letter as my presentation as being strongly in favour of this project.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Sustainable Resource & Policy Management Branch

No concerns.

Regional Operations

No comments or concerns.

Parks and Natural Areas Branch

No comments.

Manitoba Water Stewardship

- *The Water Rights Act* indicates that no person shall control water or construct, establish or maintain any “water control works” unless he or she holds a valid licence to do so. “Water control works” are defined as any dyke, dam, surface or subsurface drain, drainage, improved natural waterway, canal, tunnel, bridge, culvert borehole or contrivance for carrying or conducting water, that temporarily or permanently alters or may alter the flow or level of water, including but not limited to water in a water body, by any means, including drainage, OR changes or may change the location or direction of flow of water, including but not limited to water in a water body, by any means, including drainage. If a proposal advocates any of the aforementioned activities, an application for a Water Rights Licence to Construct Water Control Works is required. Application forms are available from any office of Manitoba Water Stewardship.
- The proponent needs to be informed that if the proposal in question advocates any construction activities, erosion and sediment control measures should be implemented until all of the sites have stabilized.
- The Department may provide comments pertaining to hazard lands at a later date. Currently, the Department’s hazard land personnel are seconded to the emergency flood coordination efforts.
- The Department requests verification that all water courses at the time of the proposed crossing will be directional drilled.
- Based on the Department’s regional experience, it is our preference that at minimum those crossings with a defined channel and potential to carry water during spring runoff be directional drilled. This is due to the difficulty in stabilizing the sites when open cut trenching is used and the ongoing erosion and sedimentation which results. If there is any intention or need to change from directional drilling to open cut on the larger water courses the proponent should consult with the regional fisheries biologist [Contact given] (Brandon office).
- The water rights application currently under review with the Water Use Licensing Section pertains only to the existing project with an annual allocation of 107dam³/yr requested. The proponent will need to submit another application for the proposed expansion requesting an annual allocation of 145 dam³/yr.

Disposition:

Comments will be forwarded to the proponent for information and can be addressed via licence conditions.

Historic Resources Branch

No concerns with regard to this project’s potential to impact heritage resources.

If at any time however, significant heritage resources are recorded in association with these lands during development, the Historic Resources Branch may require that an acceptable heritage resource management strategy be implemented by the developer to mitigate the affects of development on the heritage resources.

Disposition:

Comments will be forwarded to the proponent for information.

Mines Branch

No concerns.

Community Planning Services Branch

I do not object to the proposed development but offer the following comments for your review and consideration.

I note that the proposed rural water distribution system expansion which is proposed for the RM of Woodworth consists of approximately 97.3 km of 50mm – 100mm pipeline and a new water treatment plant to be located in Pt. NW 3-12-24WPM. As I understand it, this proposed development will ensure those households hooked up to the water distribution system will receive potable water which meets Drinking Water Safety Act requirements. This proposed expansion to the existing rural water distribution system which currently serves all residents of Kenton and the surrounding area will have the design potential to provide treated potable water to approximately 58 additional households west of Kenton both north and south of the unincorporated community of Lenore. Portions of the proposed pipeline have been designed to serve existing and future livestock operations.

With the development of this rural water distribution system, the challenge for Council will be to carefully consider and manage new rural development and rural residential development in particular, over time to minimize potential land use conflicts with agricultural operations in the municipality. In this regard, Council should be encouraged to direct new development in the municipality to existing urban settlement centers. In the future, if Council proposes to designate and zone lands for multi-lot rural residential development, these areas should be located in a manner which minimizes potential for adjacent land use conflicts.

Finally, as the proposed water pipeline is to be located within municipal road allowances and provincial road right-of ways which are under the jurisdiction of the R.M. Woodworth or Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation, I encourage the proponent to co-ordinate the installation of the proposed rural water pipeline with all affected utilities in order to minimize impacts and/or service interruptions to roadways and other infrastructure (Hydro, MTS, etc). If portions of the pipeline traverse private land, necessary easement agreements with land owners should be obtained. Also, I encourage the proponent to contact the Mid West Planning District Development Officer @ [Contact phone number given] to obtain a building and development permit for the proposed water treatment plant in Woodworth.

I trust this information has been of assistance. Should you have any questions or require further information, please call on me at [Contact phone number given].

Disposition:

Comments will be forwarded to the proponent for information.

Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation

The proposed development is located adjacent to PR 259 and 254. As such, the proponent should be informed that any new, modified or relocated access connections onto PR 259 and 254 will require a permit from Department of Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT), including change in access. A permit will also be required for any construction (above or below ground level) within 38.1 m (125 ft) or for any plantings within 15.2 m (50 ft) from the edge of the right-of-way of PR 259 and 254.

A water line agreement will be required from MIT prior to placing any water supply lines within the right-of-way. MIT prefers that an underground agreement be obtained prior to tendering any proposed installation. Detailed design drawings will be required to be submitted for department's review.

If additional information or clarifications on these requirements are needed, the applicant can contact [Contact given] or [Contact given].

Disposition:

Comments will be forwarded to the proponent for information and can be addressed via licence conditions.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

I have completed a survey of federal departments with respect to determining interest in the project noted above. I can confirm that the project information that was provided has been reviewed by all federal departments with a potential interest. I am enclosing copies of all the responses for your file.

Based on the responses of the survey, Transport Canada (TC) has notified us that an environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act) may be required with respect to the project. TC requires additional information pursuant to the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* before it can make a determination on its environmental responsibilities under the Act. Specifically, TC requires additional information regarding the location of any proposed works in, on, over, under, through or across any navigable waterways, characteristics of those waterways and details of all proposed works affecting any navigable waterway (including temporary works). A proposed construction schedule and details of construction/erosion control methods is also required (see attached letter). The Transport Canada contact for this project is [Contact given].

Please also note the following:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada may provide a Letter of Advice to a Responsible Authority if requested.
- Health Canada (HC) possesses specialist advice that may be relevant to the project, if specifically requested (letter attached).
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) may provide pertinent expertise to a Responsible Authority if requested in writing as outlined in the letter attached.

Disposition:

TC and CEAA will be included on the TAC for the project.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information was requested on March 26, 2009:

Is this project intended to meet the needs of the RM over 20 years? There is no mention of a projected timeline in the EAP.

The response was received on April 1, 2009:

The WTP will be constructed to meet 20 year demands.

Additional information was requested to address Transport Canada's request on May 12, 2009. The response will be provided directly to Transport Canada.

PUBLIC HEARING:

As no public concerns were identified, a public hearing is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

All provincial comments received on the Proposal can be addressed as licence conditions, or have been forwarded to the Applicant's representative for information. Information needed to complete the federal assessment process has been requested and will be provided directly to the interested department. Therefore, it is recommended that the Development be licensed under The Environment Act subject to the limits, terms and conditions as described on the attached Draft Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended that enforcement of the Licence be assigned to the Western Region.

PREPARED BY:

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May 13, 2009

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