



Conservation and Climate

Environmental Approvals Branch
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October 16, 2020

Moira Geer
Director of Water and Wastewater
City of Winnipeg
1199 Pacific Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3E 3S8

Dear Moira Geer:

On December 5, 2019, the department of Conservation and Climate denied the City of Winnipeg's July 30, 2019 Notice of Alteration to extend the deadline to upgrade the North End Wastewater Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC) to meet licence limits as it did not provide details of alternatives to expedite the construction schedule; a revised implementation timeline; or actions taken and proposed to achieve compliance with phosphorus limits on an interim basis.

In the absence of an approved interim compliance plan the City of Winnipeg was required to fully participate in two committees in order to facilitate compliance with Environment Act Licence 2684 RRR for the NEWPCC. This included participation in a Project Steering Committee and a Project Advisory Committee. The intent of these committees was to ensure preparation and implementation of an interim phosphorus reduction plan, preparation and submission of a schedule for the NEWPCC to meet all licence conditions and the submission of monthly progress reports.

The desired outcome of the committees was to expedite the City of Winnipeg coming into compliance with its licence conditions. It is positive that there has been agreement to the activities outlined in the plan up to 2021, however the City of Winnipeg remains in non-compliance. Given this, the department of Conservation and Climate is adapting its role in the committee and oversight of this work effective October 15, 2020. The province will also be exploring options for determining how compliance can be expedited.

It is clear that there are opportunities to advance the project that must be pursued. The department understands that some preliminary information has been exchanged between the City and the departments of Central Services and Municipal Relations regarding project delivery and funding models with the intent of the City meeting its environmental obligations as quickly as possible at the best value for all parties. The department requests that the City of Winnipeg submit, by October 31, 2020, any and all current documentation on project delivery models that are mutually satisfactory to the province, including external consultant reports in relation to constructability by 2030 and any reasonable alternatives. If there are concerns regarding the proprietary nature of some of this information, those noted aspects can be kept confidential by the department in accordance with S.47 of The Environment Act.

The City of Winnipeg is still required to submit monthly progress reports for approval to the department until the completed facility has been commissioned and is operating in accordance with Licence 2684 RRR. These reports shall be

1. Submitted to the undersigned via email by the end of each month; and
2. Shall contain updates as to the status of the following:
 - a. The interim phosphorus reduction plan; and
 - b. The upgrade process of the NEWPCC to meet all licence conditions.

The progress reports will continue to be posted on the public registry.

In addition, the City is also required to provide quarterly progress report updates and to meet with the key stakeholders who participate in the Project Advisory Committee, namely International Institute for Sustainable Development, Lake Winnipeg Foundation, Indigenous representatives and South Basin Mayors and Reeves. Invitations to these meetings should also be extended to the departments of Conservation and Climate; Municipal Relations; and Agriculture and Resource Development. The format of these meetings will be approved by the Director of Environmental Approvals Branch, who may prescribe required meeting parameters. The meetings will allow stakeholders to review the quarterly reports and continue to be a venue for the City of Winnipeg to respond to comments and questions by stakeholders.

The City of Winnipeg remains out of compliance regarding the effluent discharge limits for nitrogen, ammonia and phosphorus as outlined in Environment Act Licence 2684 RRR as well as the effluent discharge limits in The Water Protection Act and can be subject to enforcement action at any time. The health of Lake Winnipeg is a top priority for Manitoba and we look forward to the City of Winnipeg coming into compliance on this critical infrastructure.

Should you have any questions, I can be reached at 204-792-9074 or Shannon.Kohler@gov.mb.ca.

Yours sincerely,

'Original Signed by'

Shannon Kohler
Director

c: Kristal Harman
Nicole Armstrong