

Notice of Environmental Impact Statement

Manitoba Conservation and Climate has received an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to The Environment Act regarding the following operation and invites public participation in the review process:

MANITOBA INFRASTRUCTURE – LAKE MANITOBA AND LAKE ST. MARTIN OUTLET CHANNELS – FILE: 5966.00

A proposal was filed in May, 2018 by Manitoba Infrastructure for the construction and operation of two permanent flood control channels to reduce the effect of flooding on Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin. A new diversion channel from Watchhorn Bay on Lake Manitoba to Birch Bay at the south end of Lake St. Martin would provide additional outlet capacity for Lake Manitoba, supplementing the existing Fairford River outlet. A new diversion channel from the northeast end of Lake St. Martin to south of Willow Point on Lake Winnipeg would provide additional outlet capacity for Lake St. Martin, supplementing the existing Dauphin River outlet. Both channels would have control structures to regulate flows. Three other bridges would be constructed along the Lake Manitoba outlet channel, and a portion of Provincial Road 239 would be re-routed. In combination with the existing outlets, the new channels would be used to maintain the present target ranges of levels on both lakes. These ranges are 247.0 – 247.7 metres above sea level for Lake Manitoba, and 242.9 – 243.8 metres above sea level for Lake St. Martin. Construction of the channels and associated works is anticipated to begin once regulatory approvals have been obtained, with the project being functionally operational in 2023.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project has now been filed. The EIS updates project information and provides more detailed environmental assessment information. It follows guidelines provided previously by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and Manitoba Conservation and Climate.

Anyone likely to be affected by the above operation and who wishes to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement should contact Bruce Webb, Environmental Engineer, in writing or by email at Bruce.Webb@gov.mb.ca, not later than April 23, 2020. Further information is available from the Online Public Registry: www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/

Information submitted in response to the Environmental Impact Statement is considered public information and will be made available to the proponent and placed on the public registry established in accordance with Section 17 of The Environment Act.

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For publication in:

Gimli Interlake Spectator

Gimli Express Weekly News

Ashern Around Town Paper

Winnipeg Free Press - Sat. March 14, 2020

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