



Sustainable Development

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March 7, 2019

Christine Baljko
Environmental Coordinator
Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project
Manitoba Infrastructure
6th Floor – 215 Garry Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 3P3

Dear Ms. Baljko:

Re: Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project – Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines

This is further to the Environment Act Proposal filed by Manitoba Infrastructure for the above project on March 3, 2018. A document titled Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project Environmental Assessment Scoping Document was included with the proposal package. The Scoping Document proposed content for inclusion in an Environmental Impact Statement for the project.

A public review of the Environment Act Proposal and a review by our Technical Advisory Committee was conducted in May – June, 2018. Both public and Technical Advisory Committee comments have been posted on the Environmental Approvals Branch online public registry for the project at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/59661stmartin/index.html>. These comments have been provided previously to Manitoba Infrastructure for information and context.

Section 7 of the Scoping Document noted that Manitoba Infrastructure intended to produce one Environmental Impact Statement for review by both Manitoba under The Environment Act, and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012. The Agency issued Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement in May, 2018, which have been subsequently updated in September, 2018 and in a letter of December 21, 2018.

The Agency's guidelines include almost all content proposed in the Scoping Document, and also address almost all comments obtained during the review of the Environment Act Proposal. We support the one project – one assessment objective of a coordinated federal-provincial environmental assessment process. Accordingly, it is requested that the following items be addressed specifically in the Environmental Impact Statement so that the document includes provincial as well as federal requirements:

1. An overview of provincial regulatory requirements, including Environment Act requirements.
This item may be addressed in the Regulatory Framework and Role of Government section (Part

- 2, Section 1.4 in the Agency's guidelines). It would incorporate content from Section 1.1 of the Scoping Document and Section 1.4 of the Proposal's project description.
2. A summary of rules of operation for the two proposed channels, as well as for the existing Fairford Control Structure. This item may be addressed in Part 2, Section 3.2.2 in the Agency's guidelines, and would incorporate content from Table 3 of the Proposal's project description.
 3. A discussion of the effects of the present and potential future Assiniboine River Diversion on Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin. This item may be addressed in Part 2, Section 7.6.3 in the Agency's guidelines.

Comments from Technical Advisory Committee members should also be addressed in appropriate locations in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BWA', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Bruce Webb, P. Eng.
Water Development and Control
Assessment Officer

- c: Public Registries
Anna Kessler, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency