

7317434 Manitoba Ltd. - Crystal Spring Colony Farms Ltd.

Crystal Spring Colony New Development - Wastewater Lagoon - File 6193.00

Public Comments Received:

- Public Comments Received (3)

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 27, 2023 4:16 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Crystal Spring Colony Development

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I would like to voice my objection to the proposed development. Please do all in your power to protect Lake Winnipeg. I hope that a thorough Environmental Assessment is conducted prior to any further development. There is no way the corresponding flow of affluent show be allowed in this flood zone and environmentally sensitive area that flows directly into Lake Winnipeg. The algae blooms on Lake Winnipeg this Fall have been extreme and we should make the problem better, not worse!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 23, 2023 11:45 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Crystal Spring Colony Wastewater Lagoon File 6193.00

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Dear Mr. Coulibaly,

I saw the notice requesting public input into the proposed Crystal Spring Colony wastewater lagoon. As a long-time cottager on Lake Winnipeg, my family and I regularly recreate on Lake Winnipeg, and have been very saddened to see the increasing degradation of the lake over the past couple decades, and the terrible algal blooms that increasingly plague the lake every summer. I am aware that these are primarily caused by heavy loads of phosphorus and potassium from run-off of pesticides and herbicides as well as manure from all of the farming activity in the Red River basin, that dumps into Lake Winnipeg. ALL levels of government need to be doing more to reduce pollution into Lake Winnipeg, not add to it as this new sewage lagoon would do, so I am entirely opposed to the creation of this or any new wastewater lagoons that dump into our waterways.

I am copying in my federal MP Ben Carr and my provincial MLA Heather Stefanson.

Many thanks for including my comments into the record of public commentary, and I hope that permission for this lagoon is denied.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 23, 2023 11:49 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: RE: 7317434 Manitoba LTD., Crystal Springs Colony New Development Wastewater Lagoon – File #6193.00 PROPOSED Current Location SE 28-18-3EPM Letter in Opposition to the Current Proposed Location

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[REDACTED]

November 21, 2023

Housseini Coulibaly
Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Environmental and Climate Change
14 Fultz Boulevard (Box 65)
Winnipeg, MB R3Y 0L6
housseini.coulibaly@gov.mb.ca

RE: 7317434 Manitoba LTD., Crystal Springs Colony New Development Wastewater Lagoon – File #6193.00 PROPOSED Current Location SE 28-18-3EPM
Letter in Opposition to the Current Proposed Location

I am a local area landowner, and am opposed to the proposed lagoon on SE 28-18-3EPM in the RM of Armstrong which also borders the RM of Gimli for the following reasons:

1. Foul smell and odour from the lagoon due to it being located so close to area residential dwellings and neighbouring properties.
 - a. The proposed location of the lagoon is closer to neighbouring residences/homes than it is to the colony residences. This should never be allowed. It's like the colony is saying to local residents that we do not want to smell the stink from our lagoon, but it is okay for our neighbours to smell it. The Environment Act should provide a provision that prevents this as a possibility. As well, legislation is needed to ensure that any lagoon location must be a minimum of 400 metres from any dwelling or adjacent land that is owned by someone other than the lagoon proponent.

2. Health, safety, and environmental hazard concerns due to the lagoon being so close to residential dwellings. Such as contamination of drinking water and potentially causing severe illnesses in humans.
 - a. The proposal for the lagoon does not identify/include an outlet for it. This is not correct and is very misleading, as people reviewing the proposal will not be made aware that the lagoon effluent (sewage water) will be regularly drained into the local ditch, and within a half kilometre, run into Willow Creek. The hundreds of area residents along Willow Creek, including those in Siglavik and Miklavik, must be made aware that the colony's sewage effluent will be draining into their backyards and recreational areas. In addition, the proposal does not include any details about the volume of the lagoon effluent discharged on an annual basis, the duration of time discharge will occur, nor the dates when discharge will occur. These must be included in the lagoon proposal announcement in order for the local people to be able to properly assess its effects on their lives.
 - b. All lagoons eventually leak because of liner failure or overland flooding. I have concerns that the lagoon will contaminate runoff water and the ground water aquifer which is the main source of drinking water for the area residents, including Sandy Hook and Winnipeg Beach. The aquifer water runs in a southeasterly direction from the lagoon which puts the drinking water source for many hundreds of people at risk.
3. The proposed lagoon will also be used for waste treatment from the abattoir on the colony. How will the effluent from the lagoon be sanitized to ensure that no animal diseases will be passed into the local ditch or Willow Creek. Many animal diseases, like avian influenza, can be transmitted to humans and animals and can persist in lagoon discharge unless it is effectively decontaminated. There are some diseases, like prion diseases BSE (mad cow), that can persist even after the lagoon discharge is treated. What will be done to ensure that no animal pathogen will enter the Willow Creek and area ecosystem?
4. The original public announcement of the proposed lagoon was placed in the wrong newspaper. Most Gimli (Siglavik, Mitlavik), Husavik, Sandy Hook and Winnipeg Beach residents regularly read the Gimli Express, not the Stonewall Argus. There should be an additional public announcement in the Gimli Express with a revised later response date for appropriate public engagement. In addition, there is a need for a public meeting in Gimli on this matter, hosted by the Environment Department.
5. Willow Creek and its associated water sources where the lagoon will drain into are known spawning streams for important commercial fish species, like pickerel and northern pike, as well as bait fish like sucker, perch, several minnow species and other important aquatic species. I have concern that the lagoon effluent will degrade the Willow Creek ecosystem and negatively impact its value to associated species.
6. Unsightliness of a lagoon so close to existing residential properties and along a main market road and bus route.
7. It will negatively impact in the manner of which local area residents will be able to use the ditch/drain, and Willow Creek which runs into Lake Winnipeg. Willow Creek, and its outlet into Lake Winnipeg, is used year-round for recreational activities by the area residents and their families.
8. A significant decrease in our property value due to the lagoon being so close to residential dwellings or properties, therefore creating a deterrent for people who would otherwise want to live here.

My intent is to work together in a collaborative manner with Crystal Springs Colony, and for your department to understand and mitigate concerns, which I feel will negatively impact ourselves, as well as our families.

I am requesting that Crystal Springs Colony relocate the proposed location of the lagoon, to where there are no human habitats/dwellings and away (more than 400 metres) from other residential properties. A suggestion may be as follows:

1. The far northwest corner of NW 28-18-3EPM.
2. Placing a smaller limit on the number of people that can live at the colony and be served by a smaller lagoon – 100 people maximum.
3. Not to approve the lagoon proposal and require the colony to have a sewage holding tank which is regularly emptied into the municipal sewage treatment system just like many area residents are already required to do.

I thank you for taking the time in allowing me the opportunity to express our concerns, thank you in advance for your re-consideration of the proposed site.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 23, 2023 8:55 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: crystal spring colony new development

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Hi Housseini,

[REDACTED] and I live in Gimli, Manitoba. I am concerned to hear of the proposed new development in the RM of Armstrong as I fear it does not consider the best interests of our creeks, and ultimately, our lake. Our creeks are home to an abundance of wildlife despite the fact that the water already has a high nutrient load. I worry that this new development will put this delicate ecosystem at further risk. I oppose the new development for this reason.

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 17, 2023 7:25 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Crystal Spring Colony Lagoon

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I am writing regarding the proposed development of a lagoon in the RM of Armstrong by the Crystal Spring Colony.

Our family resides in the RM of Gimli [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] i.

The proposal states that the discharge of the lagoon would be into Willow Creek.

Willow creek not only runs along and through our farm property, it then drains into the water surrounding Miklavik and Siglavik before entering Lake Winnipeg which our retail business and the business community relies on for tourism dollars.

I strongly believe that the construction of a lagoon in this location could have a disastrous effect on the environment and ecosystem in Willow Creek and Lake Winnipeg ,this in turn will effect the economic climate in Gimli.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 30, 2023 4:59 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Wastewater Lagoon Proposal – File: 6193.00

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Dear Mr. Coulibaly,

[REDACTED] I am writing in response to this [Notice](#) to request that you recommend that the Minister cause the commission to hold a public hearing pursuant to ss 11(10) of the *Environment Act*. The proposed wastewater lagoon would be in extremely close proximity to Lake Winnipeg as well as a creek connected to the Lake, and appears to be intended to hold waste from a significant number of farmed animals. This proposal has generated significant public concern and debate but the comment period appears to have been too short (approx. 2wks) to enable meaningful public comment and engagement. [REDACTED] learned of the proposal only in recent days and thus have not had the ability to review the proposal in depth to provide detailed comments by today's deadline.

Given the significant public interest in protecting Lake Winnipeg and preventing further degradation of the Lake caused by waste from farming operations, as well as the lack of meaningful opportunity for public comment and debate on the proposal to date, a public hearing is warranted. Transparent, public, and science-based decision-making is necessary in this instance and the best way to achieve that is through a public hearing.

Yours truly,

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 21, 2023 11:13 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Crystal Springs Colony - Wastewater Lagoon

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November 21, 2023

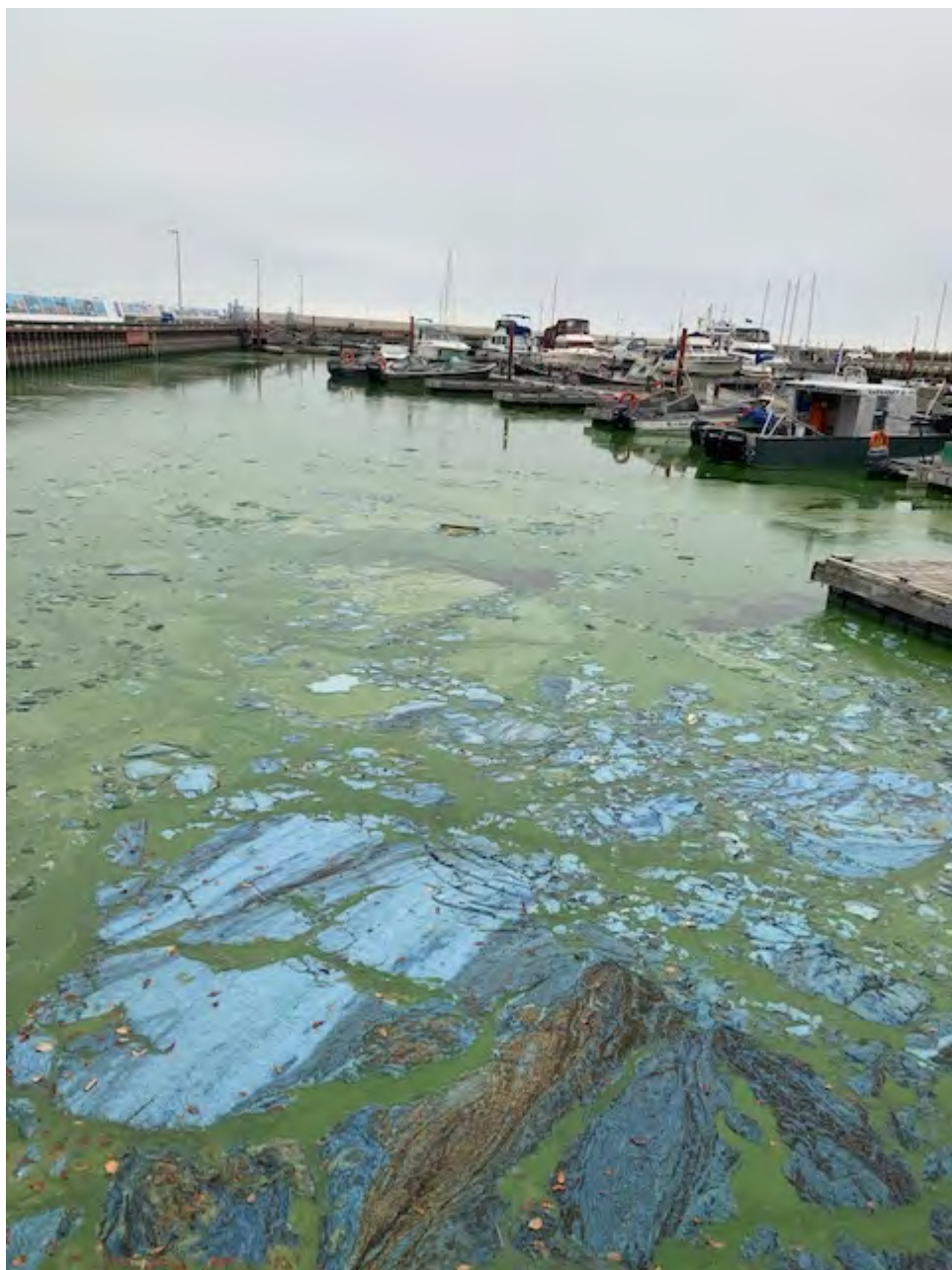
Attention: housseini.coulibaly@gov.mb.ca

Re: 7317434 MANITOBA LTD. – CRYSTAL SPRING COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT –
WASTEWATER LAGOON – File 6193.00

Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Environment and Climate Change
14 Fultz Boulevard (Box 35)
Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6

Attention: housseini.coulibaly@gov.mb.ca

As a private citizen [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] I
have serious concerns about the continued excessive nutrient loading of Lake Winnipeg and
associated drains, streams and rivers.





Pictures taken by myself on
October 1, 2023 at the Gimli Harbour.

We have enough problems with existing municipal waste disposal standards not being met, so we certainly don't need to add to the problem.



Sent from my iPhone

Environment Approvals Branch
Manitoba Environment, Climate and Parks
14 Fultz Boulevard
Winnipeg MB
R3Y 0L6

Attention Mr H. Coulibali PhD



24 Nov 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL ACT PROPOSAL (Crystal Spring Colony New Development SE 28-18-03 EPM)

Dear Mr Coulibaby,

This Environmental Act Proposal submitted by the Crystal Spring Colony should not be given authority to proceed. The scope and nature of this development creates:

1. significant health risks, both mental and physical, to all who live along Willow Creek,
2. the potential for contamination and/or destruction of the Willow Creek Watershed and local aquifers while contributing to the continued degradation of the overall health of Lake Winnipeg, and
3. a violation of every Manitoban's right to a healthy and ecologically balanced environment guaranteed under the Manitoba Environmental Rights Act.

As residents of the RM of Gimli [REDACTED] we fail to see how the development of a two-cell wastewater lagoon to support the proposed Crystal Springs Colony will not cause severe damage to the downstream communities of Husavik, Sandy Hook, Miklavik and Siglavik. Importantly that damage will also affect local fish hatching grounds where Willow Creek enters Lake Winnipeg. This will exacerbate the overall lake damage already being caused by excessive levels of toxins, phosphates, and nitrates being added on a daily basis.

Wastewater Lagoons have been considered a low-cost solution for many decades. However, while their operating costs might still be low, they are considered poor solutions given the accelerating effects of Global Warming and climate. Moreover, the low cost of development is accompanied by increased risk...the simpler the solution (two cell), the greater the risk to people, climate, and the environment. All lagoons, even those where the outgoing effluent is stored within the community have some risks associated with them. Those risks multiply exponentially when a one in 700-year flood event takes place

and in the past 15 years we in Miklavik have experienced no less than four such events requiring millions of dollars in repair/mitigation.

Wastewater lagoon systems generally release "treated effluent on a set schedule. Crystal Springs intends to release their effluent into Willow Creek in the spring and summer of each year. This effluent, having been processed in only two cells will contain higher levels of toxins, phosphates, nitrates, algae, hormones, and human feces as compared with the effluent released from a three or four-cell system. To be clear even if Crystal Springs were to develop a four-cell process, the effluent released would still contain toxins, phosphates, nitrates, algae, and human feces, at a reduced level, into a watershed that is struggling to survive. There is even a chance that some or all of these could be released in a four-cell closed environment system.

The simple fact that Crystal Spring proposes constructing a two-cell system should initiate alarm bells across the entire Interlake and Lake Winnipeg watershed. Compounding the discharge issue is the knowledge that in cold temperatures, lagoons are incredibly inefficient. The freeze up of Willow Creek started this year in October and the creek will likely remain frozen until well into late April or May 2024. The proposed pump out time frame is the beginning of June.

Willow Creek freezes at its deepest points, right to the creek bed. With daytime temperatures usually sitting around -18 degrees Celsius and overnight temperatures at or below -40 degrees Celsius, it is likely that the proposed lagoon will not perform at anywhere near a level sufficient to treat the effluent created by 250 people, abattoir operations that will see a minimum of 50 cows, 500 hogs and thousands of chickens slaughtered and truck washing runoff. There is no discussion of any kind regarding the impact that 15,000 live chickens, being kept by the community as part of their "limited farm operations", will have on the surrounding environment including Willow Creek.

15,000 chickens will produce 1.8 tons of manure PER DAY. None of the chicken manure will be processed so it is assumed it will be allowed to pile up and be subject to rain and spring melt...all going into Willow Creek. This is a proposal for an environmental catastrophe.

The Hydrology Report prepared by TREK Geotechnical on behalf of the Crystal Springs submission makes several assumptions some of which are egregiously wrong. For example, on page 9 of the report the company states *"the Manning's n value for the main channel of Willow Creek was selected as 0.035 to represent a straight channel with some stones and weeds"*.

Clearly this is a company that did not walk or physically check Willow Creek as it is anything but straight and the growth of water grasses, cat tails and other aquatic species proliferates at a remarkable rate due to the high levels of phosphate and nitrate currently found across Lake Winnipeg. Algae blooms starting at the exit of Willow Creek into Lake Winnipeg and running up the creek to at least Highway 8 are a regular sight and appear to be growing worse with each passing season. There are locations where Toxic and nontoxic blooms cover the entirety of the creek's surface making transit a challenge. As people who have kayaked that waterway for more than a decade, we can attest to the inaccuracy of the reports' statement.

There are many areas of the report where in the absence of any kind of data, assumptions are being made that are simply wrong. Significantly while the company acknowledges the length of Willow Creek as being some 15 km long, they focused both the geological and hydrological reports on the

community's proposed development site plus a distance outward of about 2.5 kilometers noting there were a maximum of 10 non-Colony residences along Willow Creek; none of which would be affected by the effluent discharge from the Crystal Springs proposed colony development. This statement is, at its core, incorrect.

Willow Creek is relied upon and enjoyed by no less than 146 residences, most of them within the communities of Siglavik and Miklavik. From these two settlements, the waters of Willow Creek feed into the Willow Island Coastal Wetland. This in turn will spread the effluents effects to the communities of Odin's Green, Husavik and Sandy Hook.

No mention is made, or assessment given regarding the impact the effluent discharge will have on any part of Willow Creek eco-system. Increased levels of toxins, hormones, phosphates, nitrates, algae, and human feces proposed for release into Lake Winnipeg, will add to the destruction of Manitoba's valuable fishing industry and the tourist/recreation centres of Winnipeg Beach and Gimli. The additional levels of these pollutants will serve to accelerate the eutrophication of Lake Winnipeg, a process that is well documented and currently in progress.

The approach taken by Trek Geotechnical is disappointingly isolationist and only looks at the benefits that will accrue to the proposed development. Page 10 of the TREK Hydrology Report identifies the "*crossing along Willow Creek Reach at Rd 107 N (STA 19+24) which is comprised of three 1.8 meter diameter CSP culverts, is inadequately sized for passing the 5% design discharge and has headlosses and velocities greater than MTI's hydraulic standards*" which "*results show that the road frequently overtops during flood events*" on an biannual basis. To this set of conditions, we are now going to add the effluent discharge from a community of 250 at a time when the spring runoff and seasonal rainy periods are at their greatest. Yet the finding, by TREK, is that this set of circumstances "*does not affect the proposed development*" so no action for mitigation or planned remediation is required. But...it begs the question; what impact will it have on all those living downstream of the colony?

Section 3.1 of the TREK Hydrologic and Hydraulic Assessment Report outlines areas where significant infrastructure work would be required to prevent water overflows and spillages into other drains and indeed recommends "*raising the road locally between approximately Sta 0+80 to 9+80 to elevation 250.6 m*" to "*reduce the likelihood of overflow from Willow Creek*". Alternatively, they propose building a dike with the "*same crest elevation to provide the required flood protection. However, this might require land acquisitions if the property is not currently owned by the client*".

Throughout the Geologic and Hydrologic and Hydraulic Reports, there is no discussion regarding the impact this development and the wastewater solution proposed will have on all those living downstream on Willow Creek.

Given the knowledge we possess regarding the impact up stream communities (The Dakotas, Southern Manitoba, Winnipeg etc.) have on Lake Winnipeg, it is clear that the establishment of the Crystal Springs Colony and the construction of the two-cell wastewater lagoon will have a significant impact on all of the down stream communities (Siglavik, Miklavik, Sandy Hook, Odin's Green, Winnipeg Beach and Gimli) of Willow Creek.

The two-cell lagoon will release toxins and human feces into a water system used by Manitobans for all manner of aquatic activity. It will significantly impact not only our own families, but also the many

tourists who are drawn to the area annually. The release of additional nitrates, phosphates and algae into a watershed already compromised by high levels of these same substances will accelerate the eutrophication of the entire Lake Winnipeg Watershed resulting in the eventual death of the lake.

Should the two-cell wastewater lagoon leak, through poor maintenance or a significant flood event, we may well find that the aquifers we rely on for sustenance and survival become unusable...then what will happen. TREK Geotechnical through Burns Maendel Consulting Engineers Ltd ***“accepts no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by a third party as a result of decisions made or actions based on this report.”*** If they have no responsibility for resultant damages, who does.

The Crystal Springs Colony Development, in its current configuration, violates our rights as detailed within the Environmental Rights Act of Manitoba.

Permission to proceed with the Environmental Act Proposal as submitted must be denied.

Yours Sincerely,



Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 25, 2023 11:46 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: 7317434 Manitoba Ltd. Crystal Spring Colony New Development - Waste water Lagoon

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Dear Sir;

I want to express my concern over this project and the environmental impact that it may/ will have on the Willow Creek area and ultimately on Lake Winnipeg itself.

My concern is that this area is already an extremely fragile watershed and adding any treated waste water to this area will have nothing but a negative effect on an area already stretched to its limits.

It is my belief that this area must be protected from waste water dumping whether it is treated or not.

I would encourage an alternative measure to this proposed plan.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 20, 2023 1:09 PM
To: [REDACTED] Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Proposed Colony Lagoon Armstrong

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Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed lagoon for the Crystal Springs Hutterite Colony in Armstrong.

Building a wastewater lagoon near a lake and in an overland flood region raises several environmental concerns. The proximity to the lake could pose risks of contamination and potential harm to aquatic life if not managed properly. Additionally, constructing in an overland flood region might elevate the risk of pollution spreading during flooding events, affecting surrounding ecosystems and water sources.

The construction of a chicken farm near the lake also raises concerns related to potential environmental impacts. Waste runoff from the farm, such as excess nutrients and chemicals, could contaminate the lake water, affecting its quality and ecosystem. The accumulation of chicken waste, if not managed effectively, might lead to water pollution, harming aquatic life and possibly causing algal blooms.

I am concerned about the lack of information being made available to council and residents.

Please take a close look at this development, and shut it down if it will have even a small possibility of environmental damage.

I would appreciate an update.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 24, 2023 9:02 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Re: 7317434 Manitoba Limited - Crystal Spring Colony new development waste water lagoon - File 6193.00

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I am writing with great concern to the proposed project.

The sewage lagoon will discharge next to Willow Creek, and ultimately into Lake Winnipeg. It will initially treat waste from a sizeable number of livestock, slaughter waste and human waste to begin with. This sewage lagoon will likely have a high output of nitrogen and phosphorus due to waste from animal slaughter. Furthermore, the location of this is very close to Lake Winnipeg, (about 5 miles) offering less opportunity for nutrients to be absorbed by the waterbody and plants.

That nutrient load is already far too high. We depend on wetlands to keep our Lake healthy as well. A wetland has a saturation point. Any additional phosphorus and nitrogen in that Creek brings us closer to that tipping point where things will change significantly for the worse.

Our lakes are already stressed and we should be working to reduce actions such as this, not add to them.

I strongly oppose this development and ask you to find another option or a way to filter what the development will put into the lake.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 20, 2023 7:09 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Crystal Springs Colony Developement

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November 20th, 2023

Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Environment and Climate Change
14 Fultz Boulevard (Box 35)
Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6

Attention: housseini.coulibaly@gov.mb.ca

◆ November 20th, 2023 ◆◆ Re: 7317434 MANITOBA LTD. – CRYSTAL SPRING COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT – WASTEWATER LAGOON – FILE: 6193.00 ◆

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I have serious concerns about the continued excessive nutrient loading of Lake Winnipeg and associated drains, streams and rivers.

We do not have concerns about developments as long we observe all present regulatory processes to ensure NEW developments do not add to the already obvious problems we have in Lake Winnipeg.

The Crystal Spring Colony Development is akin to dropping a village onto virgin agricultural land next to Willow Creek which has been classified by the EIWD (East Interlake Water District) as the second cleanest in their district. Biggest reason for this is the lack of human development on its watershed. This development will change this and a basic lagoon treatment may not be enough to mitigate the added nutrient levels that will be discharged.

It is expected that the lagoon discharge meet the 1mg total phosphorus limits set out in all municipal sewage treatment plants, however conditions should be set for government monitoring of the effluent before discharge and public notification to those downstream when this is happening.

Willow Creek drains through the Miklavik and Siglavik cottage and home developments, and are a unique sheltered harbour. This fall we had seen particularly odorous and dangerous algae infestations in Gimli and Silver Harbour locations exasperated by the sheltered nature on these

harbours. Siglavik and Miklavik are man made inland harbours and as such are even more isolated by the wind and wave action which dissipates algae along most of the Lake Winnipeg shorelines. This new Crystal Springs Development WILL add nutrients N and P to the Willow Creek watershed and my fear is that the Miklavik and Siglavik developments will become a nutrient sink or trap and feed excess algae growth in those and nearby locations. So far we haven't seen that problem there if this years algae blooms and fish kill offs at Gimli, Silver harbour and Hnaua beaches are any indication.

Those areas are way more open to wind and waves yet had a major algae problem this fall. If I were in those development I would have grave concerns. And as one who can I will voice those concerns for them. These questions need to be answered:

Who will be monitoring the lagoon to ensure compliance? (See Section 5.2 "Reporting" in the proposal, on p. 29 of the PDF) In particular, who is checking re: compliance with MECP licence requirements of no more than 1.0 mg/L total phosphorus? How often will TP be measured? How many litres will be discharged? What will be the total tonnage of N and P added to the watershed? Will compliance results be made public?

What happens if this lagoon is non-compliant with 1.0 mg/L limit?

What if any contingencies will be put in place to protect against/mitigate impacts of extreme weather (e.g. flooding) or equipment failure?

What is the current phosphorus load to Lake Winnipeg from this sub-watershed? Can this area handle additional phosphorus loads?

This lagoon will handle waste from approximately 200 people as well as "livestock production." (See executive summary of proposal, on p. 5 of the PDF, and also p. 9-10) What extent/scale of livestock production is planned and how will the manure from this be managed?

How will the addition of the abattoir to the human waste affect the efficiency of the lagoon and discharges. Abattoirs have a very large water usage and while they may claim it is not for commercial use, it is a matter of semantics, as it is essentially an abattoir for a village sized community, not a small butcher shop. How will they handle the solids, fats, possible pathogens and antibiotic contaminants. Most literature I have research recommend that all solid matter be removed and go to compost or buried.

Present site plans do not indicate an area to compost the poultry waste (manure) which over time will be substantial with 15,000 birds. How will manure be distributed and where? How do they prevent leaching into the watershed as this area has considerable low lying and overland flooded circumstances.

This question is outside the scope of the lagoon's environmental approval process, but is worth raising because abattoir waste is not the same thing as manure produced from animals. So, the lagoon may be able to meet the 1.0 mg/L phosphorus limit, but what about the potential for an increase in phosphorus-rich manure on fields and then leaching into the watershed. Has this factor been considered and how will it be addressed?

It sounds like the barns will initially used for 15,000 poultry broilers (meat), however the plans do show additional barns. Once they have approval for the lagoon, can we be assured that hog, cattle or others will not be added without another licence review?

While the present regulations stipulate a 1mg/litre total P maximum, a better measure would be the total amount of P in tonnage that will be discharged into the aquatic system. One way to make a pollution problem go away is to dilute it until it meets standards. This however skews the intent and the goal should be to keep the N and P out of the waterways and onto the fields as fertilizer.

In closing we know that Crystal Spring Colony Development will try be a good neighbor, and steward of the land and water, they have indicated that this is their goal and only through frank dialogue can we move forward and address concerns. New developments should incorporate the latest and

greatest technology, and not the bare legislated minimum. We have enough problems with existing municipal waste disposal standards not being met, so we don't need to add to the problem. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] have seen so much environmental change and most of it not good. The beach I used to play on at the north end of town is gone thanks to man made water level changes. Constant algae blooms that are killing of our fish. Zebra mussels that are a very invasive species. At some point we have to look at a problem as; just because we can, should we say yes.

Regards
[REDACTED]

<https://gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/6193/eap.pdf#page=29> Sent from my iPhone

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: December 1, 2023 6:54 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 7317434 MANITOBA LTD. - CRYSTAL SPRING COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT - WASTEWATER LAGOON - FILE: 6193.00

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I would like to register opposition to this proposal. Willow Creek is a slow moving waterway and poor management of the lagoon could have a severe impact on the local ecosystem and eventually Lake Winnipeg.

This is a shared concern [REDACTED] It seems we found out about this late in the process for some reason.

Please let me know what other input we can have to prevent a connection between the proposed lagoon and Willow Creek.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: December 5, 2023 8:19 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: 7317434 Manitoba Ltd. Crystal Spring Colony New Development waste water lagoon-
File 6193.00

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Hello Housseini,

I realize the deadline to respond regarding the waste water lagoon is past, however I just happen to read this article today and need to voice my opinion.

Please make note that I am strongly opposed to this waste water lagoon. Our waters are already polluted and affected with large amounts of blue green algae as it is. Please do not allow this!

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 27, 2023 12:04 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: sewage lagoon proposal

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[REDACTED] I would be concerned about the values of the properties in the area that would be affected by this lagoon, [REDACTED]. Having a sewage lagoon in your neighborhood is not exactly a feature [REDACTED]. What I don't understand is how this can be allowed when [REDACTED] they need to install their own septic system (holding tank or field) to deal with sewage. Why is it different rules for different properties?? How is it that this is not an option to discharge raw sewage for anyone else building in the area. Everyone has to follow the rules set up by conservation when building that pertain to the size of their property. If you have less than 2 acres you are allowed a holding tank only or if more land then fields are allowed. Why should it be different for anyone else. If a developer builds in the area all lots they sell have to follow guidelines established by the province for sewage. The environment impact would be significant if this sewage is discharged as the area it is located in, the sewage will end up in Willow Creek and eventually into Lake Winnipeg. How is this acceptable? Why do they not have to build a sewage treatment plant just like everyone else. Our lake has suffered enough with untreated sewage being dumped into it yearly. When is this all going to end? Have you seen the impact this is having on the health of our lake and the fish in it dying in huge numbers and being washed ashore? Green algae is so bad that it covers the shoreline and you can not go into the lake. When are we going to wake up and realize the damage that is being done for the future generations to come. With so many environmental disasters to deal with, why would we allow this to happen. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

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Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 27, 2023 12:21 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: FW: proposal: 7317434 MANITOBA LTD. - CRYSTAL SPRING COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT - WASTEWATER LAGOON - FILE: 6193.00

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I am writing in response to the Notice of Environment Act Proposal – Crystal Spring Colony New Development – Wastewater Lagoon – File 6193.

I'm a lifetime Manitoba, who spends a great deal of time enjoying the outdoors – including the Interlake Region. My wife and I love the area, for swimming, hiking, and kayaking. We also enjoy other parts of Manitoba for boating – but this message deals specifically with the Willow creek area of the Interlake, with concerns about how the development may impact the environment in and around this area.

Over the years I've witnessed first hand the degradation of the Interlake area, especially the lake and supporting wetlands. And while I support economic development, I hope such development does not exacerbate that decline.

I have read the Environment Act Proposal on the Government of Manitoba website and have several questions with regards to the Environmental Impact Assessment. I've included some of these questions within this email with reference to the specific sections. Please see below.

Thanks for your consideration.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Section 1.1 Population and Production Parameters

Questions:

- What allowances are considered for changes or deviations when performing the environmental assessment? How material does a change have to be before requiring further approval or amendment?
- How are existing or pending businesses 9for example existing agricultural, fishing or other processing activities, that may add the

impact of the proposed development considered when calculating organic and hydraulic loading?

- What assumptions are made regarding the chemicals/detergents to be used in the truck washing business, and the contents of animal feed, when calculating the organic/non-organic impact of the residential and business activities? What assurance is there that the assumptions are valid?
- Why has there been no update to the 2011 guidelines given changes in modern livestock production?

Section 2.3.2. Flood Protection

Questions:

- If no official flood elevation was available how did Trek determine that 248.4 m was sufficient flood protection level?
- What assumptions did Trek make in deriving this number? Was it based on averages or peak levels of flooding experienced?
- Did it take into consideration the possible impact of Province of Mb/Manitoba Hydro decisions in regulating water levels in lakes/rivers that might influence potential flooding in the proposed development area?

Section 2.8. Facility Operation – Testing of Secondary Cell effluence to meet MECP requirements

Questions:

- Can seasonality in the proposed business, or external factors such as weather, impact volume and intensity of effluence load? If so, is it possible that the timing of the isolated sampling and results therein, might be misleading as to the quality of the effluence being released from the secondary cell?

Section 2.9. Seasonal Maintenance

Questions:

- What is the likelihood that any component of the system being relied upon for waste treatment, might malfunction? What happens if that occurs, in terms of reporting and correctional activities?

Section 4.0 Human Health

Question:

- What will be the impact to those using the waterways for recreational purposes such as kayaking on Willow Creek, or for livelihood/sustenance such as fishing?

Section 7 Monitoring

Questions:

- Will form of monitoring will the province have in place to ensure assumptions and actual results are consistent with the assessment, and that the ongoing monitoring and reporting is done in accordance with regulations?
- Does this Colony have previous experience in developing and running the businesses described in the proposal? If yes, have there been any prior issues noted with this business group and their environmental management?

November 14, 2023

HOUSSEINI COULIBALY
Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Environmental and Climate Change
14 Fultz Boulevard (Box 65)
Winnipeg, MB R3Y 0L6

RE: 7317434 MANITOBA LTD., CRYSTAL SPRINGS COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT
WASTEWATER LAGOON - FILE 6193.00 PROPOSED CURENT LOCATION SE 28-18-3EPM

LETTER IN OPPOSITION TO THE CURRENT PROPOSED LOCATION

I/we are not opposed to the actual establishment of Crystal Springs Colony, and understand the need for a lagoon. [REDACTED]

I am [REDACTED] am opposed to the present proposed LOCATION of the lagoon on SE 28-18-3EPM in the RM of Armstrong, which also borders the RM of Gimli, for the following reasons:

- 1) Health, safety and environmental hazard concerns due to the lagoon [REDACTED] such as contamination of drinking water especially if a future dwelling would be built there;
- 2) Foul smell and odor from the lagoon due to the lagoon being so close to our property;
- 3) Unsightliness of a lagoon being close to existing dwellings and properties, and along a main market road and school bus route.

My/our hope is that Crystal Springs Colony understand our concerns, and work together with local area residents and landowners in a collaborative manner to resolve the issue.

I/we are requesting that Crystal Springs Colony re-consider the present proposed location of the lagoon, to where there are no nearby dwellings, or other private properties.

I/we thank you for taking the time in allowing me/us the opportunity to express our concerns, and thank you in advance for your re-consideration of the proposed site for the lagoon.

[REDACTED]
Print Name

Signature

[REDACTED]
Contact Address and/or Email

November 14, 2023

HOUSSEINI COULIBALY
Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Environmental and Climate Change
14 Fultz Boulevard (Box 65)
Winnipeg, MB R3Y 0L6

RE: 7317434 MANITOBA LTD., CRYSTAL SPRINGS COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT
WASTEWATER LAGOON - FILE 6193.00 PROPOSED CURENT LOCATION SE 28-18-3EPM

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I/we are not opposed to the actual establishment of Crystal Springs Colony, and understand the need for a lagoon. [REDACTED]

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- 1) Health, safety and environmental hazard concerns due to the lagoon [REDACTED] [REDACTED], such as contamination of drinking water especially if a future dwelling would be built there;
- 2) Foul smell and odor from the lagoon due to the lagoon [REDACTED]
- 3) Unsightliness of a lagoon being close to existing dwellings and properties, and along a main market road and school bus route.

My/our hope is that Crystal Springs Colony understand our concerns, and work together with local area residents and landowners in a collaborative manner to resolve the issue.

I/we are requesting that Crystal Springs Colony re-consider the present proposed location of the lagoon, to where there are no nearby dwellings, or other private properties.

I/we thank you for taking the time in allowing me/us the opportunity to express our concerns, and thank you in advance for your re-consideration of the proposed site for the lagoon.

[REDACTED]
Print Name

Signature [REDACTED]

Contact Address and/or Email
[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2023 11:29 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Cc: Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Environment and Climate, Deputy Minister
Subject: WILLOW CREEK PROPOSED LAGOON

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Dear Housseini,

Real concerns about the proposed lagoon.

Willow Creek is a natural gem – please protect it.

1. Request the East Interlake Watershed District to review the proposal. Community collaboration exists in this organization, caring conservationist involvement.
2. Determine if overland flooding (we watched it happen in 2022) will pollute Willow Creek with abattoir and human waste.
3. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], states the lagoon is 12 feet from the aquifer (I assume this is depth); this sounds like a planned disaster. Clay beds leak. Our aquifer is precious. "The needs of the many" which includes the Interlake interconnected aquifers, outweigh the wishes of the lagoon builders.
4. Armstrong Reeve Basford stated "...there has to be a balance when it comes to supporting all ratepayers..." This is misdirection. The prime goal is protecting our aquifers and our watershed, secondary goal is balancing ratepayers wishes fairly. BALANCING \neq PERMIT POLLUTION. While ultimately our Ministry of the Environment decides, I suspect this argument is part of our Minister Schmidt's considerations.
5. Lake Winnipeg algae blooms = Serious danger to our fishery. Recreational angling contributes ~ \$221 million (2018) in direct spending. Commercial Fishery ~ \$100 million (2022 past Minister Nesbitt).

I fear the government may lose the heart of this. I saw the algae blooms this summer. Toxic waste washed up on shore all along Gimli's beaches. Recall that fish need O₂ to live; good way to kill off our fish stocks adding waste nutrients to the lake.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 26, 2023 9:10 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Environmental Proposal File: 6193.00

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Re: Crystal Spring Colony New Development
7317434 Manitoba Ltd

Dear Sirs:

I refer to the above File #6193.00 and as a resident of Gimli Municipality would like to please vocalize my concerns about a proposed large Hutterite Colony from Ste. Agathe creating a development in the RM of Armstrong with industrial manufacturing and a lagoon to accommodate the wastes of 250 people and the nutrient rich wastes from an abattoir.

The Lake is in such rough shape. The algae blooms are getting out of hand, fish are choking and washing up dead on the beaches in blue and green slime..Fishermen are already pulling up nets loaded with feces. Experts are saying that the Lake is dying and can not handle the nutrient rich wastes that are being drained into it constantly.

I ask, can we take the chance of polluting Lake Winnipeg even more without catastrophic effects to the fish, flora, fauna and peoples that live near the Lake?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 24, 2023 3:57 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Cc: Minister of Environment and Climate Change; [REDACTED]
Subject: Opposition Proposed Lagoon File 6193.00

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Approvals Branch Manitoba
Environmental & Climate Change,

The Gimli Environmental Advisory Committee (GEAC) is opposed to 7317434 Manitoba Limited - Crystal Spring Colony building a lagoon, as it will have a negative effect on Willow Creek and Lake Winnipeg.

We are concerned about the threat to the health of Lake Winnipeg, the fish habitat and the land (made up of fine clay and has limited permeability).

A sewage lagoon is the least effective form of waste treatment.

This proposed lagoon location is to service human waste for a minimum of 250 people with an abattoir processing livestock - cattle, 1,500 chickens, ducks and possible hogs - with further expansion.

Two articles for your attention is Patricia Barrett's article in the November 16th issue page 8 & 9 [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.expressweeklynews.ca/!!lqQd2s6KUyvHwNLtrw!sYV4DApLRcdF-W0uJGSnvZHym8yAR5nFJ5MSvQckQD-q9snCL8_EXNvPMpp7NIO0qUizWJOngGzT025DuYO_7YIdmWqUYQ\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.expressweeklynews.ca/!!lqQd2s6KUyvHwNLtrw!sYV4DApLRcdF-W0uJGSnvZHym8yAR5nFJ5MSvQckQD-q9snCL8_EXNvPMpp7NIO0qUizWJOngGzT025DuYO_7YIdmWqUYQ$) and a post reporter Rick Gerhatz posted on Facebook Lake Winnipeg on November 5th.

We ask that there is a full environmental study done. All development needs to be compliant with environmental regulations and all waste water requires treatment. Manitoba regulations require "total phosphorus" levels (or TP) in effluent released by wastewater systems to be no more than 1.0mg/L. On going monitoring should also happen to ensure compliance with regulations.

GEAC suggests that the waste should be transported to a treatment facility.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]