

7317434 Manitoba Ltd. - Crystal Spring Colony Farms Ltd.

Crystal Spring Colony New Development - Wastewater Lagoon - File 6193.00

Public Comments Received:

- Public Comments Received (5)

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 27, 2023 4:53 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Crystal Springs Wastewater Lagoon

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Dear Sir:

It has come to my attention that the Crystal Spring Colony are requesting permission to build a holding lagoon for an abattoir adjacent to Willow Creek.

This pristine creek flows into the Willow Point Lagoon which is one of Lake Winnipeg's last natural wetlands that has a huge migratory bird population that depends on the water health in this area. As you no doubt know, there are four residential developments Willow Point, Odins Green, Siglavik and Miglavik that are only a few miles downstream of this proposed development. The eco tourism that occurs on the creek is a valuable business in the town of Gimli. Both Prairie Sea Kayaks the Gimli Yacht Club, the GYC Sailing School and various boat tours all operate at the mouth of the creek and in the surrounding waters. Indeed the Town of Gimli has a huge tourism business that depends on the health of Lake Winnipeg.

The recent algae blooms that occurred in September of 2023 in the on Lake Winnipeg in the Gimli area are very concerning and some of the worst ever seen. The contemplation of further development without the current algae blooms being dealt with seems rushed and irresponsible.

Is the Willow Creek watershed the best location for this facility? Is such an intense use of a single facility the best for the environment?

Your diligent review of this project is required.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Further Questions that need to be reviewed are:

- Will 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?
- 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?
 - This question is outside 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? Has this factor been considered and how will it be addressed?

Notice of Environment Act Proposal

Manitoba Environment and Climate Change invites public comment on the following proposal:

7317434 MANITOBA LTD. – CRYSTAL SPRING COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT - WASTEWATER LAGOON – FILE: 6193.00

Crystal Spring Colony New Development (7317434 Manitoba Ltd.) is proposing to construct a domestic wastewater lagoon in the Rural Municipality of Armstrong, located at SE 28-18-3 EPM. The lagoon will be designed to treat wastewater for the expected population of 250 people, an abattoir, and hold runoff from the residential weeping tile.

Anyone likely to be affected by the proposal and who wishes to comment should contact Housseini Coulibaly, Environmental Approvals Branch, in writing or by email at housseini.coulibaly@gov.mb.ca no later than November 27, 2023. Further information is available from the Public Registry: www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries

Information submitted in response to this proposal will be available to the proponent and placed on the public registry per Section 17 of The Environment Act.

Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Environment and Climate Change
 14 Fultz Boulevard (Box 35)
 Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6
 Toll-Free: 1-800-282-8069
 Fax: 204-945-5229
 Website: www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries

Manitoba 

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 16, 2023 5:24 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Opposition to File: 6193.00

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Dear Sir, I am writing to state my opposition to the approval a wastewater lagoon per file number 6193.00 As a resident of Manitoba, home owner in the town of Gimli, and a life long user and protector of lake Winnipeg, my concerns are the long term environmental and economic damage this lagoon will cause.

While I have no doubt this lagoon will be designed to protect contamination / leakage due to overland flooding, it is a well know fact that ground water flows directly into the lake via underground aquifers. The treatment process allows the waste water to sit until the contaminants have settled. There is no design preventing below ground water contamination. It is therefore impossible to stop the seepage from this proposed lagoon into lake Winnipeg.

I understand, and respect the desire of Crystal Spring Colony to follow the regulations regarding treatment of waste water. However the needs of 250 people in no way override the rights of the tens of thousands of people who regularly use the lake for recreational and or rely on it for commercial purposes.

Given the proximity to the lake, the long term environmental impact this proposed lagoon will have is disaterous. It may take several years to for anyone to notice, and by then it will be too late. Please understand that the damage will definitely be long term and irreversible. The lake is already struggling with contamination from previous approvals resulting in excessive algae blooms, extremely high phosphorus levels and zebra muscles.

I believe there is no good reason to compound the existing damage, in fact we should be doing everything possible to reverse that. I beg you to consider the health and well being of lake Winnipeg.

Consider it for the future generations that deserve to have safe usage and benefits from this precious resource.

Consider it for the lifelong property owners who have used this lake for generations.

Consider it for the weekend travelers who create significant seasonal income to the hundreds of local merchants.

Consider it for the commercial fishers who support their families.

And please consider it for the people who draw their drinking water, and their food from the fish and other animals that thrive on the fresh water provided directly by this lake.

I'm certain you are aware that Lake Winnipeg is the 11 largest freshwater lake on earth. It is a gift that deserves protection, and only we can provide that protection.

Please deny the application for the above, and all other good reasons, on behalf of nature, humanity, and the future of our planet.

Sincerely



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 21, 2023 2:17 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: File #6193.00 7317434 Manitoba Ltd- Crystal Sprlng Colony WasteWater Lagoon

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Good Morning:

As residents of Gimli we are writing with great concern regarding the proposed wastewater lagoon by the Crystal Spring Colony.

One of Minister Schmidt's mandates is to "protect Lake Winnipeg and safeguard the health of all our waterways". Willow Creek Watershed is home to the Husavik Wetlands Sanctuary and a spawning ground for Walleye. The RM of Gimli is also in the stages of developing its own Wildlife Wetland Interpretive Center. There is a source water protection area within the vicinity of the proposed wastewater lagoon. People are becoming more aware of the importance of keeping wetlands intact as the lungs of the lake...

The issue is can the Willow Creek Watershed and Lake Winnipeg manage this additional load of high nitrogen/phosphorus being fed into it. This area is prone to poor soil and flooding. This is not a small family run farm... this is a large commercial operation extremely close to an at risk Lake and creek. 1.8 tons/day of chicken excrement is not a small amount. 250 people is not a small family.. An abattoir has its own special issues. And more concerning is that if this is approved what comes next... the colony may say it is not their intent at this time but. more cattle? hogs? Once something is approved it is very difficult to make changes or reign in if the operation exceeds what the original proposal stated... because it was not their intention at the time. Our concerns fall into the how much more damage can the watershed of Lake Winnipeg take before it becomes totally unrecoverable. From a thriving fishing industry to tourism with a flourishing cottage/tourism industry it can all be in jeopardy. We are against this proposal due to the danger it presents to the Lake.

Regards

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

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 26, 2023 9:45 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: FW: proposal: 7317434 MANITOBA LTD. - CRYSTAL SPRING COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT - WASTEWATER LAGOON - FILE: 6193.00

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To Whom it May Concern:

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

As a Manitoban who enjoys the beauty of the Interlake Region, for swimming, hiking, and kayaking, I am interested in learning more about how this development may impact the surrounding environment, and in particular, Willow Creek.

I have read the Environment Act Proposal on the Government of Manitoba website and have several questions with regards to the Environmental Impact Assessment that was made.

I include some of these question within this email. Please see below.

Thank you for your consideration to my concerns.

[REDACTED]

Section 1.1 Population and Production Parameters

- Residential Development - population of 250
- Truck Wash Facility - Production Rate assumed usage of 4 hours/day, 6 days/ week of a 5 gpm pressure washer, based on observed loading rates from the New Rosedale Colony and discussions with CrystalSpring representatives
- Abattoir for colony use, with no commercial processing in the facility. It is anticipated that the colony will process 25 beef cattle, 500 hogs, 6000 broiler chickens, and 2000 broiler ducks/turkeys annually, at full occupancy and operations. Typical wastewater requirements and loading rates for the slaughter of cattle, hogs, and poultry were obtained from The Characterization of Provincial Inspected Slaughterhouse Wastewater in Ontario, 2011

Questions:

- What margins for deviation from the planned development parameters have been taken into consideration when performing the environmental assessment?
- When calculating organic loading and hydraulic loading, were external economic and environment influences taken into consideration, such that the cumulative load was assessed for potential environmental damage or negative impact to residential, economic (fishing) or recreational (kayaking) activities? i.e. other existing agricultural and business activities, that would add to the total organic and hydraulic loading of this proposed project
- What assumptions 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?
- The use of a guideline developed in 2011 seems out-dated to modern agricultural livestock production.

Section 2.3.2. Flood Protection

BMCE contacted the Water Management, Planning and Standards: Hydrologic Forecasting & Water Management division of Manitoba Infrastructure. It was determined that no official flood elevation was available for the project site. Therefore, it was recommended that permanent structures should be located 1.5 m above ordinary high-water levels with a minimum setback of 30.5 m from the top of the waterway embankment. Additionally, A hydrologic and hydraulic assessment of the project site was conducted by Trek Geotechnical on November 21, 2022, which can be found in Appendix E. Their findings indicate a necessary flood protection level be set at an elevation of 248.4 m which includes a 0.6 m freeboard added. The proposed lagoon has been designed with berm elevations of 248.5 m to meet these required flood protection levels.

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 decisions in regulating water levels in lakes/ivers that might influence potential flooding in the proposed development area?

Section 2.4.x. Design Parameters

It appears that calculations used to determine the design and capacity of the Primary and Secondary Cells, is based on averages. This would not account for variations in volume of effluence due to seasonality in the truck wash business or agricultural livestock business, or volume of water due to external weather systems. For example:

The total active storage volume provided for the secondary cells was calculated using the volume of the secondary cell plus half of the volume of the primary cell, per Manitoba Sustainable Development's Design Objectives for Wastewater Treatment Lagoons. The subsequent hydraulic capacity provided is then calculated by dividing the total active storage volume provided by the detention time to get an average inflow rate over this period of time that the lagoon can accommodate.

Question:

What variations in loading may occur as a result of seasonality in the proposed businesses and/or weather, and how has the design of the primary and secondary cells taken this into consideration?

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

In the event of a subsequent release is required, the isolation sampling and release process shall be repeated. However, based on the loading calculations, we do not anticipate a second discharge will be necessary in a typical operating year.

Questions:

- How does the timing of the one mandated isolation sampling impact the validity that the effluence meets standards prior to release?
- 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

Regular observation of the lagoon will be undertaken by colony members to ensure that there are no damages to the lagoon structure.

Questions:

- What is the likelihood that any component of the system being relied upon for waste treatment, might malfunction?
- Who monitors and enforces that the colony performs regular observation, and that repair and maintenance is performed in a timely manner? How is the community informed should the lagoon malfunction, causing environmental damage?
- How frequent is “regular observation”?

Section 4.0 Human Health

As outlined in Section 4.1, odour will only be a problem for short periods of time during the spring and summer. Nuisance odours can cause several minor health effects such as headaches, eye irritation, and respiratory problems. However, due to the proposed tree line and distance of separation from the nearest residences, no adverse effects on nearby residents are anticipated.

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

On-going monitoring of the lagoon will be performed to ensure the proper functioning of the lagoon. Regular inspection will ensure that there is no damage to the lagoon from erosion, failures, wildlife, or other causes. Further attention will be paid to odour, and if excessive odour is detected the cause will be identified and dealt with accordingly. The general condition of the lagoon will be observed on an ongoing basis during all seasons.

Questions:

- Who does the on-going monitoring? Is it an independent body or the Colony?
- 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?
- Who does the regular inspection? Is it an independent body?
- How often do inspections occur?
- How will the environmental impact be measured on an ongoing basis?
 - What ESG related Globally or Nationally recognized Standards will be used?
 - What levels of contamination will be allowable?
 - What are the consequences of exceeding those limits?

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 20, 2023 10:12 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Hutterite colony RM Armstrong

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I oppose the waste water lagoon application of the Hutterite colony in the RM of Armstrong.
I live in the [REDACTED]. I obtain my drinking water from a well on our property.

Here are my concerns and requests.

What will be the penalty and will the Colony bear the expense if there is accidental or less than mandated treatment of water that makes its way into the Willow Creek drainage system.

Who and how often will the situation be "monitored"?

I would like to be able to rely on the ability of government to realistically enforce the penalties for non compliance, this is something that rarely occurs in the real world.

What is the plan to deal with the waste of 15,000 chickens?

If there was an initial estimate of 97 people and expected population of 250, will there be a definite cap of population written into the agreement related to the waste water lagoon.

Once the lagoon if approved is granted there is no unringing that bell.

We are not a third world country and the protection of our water outweighs any taxes gained.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 5, 2023 4:02 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: 7317434 Manitoba Ltd - Wastewater Lagoon New Development

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Hello,

I am a property owner on Lake Winnipeg, and year after year have witnessed worsening water quality due to high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. Dead fish, toxic algae blooms and closed beaches due to high bacteria counts are some of the obvious symptoms. Existing wastewater systems that discharge waste that ultimately flows into Lake Winnipeg sorely need upgrading to be more environmentally viable. Adding yet another sewage lagoon to this problem will do nothing to improve the health of Lake Winnipeg. For this reason, I am opposed to the development of a sewage lagoon at the proposed Crystal Spring Colony in the RM of Armstrong.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



NOV 20, 2023

Dear Housseini Coulibaly,

I AM LUCKY TO CALL [REDACTED]
TOWN of Gimli my home along with
my husband and children.

We love the Lake and all it
offers in all seasons. The idea that
we as a community are not putting a great
effort into the goal of LONG TERM Lake
health is a sad truth.

While damages of the past can only
be healed, damages to the lake moving
forward must be STOPPED. The wastewater
Lagoon - File 6193.00 - RE: 7317434 MB LTD -
CRYSTAL SPRINGS colony New Development is
just that a problem for Lake Winnipeg.
More must be done, do not let this
go unnoticed, unstudied or unmonitored.

You will be responsible for the further
death of one of Manitoba's greatest
assets.

Be a steward of our lake and
land. Kind Regards [REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 26, 2023 8:42 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: 7317434 MB Ltd- Crystal Spring Colony New Development

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Hello,

I am a local resident [REDACTED] proposed Wastewater Lagoon by Crystal Spring Colony at [REDACTED] and I have grave concern regarding this. To be clear, I am completely AGAINST this proposal of a wastewater lagoon on the border of the RM of Gimli.

I am voicing the following concerns:

- potential groundwater and surface water contamination
- concerns of waste to leak into the environment and to seep into the aquifer which supplies myself and my family's drinking water (as the water flows from the NW to SE, in this area, I am DIRECTLY in line of this seepage).
- The estimated population of the colony is 259 people/ the size of a small town! Proper lagoon and wastewater plans need to be in place that take into account ALL the impacted residents in the area, their families, homes, and also their livelihoods!!!! The amount of runoff from 250 people is astronomical!
- the location the colony has chosen for this lagoon—seems strategic for them to place it out of the NW water flow so they minimize their own risk of seepage into their own wells and also the smell of fecal matter from the NW prevailing winds (aka I will be the one impacted, not them)
- the wastewater being discharged into nearby ditches and Willow Creek and subsequently Lake Winnipeg. Lake Winnipeg is already at great risk and our government should be doing everything to save it, not further pollute it and its species!! This location is MUCH too close to the watershed and lake. Not only impacting the aquatic species and health of the lake but also impacting thousands of people that have this area as their home and also the huge tourism that this area provides
- that Armstrong council and the government are saying the colony has “never mentioned any kind of livestock—cattle or hogs”. So what? Just because they haven't mentioned it to this point does not mean they won't have these sort of operations. Armstrong Council states they had a meeting and voiced concerns regarding the location and dynamics of the lagoon and this hasn't stopped the

colony from proceeding with their proposal of the location!!!! They don't care what the council nor government has to say now so what's to stop them from not being totally transparent with future plans. (Also evident based on the fact that council was unaware of the gas line put in by MB Hydro and Crystal Spring Colony and that the location of the gas line means no road upgrades can be made! Terrible!)

As, I've mentioned, I am strongly AGAINST this proposal and the location of this wastewater lagoon and I think your government and department of Environment and Climate Change should also NOT be in agreement of this.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 22, 2023 11:43 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Crystal Spring Lagoon

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Dear Mr. Coulibaly

It has been brought to our attention that there is a proposal waiting for approval for a wastewater lagoon in the wetlands of Lake Winnipeg. Many of us living on Willow Island have watched with horror as the lake nitrifies and the variety of fish population is diminishing. There have been alerts over the past years and many of us are determined to protect the existing marshlands with the goal of reversing the damage to Lake Winnipeg.

Please do not allow this new wastewater lagoon to pass the approval process.

Can you inform us of the next steps for this process please?

Thank you

[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 7, 2023 11:47 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Crystal Springs Colony File# 6193.00

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Housseini,

Thank you for taking my call today. I have the following questions regarding the above noted file;

- 1) What stage in the application process is this at? Has an ADM or DM given interim approval subject to public consultation?
- 2) Is the application technically compliant?
- 3) Based upon the Provinces technical requirements
 - a) Is there any risk of effluent penetrating the aquifer?
 - b) Are the nutrient loading standards the same as would be required of a municipal lagoon Eg. Winnipeg Beach or Dunnottar?
- 4) Is it possible, notwithstanding a serious malfunction or deliberate action, for untreated waste to be discharged
- 5) Subsequent to the testing required at the commissioning phase is there an ongoing testing requirement?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 26, 2023 11:37 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini; Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Subject: 7317434 MANITOBA LTD. - CRYSTAL SPRING COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT - WASTEWATER LAGOON - FILE: 6193.00

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Taanishi,

I am concerned about the effects on Willow Creek natural spawning area by the proposed construction of Crystal Spring Colony domestic wastewater lagoon.

Lake Winnipeg is not meant to be a sewage dumping ground for industrial farms.

We must think about the next Seven Generations and not let environmental impacts be an afterthought.

Let's set a precedent that Lake Winnipeg matters more than economic development.

Maarsii,

[REDACTED]

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

Attention: housseini.coulibaly@gov.mb.ca

November 19, 2023

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

With Prejudice

Re: Halting of Project

This project should be suspended indefinitely while alternatives are explored, or it should be cancelled altogether which would be preferable. This project is not in the public interests and is a **THREAT to the Health of Lake Winnipeg, Fish Habitat and to our Drinking Water and surrounding land**. The Health, Safety and Interests of the residents of Gimli and surrounding Municipalities are at stake.

The proposed sewage lagoon has been reported to initially treat waste from beef cattle, hogs, chickens, ducks (along with their slaughter waste) and human waste from 250 people and is a precursor for plans for future inappropriate expansion on a comparatively very small and unstable site.

A basic sewage lagoon is the least effective form of waste treatment, and the one proposed will likely have 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 dilution of the nutrients and possible pathogens.

The time to mitigate nutrient problems on Lake Winnipeg is with new facilities proposing and using modern treatment and effective treatment plants to reduce the risk of adding to our problems instead of merely dumping into the environment whenever the lagoon overflows or leaks or when a flood or weather event occurs adding to the inappropriate runoff and seepage that already occurs in this watershed from hog facilities along the same ditches from Armstrong Municipality into Gimli Municipality and directly into upstream spawning grounds along the shores of Lake Winnipeg by Willow Creek.

The RM of Gimli sewage plant and other facilities like the City of Winnipeg treatment facilities, while not perfect, offer more advanced treatment of waste than that of a basic lagoon and offer a future improvement path that is apparently far beyond this proposal.

Thank You for your immediate attention to this request to stop this threat to our environment and the aquifer that provides our drinking water. The proposal in question is not consistent with our community values and to our way of life. It is also an existential threat to our local and regional economy. This factory project threatens private individual and smaller family businesses and residences close by which all must meet the criteria for higher standards competing against the deflated costs of shortcuts like this project; a threat to future generations of our residents and constituents.

Re: Insufficient Notice Time

Please be advised that your notice in the Express Weekly News published November 16, 2023 and requiring a deadline of November 30, 2023 (supposedly for the semblance of due process) does not provide adequate time for a more serious and detailed response or objection.

Even our Environment Minister and our MLAs have not substantially responded (if at all) to correspondence from their constituents over this matter despite the fact that this is their job. In general we are being hijacked (given the “bum’s rush”) and/or ignored. I trust you will cancel this stupidity and in fact I demand it. This is completely unreasonable.

Re: Resignations of Politicians and Bureaucrats

At the end of the day, I further insist that any and all politicians or bureaucrats whether Municipal, Provincial or Federal who do not support taking the side of The People of Lake Winnipeg, and the Lake itself, and the halting of this mess should resign and quit immediately. We need to go forward, not backward.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2023 5:33 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Crystal Springs Colony lagoon application

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To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Crystal Springs Colony Lagoon application

We are residents of Gimli and [REDACTED]. We are alarmed at the application of putting in an archaic system that has a major threat of runoff ending up in Willow Creek and Lake Winnipeg. Lake Winnipeg has already been listed as an endangered 6th Great Lake.

The colony expects a population of approximately 250 people that will operate on the RM of Gimli and the RM of Armstrong. The colony farms an unknown amount of cattle , approximately 1500 chickens and an unknown amount of hogs. The RM of Armstrong allows hog farming in their municipality whereas Gimli does not .

We strongly disagree with the colony making this lagoon. We would hope that a more responsible choice to the environment would be made.

Here is a list of some of our concerns:

- proper waste treatment with environmental impact study completed
- the hazard of runoff to Willow Creek and Lake Winnipeg
- lagoon is an outdated and archaic system
- the odor
- the neighbourhood aesthetics

Lake Winnipeg is threatened already and every step should be taken to protect it.

Thank you for your time and consideration .

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 7, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: 7317434 Manitoba Ltd proposal File:6193.00

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Please let it be known that [REDACTED] in the RM of Gimli, I am concerned about and opposed to the application made by the above enterprise. The quality of the air and the water, especially Lake Winnipeg, will be detrimentally affected should this venture be allowed. A precedent must be set to stop this development of a new community and industry without any public consultation. A notice was placed in the Stonewall-Teulon Tribune which covers an area not even affected by the proposal. The RM's of Armstrong (where the proposed site exists) and Gimli (which is adjacent to the RM of Armstrong and through which the watershed flows to Lake Winnipeg) had no notices posted in the Express Weekly which covers both RM's. This is not acceptable. It appears to be trying to "fly under the radar".

A concerned taxpayer and resident,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 27, 2023 8:47 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: EAP

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Dear Mr. Coulibaly

We are writing in regards to the proposed wastewater lagoon on SE-28-18-3 in the RM of Armstrong. Having read the proposal, we have comments to make and concerns to be addressed.

We purchased our property only in the early months of this year looking forward to the lifestyle which living on a parcel of land with limited neighbors, and no nearby agricultural or industrial use would provide. This hope was strengthened greatly when we met some of our immediate neighbours and interacted with some people from around the R.M. We understand that the RM of Armstrong has a comparatively limited tax base with a low population density, no larger centres, few businesses and essentially no large industry. The additional tax dollars brought in by the Hutterite colony will be welcomed. While we were very surprised and disappointed when we learned of the construction of the Colony [REDACTED], it is still our hope and intent to be good neighbors with them as well. However, we have concerns with the sewage lagoon as it is being proposed.

The EAP does not indicate whether anything from the "light manufacturing", feed mill, chicken barn and multipurpose barn will go into the lagoon.

Given the unprecedented over land flooding last year and climate scientists' predictions of more severe weather events and greater precipitation in the near future, should the depth of the wastewater lagoon be increased? There would be no way to protect the land not only from sewage but also unknown contaminants from the truck wash should overland flooding occur.

What plans, if any, have been made to mitigate the negative impacts if there is a failure of or accidental discharge from the wastewater lagoon.



1.1.3 Truck Wash Production Rate

- a) What effect will having that amount of water drawn from the groundwater have on the level of the water table?
- b) When the effluent is tested, will it be tested for pollutants associated with the truck wash such as petroleum products, brake residue such as asbestos, heavy metals, oil and grease?
- c) Will there be interceptors which retain oil, grease and solids?
- d) Will there be a catch basin or catch basins to collect and retain sand and grit?

1.1.4 Abattoir Production Rate

- a) What effect will the additional bio load have on the environment in general and the health of Willow Creek and subsequently Lake Winnipeg in particular? Is it possible to have the waste from the abattoir collected and dealt with separately rather than added to the sewage lagoon?

1.3.4 Liner Recommendations

- a) What is the lifespan of the liner?
- b) What happens when/if the liner fails?

2.3.3 Siting and Location

*“...prevailing winds will be in the direction of **uninhabited** areas”*

a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b) The trees and bushes on the south side of the lagoon will be removed. This will increase the likelihood [REDACTED] emissions from the lagoon as well as dust and noise during the construction. [REDACTED].

c) Some the trees and bushes on the south side of Road 106 were damaged or removed during the installation of the gas line for the Colony, [REDACTED]. This also increases the likelihood we will be affected by dust, noise and lagoon emissions.

d) It is shown that there will be a service road on the north side of the lagoon. How will the equipment access the site for the construction of the sewage lagoon? How will the service road be constructed? Can the equipment access the site from the north to minimize the effect on us (pollutants, noise and dust) and to minimize damage to the drainage ditch?

e) Could the lagoon be relocated to another area on the colony's land? [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] but the drainage ditch between the lagoon and the creek would be the responsibility of the colony not our municipality. Given the limited tax base we should all do whatever we can to minimize the impact. Ideally, we feel moving the lagoon to the northwest corner of the property would be better. It would not shorten the run to Willow Creek, and could possibly provide a longer run allowing greater polishing.

2.4 Lagoon Design

a) The proposed lagoon has only two cells and is therefore removing nutrients and toxins strictly through sedimentation. The construction of a third polishing cell would help to remove nutrients from the effluent before it is discharged into Willow Creek.

2.5 Lagoon Liner

a) What is the expected lifespan of the liner?

b) What happens when the liner fails?

3.7.3 Rare, Threatened, Protected or Endangered Species

“... lagoon is proposed to be constructed on lands that are currently utilized as cultivated agricultural land ...”

a) The land is not currently used as cultivated agricultural land. It is bush and wild meadow. There could be nesting grounds in that area.

4.1 Air Quality

“Odour nuisance is only expected to be a factor during spring and fall turnover, as this is the time when noxious gases are released. Odour will be mitigated by the fact that prevailing wind will direct the odours away from the populous regions. The period in which odours are released is short and therefore odour effects should not be a nuisance for residents in the immediate area.”

a) Due to frequent winds from the north and northwest the noxious gases will be blown [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b) On the south side of the lagoon there will be no trees or bushes to mitigate the impact of the noxious odours. [REDACTED] If it is not possible to relocate the lagoon to another site on the Colonies property as mentioned earlier, could the pre-existing trees and bushes also be maintained on the south side of the lagoon. Possibly, even additional plantings be added.

4.4 Forestry and Vegetation

“... avoid noise and dust nuisances by following good construction practices regarding operation time and dust mitigation measures.”

a) There is little vegetation [REDACTED]. Between that and the prevailing winds, dust and pollutants will blow [REDACTED]

b) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

c) The lagoon site map clearly shows that the trees and bushes on the south side of the lagoon will be removed [REDACTED]. If the site can't be changed, could the existing trees and bushes be maintained and more trees be planted to increase the depth of the buffer. As a good neighbour gesture, would the colony be amenable to covering the cost of planting trees [REDACTED]

4.5 Surface Water, Fish and Fish Habitats

According to the Willow Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan Draft, "... 24 species of fish utilize waterways within the Willow Creek Watershed and that aquatic habitat has been highly to severely impacted by human activity.... Potential detriments to aquatic habitat include...removal of riparian vegetation or a lack of buffer zones."

a) If there is a failure of the lagoon or if effluent is discharged accidentally it will affect a Class A fish habitat.

b) Fish are harvested using traditional netting methods during spring from the drainage ditch where effluent is to be released.

c) Even if by simple diffusion from the sediment on the bottom of the lagoon, there will be chemicals released in the effluent into the ditch.

4.9 Human Health

"... dust and vehicles could pose a more dangerous threat with reduced visibility, and minor health issues."

a) Due to prevailing winds from the north and northwest all dust blows [REDACTED]
There will be no mitigation of the impact of the dust and airborne pollutants.

b) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

c) [REDACTED].

d) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

e) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

f) With the amount of standing water in the lagoon and increased levels in the drainage ditch, there is a high potential of mosquito breeding and an increased risk to humans and animals of contracting West Nile Virus. Will there be any requirements that the colony use a bio agent or chemical means to control mosquito breeding?

4.12 Indigenous Communities

“As the nearest indigenous community is approximately 40 km southeast of the project site, no impact is expected on indigenous communities during construction or operation of the wastewater lagoon.”

a) There is a significant difference between government designated Indigenous lands and lands used in traditional means historically, currently and in the future. Were local residents and non-resident land users surveyed to determine if the land is utilized for traditional purposes?

5.1 Monitoring

“Prior to all discharges of the lagoon, all wastewater will be collected in accordance with Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, and have all analyses completed by an accredited laboratory before release.”

a) Will the data be accessible to local residents and Manitobans at large?

Thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns. We look forward to your response.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 16, 2023 3:39 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Public Registry 6193.00

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Hello Housseini,

I am concerned about the backlash that this proposal is receiving. Nearby residents aren't being fair to the colony and are letting fear and ignorance dominate their negative attitudes towards this project. I have lived in the area for 40 years, [REDACTED]

Hutterite colonies are well regulated, well educated, and fully licensed water and wastewater operators. The colonies don't deserve to be villainized because they want to construct a lagoon (which will also be regulated and properly licensed) to service their community.

Please do not reject this community's proposal due to some uneducated opinions that were formed due to a poorly researched article in social and numerous "not-in-my-backyard" attitudes from vocal potential neighbours of the project on social media.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Galaxy

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 14, 2023 8:26 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: WasteWater Lagoon

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To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to voice my opinion and concerns about the proposed waste water lagoon in the RM of Armstrong (file#6193.00)

This lagoon and the other proposed projects holds a direct threat to Lake Winnipeg and surrounding waterways.

Lake Winnipeg is already under stress from overland pollution from the large drainage basin that surrounds it.

The phosphorus that causes huge blue green algae blooms are a constant threat to the worlds 10th largest freshwater lake.

It's very disturbing that another environmental threat to this Lake will occur with the approval of this project.

As is happening in Winnipeg when the pumping stations can't handle the overflow, the effluent is allowed to be released into waterways that directly flow into Lake Winnipeg.

We are on the cusp of huge environmental impacts as Climate Change continues to affect our communities and waterways.

Allowing another wastewater treatment facility ,as well as the other facilities so close to the lake is NOT what is needed to keep Lake Winnipeg from more nutrient overloads.

I'm sure the Colony proposing this project will have all sorts of promises to make sure their project is approved. However as happens in Winnipeg (and I'm sure other municipalities) , wastewater overflow is bound to occur and the recipient of that will be Lake Winnipeg.

Also concerning is a proposed abattoir. Where is the colony proposing to dispose of all the remains after processing???

We, as citizens of this planet, have to begin to understand that we have to step up and say enough development, if such development could irreparably impact and harm the ecosystem surrounding it.

As the government appointed branch that is mandated to protect Manitoba I sincerely hope you will not allow this project to proceed.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 27, 2023 9:54 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Crystal Spring Colony New Development

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Hello,

This email is in reference to

7317434 MANITOBA LTD. - CRYSTAL SPRING COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT - WASTEWATER LAGOON -
FILE: 6193.00

I am currently a resident in the RM of Armstrong. I grew up in Gimli and spent my childhood alongside Lake Winnipeg, and I intend for my children to do the same however the condition of the lake over the past decade has been concerning. We all have to do our part in caring for the environment and our lake and simply put a wastewater lagoon isn't sufficient for a community of that size including thousands of animals, and manufacturing operations. The area was devastated by flooding just over a year ago which overloaded the lake with excess nutrients. The Environment Branch needs to take this seriously and propose the colony build a treatment plant in place of a lagoon and that it be maintained and monitored by outside peoples.

Thank You

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 27, 2023 1:06 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: CRYSTAL SPRINGS HUTTERITE COLONY'S APPLICATION FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL LICENCE
Attachments: DSC07711 (1).jpeg

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Dear Housseini Coulibaly:

We are writing to you in regards to the Crystal Springs Hutterite Colony's application for an environmental licence to construct a sewage lagoon in the Local Government District of Armstrong. We want to express, in the strongest possible terms, our opposition to this application.

This kind of intensive farming operation should not be allowed so close to Lake Winnipeg, or in the Willow Creek watershed. All the available scientific evidence points to the need to protect the lake from further damage caused by human activity. The well-being of people around the lake and beyond, as well as wildlife and the critically important commercial fishery depends on the enlightened stewardship of government regulators.

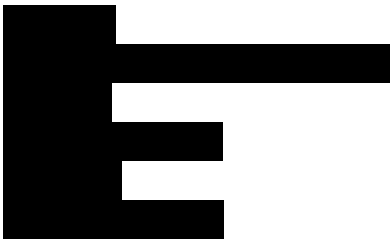
Our lake is in trouble. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] We simply can't let things get any worse. We need to protect the lake for the sake of our children.

We ask that you deny this application.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 20, 2023 1:04 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Oppose

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I hereby formally oppose the Crystal Springs Colony proposal for a wastewater installation.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 26, 2023 6:23 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Crystal Springs Septic Lagoon Proposal

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My name is [REDACTED]. I am a concerned resident and community member of the RM of Gimli. I have questions regarding the proposal for the Crystal Springs Colony Septic Lagoon. Is it responsible to go ahead with a proposal such as this with the climate change, we are currently dealing with today? How do we know this lagoon will be "monitored"? What steps will the colony take in order to do so? Who monitors the colony to ensure there will be safe practices? To what degree? Will this be done weekly? Will the elected officials, do it? What elected government? Which Rm?

We are a low-lying area and prone to uncontrolled flooding (flash flood) last year/2 years ago. How is the waste of 250 people and animals going to be prohibited from contaminating our water Shead/ Willow Creek and Lake during this time? Have the extreme changes in our climate and atmospheric rivers been considered and included in this proposal? Will it be considered during the decision-making process?

[REDACTED] currently building my retirement home. Why was I not notified the Colony was creating this proposal? As this will directly affect my health. Will that be considered during the decision-making process?

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 21, 2023 12:39 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: RE: 7317434 MANITOBA LTD.- CRYSTAL SPRING COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT- WASTE WATER LAGOON- FILE: 6193.00

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I live [REDACTED]. I am totally against this plan because of the smell [REDACTED]. I enjoy spending time outside in my backyard and this will ruin it for me and my family. Not to mention the problem with all of this draining into Lake Winnipeg and making that worse than it already is. They say it is state of the art but things don't always work as they should and problems are bound to arise.

Sent from my iPhone

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 27, 2023 8:32 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: 7317434 Mantioba LTD.- Crystal Spring Colony New Development- Wastewater Lagoon- File 6193.00

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I am writing this e-mail because I have concerns about the very large new development being proposed in Armstrong, Manitoba. I live close to where they are building this large colony and subsequent chicken factory and manufacturing operations. The lagoon will be discharging human, manufacturing and animal waste into Willow Creek which flows directly into Lake Winnipeg. Willow Creek does not have enough water flow after the spring thaw runoff to dilute the waste. I am concerned this will lead to even more toxic algae blooms in the lake. According to page 14 of the engineering firm's document, "It is important to note that the lagoon will be discharging downstream into a known populated recreational area which has concerns over algae blooms. However, due to the standards in place for effluent discharge from wastewater lagoons as well as the length of the effluent path, it is expected downstream users and the recreational area will be unaffected." This states that it is *expected* downstream users will not be affected, so it is clear they do not know how this will affect residents.

In the fall of 2023 there were several algae blooms and pockets of dead fish visible near the shore of the lake. I am concerned for the future health of Lake Winnipeg. There is already a large hog barn operation on the same road they are building the colony on. The hog barn is about 3 miles west of the colony. It is concerning that there would be two large animal operations in such close proximity. People living in this area already have to smell the noxious odours coming from the hog barn. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] impacted by the increased traffic and odours of this new operation. The population of this new development will be quite large and will continue to grow. It appears as though they are putting an entire town onto a quarter section of land.

My main concerns regard the health of the already threatened Lake Winnipeg. My young children and I enjoy swimming and fishing in Lake Winnipeg. I have frequented this lake my entire life and have chosen to raise my children near it. [REDACTED] because the ditches will be contaminated with effluent. We also enjoy fishing on the Willow Creek. I'm worried this new large development will further threaten the fish population. I worry that my children will not get to enjoy this beautiful lake in the future due to large developments further polluting the beautiful lake we call home. I personally make a conscious effort to use eco-conscious, environmentally friendly products in our home. I do not want to contribute toxins into the environment or the lake. I wish that every household was conscious of what they put into our waterways.

Some questions I have:

Will this proposed lagoon continue to be monitored after the colony build is complete? Who will be monitoring it?

What will this colony be manufacturing on site? Will the manufacturing waste further impact the lake? Is there a limit on how much they can expand their manufacturing operation?

How many wetlands will be impacted due to this development?

Will my children, grand children and great grand children ever have the opportunity of buying farmland in this area?

Thank you for your time.