

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Rural Municipality of Victoria
PROPOSAL NAME: Holland Water Supply Upgrade
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Class 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation and Transmission
CLIENT FILE NO.: 6221.00

As part of the [environmental assessment and licensing process](#), the purpose of this document is to summarize comments received from the public and government's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and how they are addressed. It includes a recommendation to inform the director's licensing decision.

INTRODUCTION

Rural Municipality of Victoria submitted a proposal dated April 2024, to build two new groundwater wells to serve the Local Urban District of Holland, a 12.5 km-long water supply pipeline, and other infrastructure upgrades. The wells will be located within SE 7-8-11 WPM. The pipeline will connect the existing Holland water treatment plant and will be within the right-of-way of the provincial highway and municipal roads. The water supply will be capable of withdrawing 4.2 litres per second or about 55 cubic decametres per year. The backwash from the plant will be discharged to Holland's wastewater treatment lagoon.

The proposal was advertised in the Treherne Times on July 4, 2024. It was placed in the online Public Registry as follows: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/6221/index.html>.

The proposal was distributed to Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members on June 28, 2024.

The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was August, 5, 2024.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The department did not receive any public comments on the proposal during the comment period.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) responses are listed in Table 1 below. Substantive comments and their dispositions follow the table. TAC comments are provided in full in the public registries at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/6221/index.html>.

Table 1 Rural Municipality of Victoria - Holland Water Supply Upgrade
Technical Advisory Committee Comments

No	Technical Advisory Committee Member	Response Provided
1	Environment and Climate Change	
	Environmental Approvals Branch	
	• Energy Program	No response
	• Air Quality Management	No response
	Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch	
	• Regional Office	July 8, 2024
	Office of Drinking Water	July 1, 2024
	Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch	July 4 and 9, 2024
	Water Science and Watershed Management Branch	
	• Water Quality Management Section	No response
	• Groundwater Management Section	No response
	Climate Change and Clean Technology	No response
	Parks Branch	No response
2	Manitoba Agriculture	No response
3	Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources	
	Wildlife and Fisheries Branch (wildlife)	No response
	Wildlife and Fisheries Branch (fisheries)	June 28, 2024
	Forestry and Peatlands Branch	July 19, 2024
	Lands and Planning	No response
	Crown Land Specialist	No response
	Mines Program	No response
	Petroleum Program	August 1, 2024
4	Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism - Historic Resources Branch	July 10, 2024
5	Municipal and Northern Relations	
	Community Planning Branch	July 29, 2024
6	Transportation and Infrastructure	July 5 and August 16, 2024
7	Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care – Prairie Mountain Health Authority	July 16, 2024
8	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	No response

Office of Drinking Water

The following are the requirements from the Office of Drinking Water:

- The Office of Drinking Water must be informed by the water system owner when there is a change in the raw water source for regulated water systems under the Drinking Water Safety Act. The Office of Drinking Water must be contacted.
- Potable water standards must be applied in the construction of the new groundwater source for the water system.
- A permit to construct or alter may be required for the work, depending on the scope of work. Contact the Approvals Unit for the Office of Drinking Water for more information.

Disposition:

These comments were shared with the proponent for information. The draft licence also includes a clause that requires the proponent to obtain the required approvals for altering the water system and to follow The Public Health Act, The Drinking Water Safety Act, and all operating requirements as recommended by Manitoba Environment and Climate Change.

Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch

- Implementation of direct drilling when crossing wetland basins in addition to drains and river outlets would satisfy any concerns relating to the impact or altering of any Class 3, 4 or 5 wetlands.
- The RM of Victoria has obtained an application for a Water Use Rights Licence from the department and the department issued a Groundwater Exploration Permit to identify a groundwater source for this project. The project is considered in good standing.

Disposition:

These comments were shared with the proponent for information. The draft licence includes a clause that requires the proponent to follow their Water Rights Licence.

Forestry and Peatlands Branch

- Forestry has no concerns.
- If any trees are removed or trimmed during activities, they must be disposed of properly to avoid the spread of forest insect and disease.

Disposition:

These comments were shared with the proponent for information.

Manitoba Sport, Culture, and Heritage, Historic Resources Branch

- Further to your e-mail regarding the above noted application, the Manitoba Historic Resources Branch (HRB) has examined the locations in conjunction with Branch records for areas of potential concern. Notably, the development footprint is located near a major waterway corridor, the Assiniboine River, along various channels, which are near numerous known archaeological interests. These factors, although not exclusive to the analysis, indicate a reason to believe that any future planned ground disturbance, activity, and/or development within the area has the potential to impact heritage resources, therefore, the Historic Resources Branch has concerns.
- A Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA) is an assessment showing the impact that proposed work is likely to have upon heritage resources or human remains. HRIAs

must be conducted by a qualified archaeological consultant under a heritage permit. Please find attached a flow chart outlining the general process of an HRIA.

HRIA Expectations

- The Branch will work with the proponent/land owners and its consultant to draw up terms of reference for this project. Please allow for HRIA timelines in your planning as HRIAs are conducted in snow and frost-free conditions. Any exceptions require planning and consultation with the HRB.
- Please find attached an archaeological consultants' list for reference. Due diligence should be conducted in order to assess quotes, services, and timelines.

Disposition:

The original comments and resources were shared with the proponent. The draft licence includes a clause that requires the proponent to comply with the requirements of The Heritage Resources Act, and suspend construction and immediately notify the Historic Resources Branch if heritage resources are encountered during the construction of the development.

Transportation and Infrastructure

- The Region would like to mention that there appears to be discrepancy with the Well Site location descriptions. The Well Site coordinates provided in the "Environmental Act Proposal Form" place it north of Rd 40N and on the east side of Brookdale Cemetery Rd, and the Environmental Act Proposal document places it North of Rd 43N along Rd 65W.
 - The Region has processed the application with the Well Site descriptions from the Proposal (north of Rd 43N along Rd 65W) has no concerns. The Well Sites are approximately 6.7km north of Provincial Truck Highway (PTH) 2 and 4.91km west of PTH 34.
- For any Utility Installations along or across PH 2 or PTH 34, the proponent should be informed that, under The Transportation Infrastructure Act, a permission/agreement will be required from Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) before works may commence.
- The Region does not believe there are any permitting concerns, however if something should arise, the proponent should be informed that, under the Transportation Infrastructure Act, a permit would be required from MTI for:
 - Any construction (above or below ground level) within 38.1 m (125 ft) from the edge of right-of-way of PTH 2 or PTH 34, and/or within the 304.8 m Control Circle around the junction of PTH 2 and PTH 34. Information regarding control areas and circles can be found at the following link:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/mti/hpd/resources.html>
 - For construction activities required to construct a new access, modify an existing, intensify its use or relocate an existing access connection onto PTH 2 or PTH 34.
 - Any plantings within 15.2 m (50 ft) from the edge of right-of-way of PTH 2 or PTH 34.
 - Discharge of water or other liquid materials into the ditch of PTH 2 or PTH 34.

Disposition:

These comments were shared with the proponent for information purposes only. The draft licence includes a clause for the proponent to obtain all necessary approvals from Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The branch requested additional information on December 30, 2024, and received a response on January 16, 2025. The branch requested a second round of questions on January 20, 2025, and received a response on February 12, 2025. Responses were satisfactory.

PUBLIC HEARING

As no public comments were received, a public hearing is not recommended.

CROWN-INDIGENOUS CONSULTATION

The Government of Manitoba recognizes that it has a duty to consult in a meaningful way with Indigenous communities when any proposed provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of the Indigenous rights of that community.

The Initial Assessment conducted for this project has concluded that the licensing decision does not have the potential to adversely affect the exercise of an Aboriginal or Treaty right. Crown-Indigenous consultation will not be undertaken for the Rural Municipality of Victoria's Holland Water Supply Upgrade licensing decision. Although most development activities will occur in previously disturbed municipal and provincial rights-of-way, the development is subject to The Heritage Resources Act, and the proponent would mitigate any concerns as required.

RECOMMENDATION

Comments received have been addressed through the provision of information and licence conditions. I recommend that the development be licensed under The Environment Act subject to the specifications, limits, terms, and conditions as described on the attached draft Environment Act Licence. I also recommend assigning the administration of the licence to the Central-Portage Region of the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

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June 20, 2025

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