

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROPONENT:** Norwood Colony Holdings Ltd.  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** Norwood Colony Farms Ltd. Wastewater Treatment Lagoon  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** 2  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Wastewater Treatment Lagoons  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 6260.00

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**

Norwood Colony Holdings Ltd. submitted a proposal dated May 16, 2025 to construct and operate a two-cell wastewater treatment lagoon located at SW 20-16-04 EPM in the Rural Municipality of St. Andrews to service the community of Norwood Colony Farms Ltd. The project would include excavation, construction of two cells lined with clay liner, and installation of a forcemain. The effluent would be discharged into an existing ditch flowing south, then east approximately 1.4 km into Fisher Drain, and southeast approximately 9.7 km into Netley Lake.

The proposal was advertised in the Selkirk Record on August 28, 2025. It was placed in the online Public Registry as follows:  
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/6260/index.html>.

The proposal was distributed to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members on August 29, 2025.

The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was September 29, 2025.

### **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/6260/index.html>.

Table 1. Norwood Colony Holdings Inc – Norwood Colony Farms Ltd. Wastewater Treatment Lagoon Technical Advisory Committee Comments

<b>No</b>	<b>Technical Advisory Committee Member</b>	<b>Response Provided</b>
1	<b>Environment and Climate Change</b>	
	Environmental Approvals Branch	
	• Air Quality Management	No response
	• Land Use, Waste Management, and Energy	Sept. 09, 2025
	Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch	
	• Regional Office	Sept. 26, 2025
	• Hazardous Waste Program	No response
	Office of Drinking Water	Sept. 02, 2025
	Environmental Programs and Remediation Branch	No response
	Environmental Policy and Delivery Unit	No response
	Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch – Water Use Licensing Section	Sept. 08, 2025
	Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch – Drainage Section	Sept. 25, 2025
	Water Science and Watershed Management Branch	
	• Water Quality Management Section	Sept. 23, 2025
	• Groundwater Management Section	No response
	Climate and Green Plan Implementation Office	No response
	Parks Branch	Sept. 29, 2025
	Aquatic Invasive Branch	Sept. 15, 2025
2	<b>Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures</b>	
	Wildlife and Fisheries Branch (wildlife)	Sept. 26, 2025
	Wildlife and Fisheries Branch (fisheries)	No response
	Forestry and Peatlands Branch	Aug. 29, 2025
	Lands Branch	Sept. 23, 2025
	Crown Land Specialist	No response
3	<b>Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation</b>	
	Mines	Sept. 02, 2025
	Petroleum	Sept. 15, 2025
4	<b>Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism - Historic Resources Branch</b>	Sept. 12, 2025
5	<b>Municipal and Northern Relations</b>	
	Community Planning Branch	Sept. 26, 2025

	Office of the Fire Commissioner	No response
6	<b>Transportation and Infrastructure</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydrologic Forecasting &amp; Water Management Branch</li> </ul>	Aug. 29, 2025
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highway Design</li> </ul>	Oct. 03, 2025
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highway Regional Operations</li> </ul>	Sept. 16, 2025
7	<b>Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care - Winnipeg Regional Health Authority</b>	Sept. 26, 2025
8	<b>Impact Assessment Agency of Canada</b>	No response

**Environment and Climate Change - Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch, Regional Office**

The Regional Office of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch provided the following comments:

- 1) On page 7, the location of the lagoon is indicated to be the northeast corner of SW 20-16-04 EPM. Yet, on page 9, the location is stated to be in the northwest corner of SW 20-16-03 EPM. Please clarify.
- 2) Many wastewater lagoons have monitoring wells. This proposal does not include any mention of monitoring wells. Based on available information, is this a feature that should be considered?

**Disposition:**

The original comments were shared with the proponent.

The northeast corner of SW-20-16-04 is the proposed location for the lagoon whereas the northwest corner of SW-20-16-03 is where the new colony would be established.

Monitoring wells are not a standard requirement and have not been specified for this project, consistent with recent similar lagoon designs.

**Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch - Water Use Licensing Section**

The Water Use Licensing Section of the Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch commented that if groundwater is being used as the primary source of water, a Water Use License is required. Applications can be submitted via their online portal –

<https://web22.gov.mb.ca/Sso/Account/LogOn>. The proponent can also contact the Water Use Licensing Section at [wateruse@gov.mb.ca](mailto:wateruse@gov.mb.ca) or 204-945-3983 to discuss.

**Disposition:**

The original comments were shared with the proponent.

**Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch - Drainage Section**

The Drainage Section of the Drainage & Water Rights Licensing Branch indicated there are no concerns and no requirement for an authorization under the Water Rights Act as it appears there are no new water control works proposed. If water control works are proposed, an authorization under the Water Rights Act is required. If water control works are required to accommodate any new approaches (access crossings) within the Municipal Right of Way, an authorization under the Water Rights Act is required in the name of the Municipality.

The Section also provided the following notes:

Note #1 - Any filling or draining of regulated wetlands (Class 3, 4 or 5) constitutes the construction of water control works.

Note #2 – Class 6, 7 and Unimproved organic soils (ag capability) cannot be drained.

**Disposition:**

The original comments were shared with the proponent.

**Water Science and Watershed Management Branch - Water Quality Management Section**

The following effluent standards should be in place for Norwood Colony Ltd wastewater treatment lagoon (at the proponent's final controlled discharge point) as per the Manitoba Water Quality Standards, Objectives and Guidelines Regulation (196/2011) for discharge events: BOD5 25 mg/L, TSS 25 mg/L, Total Phosphorus, and Fecal Coliforms or Escherichia coli 200 organisms / 100mL.

The Water Quality Management Section is concerned with any discharges that have the potential to impact the aquatic environment and/or restrict present and future uses of the water. Therefore, it is recommended that the license require the proponent to actively participate in any future watershed-based management study, plan/or nutrient reduction program, approved by the Director.

**Disposition:**

These comments were shared with the proponent.

The requirements are covered under conditions 15 and 31 of the draft licence.

**Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures - Wildlife Branch**

Wildlife has no concerns over this proposal, provided that perennial vegetation clearing for the construction of the lagoon occurs outside the bird nesting dates of May 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>, inclusive each year. Annual perennial vegetation maintenance adjacent to the lagoon (e.g., removal of emergent vegetation such as cattails) is to occur outside these dates as well.

**Disposition:**

These comments were shared with the proponent.

**Sport, Culture, and Heritage - Historic Resources Branch**

The Historic Resources Branch has indicated the potential to impact heritage resources is believed to be low and has no concerns with the proposed nomination Of the project location. However, the branch requires a Heritage Resource Protection Plan (HRPP) be included in the planning, development, and operations of the development, in the event heritage resources (including human remains and palaeontological resources) are accidentally encountered.

**Disposition:**

The original comments were shared with the proponent.

**Municipal & Northern Relations - Community Planning Services Branch**

The Community Planning and Services Branch indicated that a conditional use was granted by the Rural Municipality of St. Andrews Council on November 12, 2024. The branch also

commented that the municipality might consider the conditional use sufficient to permit the establishment of the lagoon.

**Disposition:**

The original comments were shared with the proponent.

**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 Norwood Colony wastewater collection system and wastewater treatment lagoon licensing decision. The project would occur on privately owned land that is currently undisturbed native farmland and provides a full range of agricultural activities and natural resource related industrial uses.

**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 Interlake Region of the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch, except clauses 26 – 28 of the licence which are assigned to the Environmental Approvals Branch.

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