

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Hydro
PROPOSAL NAME: Neepawa 230 kV Station
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transmission
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4244.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was dated and received on March 25, 1997. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

"A Proposal filed by Manitoba Hydro to construct and operate a new Neepawa 230 kV Station east of Neepawa, near the existing 115 kV Neepawa Transformer Station. This facility is required for in-service in the year 2002 to supplement electrical supply to the transmission and distribution system in southwestern Manitoba. The station will be supplied by the Winnipeg-Neepawa-Brandon 230 kV Transmission Line. An Environmental Impact Statement has been filed by Manitoba Hydro in support of the Proposal. Construction is tentatively scheduled over a 30 month period, extending from April 2000 to October 2002."

The Proposal was advertised in the Neepawa Press on Tuesday, April 8, 1997. It was placed in the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Centennial Public Library, the Western Regional Library in Brandon and the Town Office in Neepawa. It was also distributed to the "Transportation" TAC members for comment. All comments were requested by April 30, 1997.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No comments were received from the public in response to the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Natural Resources Request that plans for the upgrade of the bridge crossing of the Whitemud River be provided to DNR Fisheries Branch and Regional Fisheries staff for review well in advance of the crossing construction. Any in channel associated with the crossing shall not be permitted between April 15 and June 15. Recommend that appropriate precautions be identified and implemented during construction and operation of the station to minimize the risk of groundwater pollution.

Disposition: Comments regarding the bridge crossing can be accommodated as conditions of licencing. The risk to groundwater pollution can be minimized by including a condition in the Licence which requires that the Licencee submit for the approval of the Director, Plans and Specifications for the construction, supply and installation of oil containment equipment prior to beginning construction of the Development.

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Manitoba Environment - Water Quality Recommend that proponent adhere to *Manitoba Stream Crossing Guidelines for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat, 1996*, and use appropriate erosion control measures. Note that the development is located in a groundwater pollution hazard area and recommend that Manitoba Hydro assess the risk of contamination from spills prior to construction as is noted in the Proposal. Recommend that the chromium copper arsenate (CCA) be used as the preferred preservative on any wood pole structures associated with the station.

Disposition: Comments can be accommodated as conditions of Licencing.

Mines Branch No concerns

Historic Resources Note that Manitoba Hydro intends to schedule field investigations at the proposed station site and, if necessary, the Whitemud River Bridge upgrade location. Reports detailing heritage investigations will be reviewed by Historic Resources. Historic Resources has no concerns with Hydro's EIS for the station.

Health Note that the inclusion in the Environment Act Licence of the proposed environmental mitigation and management practices described in the Proposal are expected to prevent or mitigate potential health hazards from the project.

Disposition: The comments can be accommodated by including a general reference in the licence to the proposed mitigation and management practices documented in the Proposal.

Rural Development Concerns relate to chemical spills and potential electromagnetic fields from the Dorsey-Neepawa-Cornwallis 230 kV transmission line on a proposed rural residential area located in the southeastern portion of the Town of Neepawa.

Disposition: Concerns regarding chemical spills can be addressed as per the disposition of comments from DNR on the groundwater pollution hazard potential of the site. The comments on electromagnetic effects from the previously licenced Dorsey-Neepawa-Cornwallis transmission line on future residential development are outside the scope of the Neepawa station proposal. The effects of electromagnetic fields from the Dorsey-Neepawa-Cornwallis transmission line were addressed during the environmental assessment and licencing of the project.

Fisheries and Oceans Recommend that the following mitigation measures be implemented:

1. No instream construction activities between April 15 and June 30 in any year.
2. Effective erosion control measures should be used during and following construction to stabilize disturbed areas.
3. Manitoba Stream Crossing Guidelines, 1996 should be applied.
4. Precautions should be taken to ensure that deleterious substances do not enter any fish bearing watercourse as prohibited under the *Fisheries Act*.

Disposition: Comments can be accommodated as conditions of the Licence.

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PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing is not recommended for this project on the basis that no comments or concerns were received in response to the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

The comments received from the technical review of the Proposal can be accommodated as conditions of licencing. It is therefore recommended that the project be licenced pursuant to the Environment Act in accordance with the terms and conditions described in the attached draft Environment Act Licence.