

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.
PROPOSAL NAME: Hanover Rural Gasification Project
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Two
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation and Transmission -
Pipelines
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4258.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on June 26, 1997. It was dated July 2, 1997. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by Centra Gas Manitoba Inc. for the construction and operation of a natural gas pipeline system to service portions of the Rural Municipality of Hanover. The development would consist of up to 240 km of polyethelene natural gas pipeline. Pipeline diameters would be 3 inch, 2 inch and 1 1/4 inch, and all pipeline would be installed on the rights-of-way of provincial and municipal roads. The portions of the municipality which would be serviced include the following townships: 7-4E, 7-5E, 7-6E, part of 6-6E around Steinbach, and 5-5E. It is anticipated that the pipeline system would be constructed in the fall of 1997.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Steinbach Carillon on Monday, July 14, 1997. It was placed in the Main, Centennial, Eco-Network and Steinbach Public Library public registries. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on July 8, 1997. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was August 11, 1997.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public responses were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Environment - Water Quality Management The site diagram indicates two separate areas, but it is not clear if they are connected. There is at least one crossing of Joubert Creek, but there is no information on the method of boring or trenching that will be used to cross the creek or of any of the intermittent stream beds in the construction areas. There are limited surface water sources in the area. What water source will be used to leak test the lines and where will the water be discharged? What volumes of

water will be required for testing? Does the Department have a copy of the Centra Gas Manitoba environmental policy? Perhaps one should be on file, considering the number of proposals being requested.

Disposition:

Additional information was requested to address these comments. The information is

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- 2 -

attached. Briefly, connection points to existing gas sources are shown on a plan in the additional information. Stream crossings will be made by directional drilling, as will crossings of drainage channels which have water in them at the time of construction. Dry channels will be crossed by ploughing if minimal environmental disturbance will result. Pressure testing of new pipeline will be with compressed air. A copy of Centra's Environmental Policies, Procedures and Codes of Practice (November 29, 1995) have been obtained. They are available for review from Environmental Land Use Approvals staff.

Manitoba Environment - Air Quality Management The proposal notes that venting of natural gas to the atmosphere may occur through relief valves at regulator stations or individual service locations. Given that Centra Gas has registered with the national Voluntary Challenge and Registry (VCR) program and has submitted a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, what measures are Centra taking to quantify and reduce these emissions? It is not stated in the proposal whether compressor stations will be part of the distribution network. For the information of the proponent, a national emissions guideline for natural gas fired reciprocating engines has been drafted. The proposed No_x emission level is 6g No_x per kilowatt-hour.

Disposition:

Additional information was requested on greenhouse gas emissions. The information reports that venting occurs very rarely, so releases are insignificant. Compressor stations are not needed for this project.

Historic Resources Branch No concerns.

Mines Branch No concerns.

Natural Resources (reported by telephone, written comments to follow.) Stream crossings should comply with Manitoba stream crossing guidelines. If open cutting is necessary for stream crossings, construction should occur after June 15, and during low flow periods. Disturbed soil should be stabilized/revegetated following construction.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed as licence conditions.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Application of CEAA with respect to this project will not be required. Fisheries and Oceans and Transport Canada wish to participate in the provincial review process.

Disposition:

Transport Canada's interest is in railway crossings. As no railway crossings are required for the project, this information will be provided to Transport Canada.

Fisheries and Oceans The project is not expected to result in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat provided that the Joubert Creek crossings are

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- 3 -

directionally pushed or bored. If these techniques are not feasible and an open cut is required, information on the crossings should be submitted for approval in advance to fisheries agencies. Where site specific concerns exist, or if detailed information regarding fish habitat at the crossing location is unknown, a detailed investigation to evaluate the sensitivity of the location should be undertaken as described in the January, 1993 CAPP publication "Watercourse Crossing Guidelines for Pipeline Systems".

Disposition:

As it is not anticipated that open cut stream crossings will be needed, a licence condition should specify that only non-disruptive crossing techniques may be used. If an open cut crossing is required, separate approval should be obtained.

PUBLIC HEARING:

As no public concerns were identified, a public hearing is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

All comments received on the Proposal have been addressed in the additional information, or can be addressed as licence conditions. Therefore, it is recommended that the Development be licensed under The Environment Act subject to the limits, terms and conditions as described on the attached Draft Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended that enforcement of the Licence be assigned to the Eastern-Interlake Region.

PREPARED BY:

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