

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Hydro
PROPOSAL NAME: Gull Lake 115-12kV Transformer Station
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transmission
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4416.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was dated February 5, 1999 and was received on February 9, 1999. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by Manitoba Hydro to construct and operate a new 115-12 kV station in the northeast quarter of Section 24, Township 16, Range 7 E.P.M. in the Rural Municipality of St. Clements. The station is required to improve the electrical supply capacity and reliability in the Gull Lake area. The proposed project will include the salvage of the existing 33-12 kV Gull Lake Station and the 33 kV regulator structure, and salvage of a 115-33 kV transformer, 33-12 kV transformer and associated equipment. Manitoba Hydro has filed an Environmental Impact Statement for the project in support of their application. The proposed station project will require 17 months to construct and is anticipated to be in-service by August 31, 2000.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Selkirk Journal on Monday, February 22, 1999 and the Pine Falls Voice on Wednesday, February 24, 1999. It was placed in public registries located at 123 Main Street (Union Station), Winnipeg; the Centennial Public Library, 251 Donald Street, Winnipeg; Selkirk Community Library, 303 Main Street, Selkirk and the Bibliotheque Allard, St. George Community Centre, St. Georges. It was also distributed to the "Transportation" TAC members for comment. All comments were requested by March 19, 1999.

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:

Natural Resources - Request that the proposed groundwater contamination assessment of the site and the proposed engineering safeguards recommended on the basis of the assessment be provided to DNR for review.

Disposition: The Licence will require Manitoba Hydro to submit a Transformer Oil Containment Assessment Report to the Director for approval prior to the construction of any proposed oil containment facility. The results of the groundwater assessment should be contained in report which will be forwarded to DNR for review and comment prior to approval. (*See Disposition of comments provided by Environment Water Quality.*)

Historic Resources - No concerns with regard to the project's potential to impact heritage resources.

Mines Branch - No concerns.

Rural Development - No planning concerns.

Urban Affairs - No concerns.

Environment (Water Quality) - Due to the groundwater hazard in the area WQ recommends that any proposed plan for oil containment be submitted to Manitoba Environment for review prior to construction of any proposed oil containment facility. Alternatively, should spill containment not be considered necessary based on the results of the groundwater contamination assessment, rational for the protection of groundwater should be provided. Recommend that soils at the salvaged Gull Lake Station be randomly tested for PCB's. Any contaminated soils should be removed to an approved storage or disposal facility. Recommend that the acceptable level of PCB contamination be determined from current CCME guidelines.

Disposition: It is recommended that, as a condition of Licencing, Hydro be required to submit their Plans and Specifications on oil containment to the Director of Environmental Approvals prior to construction of the oil containment equipment. This requirement is consistent with the Licencing conditions of similar stations, where significant amounts of insulating oil are involved and where Hydro's Transformer Oil Containment Assessment Report recommends that oil spill containment or alternative method to protect groundwater in the event of a spill is required. The recommendation with respect to the soil testing from the salvaged station site in accordance with the CCME guidelines can be accommodated in the Licence.

Environment (Eastern- Interlake Region) - No concerns.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CCEA) - Application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act will not be required.

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:

Other similar Manitoba Hydro distribution stations licenced under the Environment Act have required that the Licencee comply with the Province of Manitoba Sound Pollution Guidelines. The guidelines state that the Licencee shall not cause or permit the emission of sound from the station which when measured at the property line of the station in a residential area, to exceed an hourly equivalent of 45 dB(a) during the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. As a result of discussions between TAC and Hydro concerning acceptable station sound levels for stations at the 115 kV level or greater, it was concluded that the Provincial Guidelines could be achieved and should therefore generally apply to all stations of this size licenced under the Environment Act. The 45dB(a) maximum sound level should therefore be included as a condition of Licencing of the Gull Lake Station.

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.

PREPARED BY:

Bryan Blunt
Environmental Approvals
Environmental Land Use Approvals
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Telephone: (204) 945-7085
Fax: (204) 945-5229
E-Mail Address: bryan_blunt@env.gov.mb.ca