

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROPOSAL NAME:** Town of Russell  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** Town of Russell Wastewater Treatment Lagoon Expansion  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** 2  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Waste/Scrap Wastewater Treatment Lagoons  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 122.20

### **OVERVIEW:**

On March 8, 2006, the Department received a Proposal from Cochrane Engineering Ltd. on behalf of the Town of Russell for the remediation, expansion and operation of the existing wastewater treatment lagoon located on the southeast quarter of Section 4-21-28 WPM in the Rural Municipality of Russell. Additional information was received from the proponent on April 17, 2006. Treated wastewater from the wastewater treatment lagoon will be discharged between June 15<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> of any year. Treated wastewater will be discharged southward of the development into a slough which drains into a tributary drain of the Silver Creek channel. Silver Creek channel empties into the Assiniboine River.

The Department, on May 23, 2006, placed copies of the Proposal in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station), the Winnipeg Public Library, the Manitoba Eco-Network, and the Town of Russell office. Copies of the Proposal were also provided to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members. The Department placed public notification of the Proposal in the Russell Banner on Tuesday, May 30, 2006. The newspaper and TAC notifications invited responses until June 26, 2006.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

No responses were received from the public notification.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

#### **Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives**

- *No concerns*

#### **Conservation - Sustainable Resource & Policy Management**

- *No concerns*

#### **Water Stewardship**

- *Locations of any potable water sources within the vicinity of the project area were not mentioned.*

- *Sections 6.3 and 6.4 suggest that there will be no significant impact on surface water and groundwater. It is unclear whether the consultant is proposing any monitoring methods to ensure the above.*
- *Section 5.2.2 suggested that the existing secondary cells are subjected to high subsurface seepage. It is not clear whether any baseline water quality data has been or will be collected in order to assess the status of the local groundwater quality.*
- *The proposed activities should not degrade the groundwater and surface water qualities on adjacent properties unsuitable for use as drinking water sources. The consultant should identify such activities and recommend appropriate mitigation measures if required.*
- *We have no documentation of fish species presence in the tributary of Silver Creek and Silver Creek itself. A potential concern could be the quality of effluent upon entering the Assiniboine River if there is no dilution factor. Given the distance of the discharge route, proposed timing of the discharge (June 15-October 31<sup>st</sup>) and as long as the effluent meets or exceeds Manitoba Water Quality Standards, Objectives and Guidelines, this concern should be addressed.*
- *Regarding rate of discharge and construction works that could result in the addition of sediment to the creek, as long as DFO is involved in reviewing this proposal and manages fish habitat to meet the intent of their no net loss policy, provincial fisheries management interests should be met.*
- *We recommend 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, for the Assiniboine River and associated watersheds.*

Proponent Response (August 2, 2006):

- Manitoba water well reports were reviewed for SE 4-21-28 WPM (location of existing lagoon) and NE 4-21-28 WPM (location of expansion). Two wells utilized for domestic and livestock purposes were documented in the SE quarter. The available information states that these wells have perforations between 18.3 and 32.9 m. No well logs were reported in the NE quarter.
- Monitoring of surface and/or groundwater will be performed as required by Manitoba Conservation.
- To date, there has been no baseline water quality data obtained in the vicinity of the existing lagoon. Testing and assessment of water quality will be performed as required by Manitoba Conservation.
- The proposed construction activities will implement the measures detailed in the Environment Act Proposal in addition to the measures proposed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Russell Lagoon expansion and remediation of the existing secondary cells and operation thereafter is expected to have a net positive effect on water quality due to an extended storage period and seepage mitigation.

- Those involved in a future watershed based management study, plan/or nutrient reduction program on the Assiniboine River are welcome to contact the Town of Russell.

Disposition:

- The proponent response was reviewed and the Department has no concerns or comments.
- The draft Licence requires the Licencee to actively participate in any future watershed based management study, plan and/or nutrient reduction program, approved by the Director, for the Assiniboine River and/or associated waterways and watersheds.

**Culture, Heritage and Tourism - Historic Resources**

- *No concerns*

**Health**

- *The need for fencing, gates and warning signs has been identified in the proposal so as to ensure public safety, in case of unsupervised public access to the development.*
- *Consideration of inclusion of odor nuisance clause.*
- *Please ensure that any discharge of effluent is in compliance with Manitoba Environment's guidelines.*
- *Consideration of leachate monitoring.*

Disposition:

- The requirement for fencing has been included in the draft Licence.
- Operating the lagoon in a manner that minimizes offensive odours is required in the draft Licence.
- Effluent limits are consistent with the Manitoba Water Quality Standards, Objectives, and Guidelines.
- Groundwater monitoring is required in the draft Licence.

**Transportation and Government Services**

- *The Department has no major concerns, but notes the following:*
  - *Should the increased discharge require the culvert through PTH 16 (immediately south of the lagoon site) to be upgraded, the cost would be the responsibility of the proponent.*

Proponent Response (August 2, 2006):

- The discharge rate into the slough to the south of the existing lagoon will only increase if two of the three secondary cells are discharging at the same time. The slough acts to naturally regulate the flow through the PTH 16 culvert. However, if the discharge from a combination of the secondary cells (at times when the water level in the slough is high or otherwise) is deemed to require upgrading to the culvert through PTH 16, the option remains to restrict the discharge to emptying one secondary cell at a time.

Disposition:

After receiving the additional information from the proponent, no further comments were received from Transportation and Government Services. This was assumed to indicate that the original comments were satisfied.

**Intergovernmental Affairs**

- *No comments received.*

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency**

- *Following a review by all federal departments with a potential interest in the proposed development, the application of the CEAA will be required.*
- *Environment Canada and Health Canada have offered to provide specialist advice with respect to the project. DFO has provided information regarding additional measures to be incorporated into the plans.*

Proponent Response (August 2, 2006):

- Acknowledgement of the required environmental assessment prompted us to contact Mr. Pat McGarry of the CEAA to make certain that he requires no additional information to assist in the process. At his request, comment is required on the cumulative effects of the project, specifically, any overlap with past, present, or future environmental projects.
- As the Russell Lagoon expansion and remediation of the existing secondary cells is expected to have a net positive environmental effect due to an extended storage period, seepage mitigation and no significant wildlife habitat loss, cumulative effects resulting from the overlap with other environmental projects is expected to be a non-issue.
- Local contacts were consulted to suggest possible overlapping projects. No projects in the Russell area were identified in the consultation.
  - DFO:
    - The additional measures proposed (1-7) have been reviewed and will be implemented into the construction specifications as issued for tender, upon receiving the Environment Licence.

Disposition:

After receiving the additional information from the proponent, no further comments were received from CEAA. This was assumed to indicate that the original comments were satisfied.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

A public hearing is not recommended.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Proponent should be issued a Licence for the remediation, expansion and operation of the wastewater treatment lagoon in accordance with the specifications, terms and conditions of the attached draft Licence. Enforcement of the Licence should be assigned

to the Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch until the liner testing has been completed and the Development is commissioned.

**PREPARED BY:**

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