

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Transportation and Government Services
PROPOSAL NAME: PTH 17 (from PR 416 to 1.6 west of PTH 7)
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4729.00

OVERVIEW:

The Environment Act Proposal was dated January 3, 2002 and received on January 7, 2002. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Manitoba Department of Transportation and Government Services to upgrade to current design standards a 22.2 km section of PTH 17 extending from PR 416 in the R.M. of Armstrong to 1.6 km west of PTH 7 in the R.M. of Rockwood. The proposed upgrade consists of realigning PTH 17 at eighteen existing horizontal curves, widening the existing grade and improving the subgrade to accommodate two 3.7 m wide paved surface travel lanes with 2.5 m wide shoulders. Land acquisition will be required for additional ROW (10.2 m on either side of the existing ROW) to accommodate the curve realignments and grade widening. The additional ROW requirements will require a change to the present Norris Lake Provincial Park boundaries. Where appropriate, existing ROW will be closed, leveled and revested to adjacent landowners. Roadway drainage improvements will be made in conjunction with grade widening and curve realignments. Overall drainage patterns in the area will be maintained. The Department of Transportation and Government Services will proceed with finalizing roadway design details and land acquisition once all government agencies requirements have been met.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Stonewall Argus & Teulon Times on Monday, January 21, 2002. Copies of the Proposal were placed in the Main Registry, the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Centennial Public Library, the Selkirk and St. Andrews Regional Library and RM of Rockwood and RM of Armstrong Offices. It was also distributed to the “Transportation” Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for comment. All comments were requested by February 18, 2002.

PUBLIC RESPONSE

No public response was received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Conservation (Sustainable Resource Management Branch) - Recommend that a minimum amount of land needed for the highway should be taken along the northern boundary of the Norris Lake Provincial Park to minimize conflicts with park use and activities. Note that this is particularly critical along the northern third of the park where existing infrastructure comes closest to the highway. Request that adequate buffering be maintained, an access road provided, and the continued use and access to the park accommodated during construction. Require that Transportation bear all costs associated

with surveying, amending, revising or drawing up a new Director Surveys Plan for parkland withdrawn for the right-of-way. Recommend that design details and construction aspects be addressed by the proponent with Regional and District staff of the Parks and Natural Areas Branch.

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Disposition:

Representatives from Transportation, Parks and Environmental Approvals Branch met on April 11, 2002, to discuss the comments and recommendations provided by the Policy Coordination Branch with regard to the proposed acquisition of right-of-way adjacent to Norris Lake Provincial Park. As a result of the meeting it was concluded that Parks Branch does not have outstanding concerns. It was concluded at the meeting that the comments and recommendations provided by the Sustainable Resource Management Branch (SRMB) can be accommodated by Transportation. On April 22, 2002, Transportation received a written confirmation from SRMB that the public consultation requirements regarding the proposed boundary changes to the Norris Lake Provincial Park have been satisfied by the Environment Act public advertisement of the Proposal.

Intergovernmental Affairs (Community Planning Services Branch) - Advised that their office does not have any land use planning concerns with regard to the proposal.

Agriculture - Note that from an agricultural perspective, the most significant impact may be on farmsteads due to the relocation and widening of the right-of-way. No concerns provided the procedures identified in the Proposal to avoid, minimize and mitigate such impacts are followed.

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

Mines Branch - No concerns.

Petroleum Branch - No comments or concerns.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency - Based on the responses submitted on the Proposal from federal reviewing departments, application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act will not be required.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

The TAC comments can be accommodated as conditions of licencing for the project. It is recommended that the Development be licenced under The Environment Act subject to the limits terms and conditions as described in the attached Draft Environment Act Licence.

It is further recommended that enforcement of the Licence be assigned to the Manitoba Conservation Interlake Region.

PREPARED BY:

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