

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: MR. WAYNE EDIE
PROPOSAL NAME: PRAIRIE GOLD BIODIESEL
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 1
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: MANUFACTURING -
INDUSTRIAL PLANT-BIODIESEL
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5148.00

OVERVIEW:

On November 22, 2005, Manitoba Conservation received a Proposal dated October 30, 2005, for the operation and construction of a manufacturing plant to produce biodiesel fuel and distribution facilities to be located on the SW & SE¼'s 1-11-4 EPM in the Rural Municipality of Springfield. The proponent intends to construct/install a building to encompass an approximate 114 million litre biodiesel production facility. In addition they plan to install a storage tank farm consisting of 3 or 4 steel tanks with a 2 million litre storage capacity. The hours of operation are intended to be continual (24/7).

No public concerns were received in response to the advertisement of this proposal in the Beausejour Clipper published on Monday December 5, 2005. The proposal was placed in the Public Registries at the Winnipeg Public Library, the Manitoba Eco-Network, the R.M. of Springfield (as Registry) and the Environment Library (Main). The proposal was distributed to TAC on November 29, 2005, with the closing date for TAC and Public comments on January 5, 2006.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public responses were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Historic Resources Branch has no concern with regard to its potential impact on heritage resources.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency state that based on their staff survey, application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* with respect to this proposal is not required. Health Canada has concerns that a comprehensive emergency response plan be developed. Other concerns include measures to mitigate hazardous working conditions for employees. They request further information on process description and emissions and an assessment of nearby receptor residents including daytime and nighttime plant and traffic noise. They recommend public consultation to identify and address potential concerns. Environment Canada states that the information provided is not adequate to enable Environment Assessment Review. They also have concerns regarding permanent onsite storage of chemicals.

Disposition:

The comments/concerns have been provided to the proponent for response. The proponent's responses to the comments were in turn referred back to the concerned Agency members. The concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

Sustainable Resource Management Branch has reviewed this proposal and state that a map showing the land uses in the surrounding 10 km indicating off-site receptors should be provided. In addition they request further information regarding raw materials to be processed and methods of transport, quantities of biodiesel and glycerol to be produced, methods to reduce air emissions during chemical transfer and production, transportation traffic, potential odour emissions, identification of process boilers or heaters and their source of fuel, road surfaces and fugitive dust emission from vehicular traffic, and information about plant design. They further state that storage tanks should be approved ULC aboveground with proper piping installation within a secondary containment system. The proposal should be submitted to the fire commissioner's office for comment.

Disposition:

The comments/concerns have been provided to the proponent for response. The proponent's responses to the comments were in turn referred back to Sustainable Resource Management. Sustainable Resource Management recommends that the proponent be required to provide missing processing information when available and identify which company will be designing and constructing the facility. The concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

Transportation & Government Services state that a permit will be required under the Highways & Transportation Act for access adjacent to PR 207 and that access be a minimum 200 metres from the railroad or other crossings of PR 207. They request the proponent provide a preliminary traffic generation study (types & volumes). In addition they state that a Traffic Impact Study may subsequently be required to determine the need for on-highway improvements to accommodate the type and volume of traffic. They also request plans for property drainage to avoid impacts on the highway drainage system.

Disposition:

The proponent was provided with the information for further information and response. The proponent's responses to the comments were in turn referred back to Highways. The concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

Ecological Services-Water Stewardship state that the tank farm should be protected by an impermeable base and berm and equipped with a sump to remove rain and snow melt. They have concerns about potential spills or flood waters entering into the Cooks Creek diversion channel and that the site underlying fractured carbonate bedrock is the primary aquifer for the local area. They request a description of the proposed practices to prevent or mitigate potential chemical spills. Any water use should be done in compliance with The Water Rights Act and The Groundwater and Water Well Act. They also request a description of the monitoring methods to be used to determine water quality impacts during plant operation.

Disposition:

The comments/concerns have been provided to the proponent for response. The proponent's responses to the comments were in turn referred back to Water Stewardship. The concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade state the area is currently designated "Recreation" in the RM of Springfield Development Plan. The plan will require an amendment to accommodate this proposal. The subject area is currently zoned "A-Rural District" in the RM of Springfield Zoning By-law, so an amendment to zoning will also be required. The RM has a new draft Zoning By-law which zones the area as "AG-Agriculture General Zoning District".

Energy, Science & Technology state the proponent should indicate the plant size and the volumes of feedstock required, process chemicals utilized, and the finished products produced as these volumes will impact the traffic levels for the proposed facility.

Disposition:

The comments/concerns have been provided to the proponent for response. The proponent's responses to the comments were in turn referred back to Energy, Science and Technology. The concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives state they have reviewed the proposal and identify the soils in the area consist of imperfectly drained Red River and Osborne clay soils which are class 2 & 3 for agriculture and prime agricultural lands. They have no concerns with this propose biodiesel manufacturing plant from an agricultural perspective.

PUBLIC HEARING:

No public hearing will be conducted.

RECOMMENDATION:

TAC concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

The responsibility for enforcement of the Licence should remain with Environmental Assessment & Licensing Branch until the proponent complies with Clauses 5, 7, 16, 17, 18, and 20.

A draft Environment Act Licence is attached for the Director's consideration.

PREPARED BY:

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February 3, 2006

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