

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation
PROPOSAL NAME: PR 201 Bridge Replacement over the Red River
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5287.00

OVERVIEW:

The Environment Act Proposal was dated August 3, 2007 and received on August 10, 2007. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Department of Infrastructure and Transportation to replace the existing PR 201 Bridge over the Red River, near Letellier. The replacement bridge will be located adjacent to the existing bridge to the south. On the east side of the Red River in the R.M. of Franklin the bridge approach will remain within the existing right-of-way. On the west side in the R.M. of Montcalm a realignment of the approach will require additional right-of-way. The bridge will provide for two lanes of traffic, with a pedestrian sidewalk on the north side to accommodate pedestrian movement between Roseau River Anishinabe Indian Reserve and Letellier. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2008 and is targeted for completion in 2010. Upon completion of the new bridge the existing will be removed including piers and abutments.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Emerson Southeast Journal on August 25, 2007. Copies of the Proposal were placed in the Main Registry, the Manitoba Eco-Network, and in the R.M.'s of Montcalm and Franklin offices. It was also distributed to the “Transportation” Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for comment. All comments were requested by September 25, 2007.

PUBLIC RESPONSE

No public response was received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Conservation (Sustainable Resource & Policy Management Branch)

For the safe storage of all hazardous materials, including fuel storage sites, it is recommended that secondary containment be used that is satisfactory to the Environment Officer and pursuant to Manitoba Regulation 188/21 Storage and Handling of Petroleum and Allied Products Regulation.

Disposition: Comments can be accommodated as conditions of licensing.

Intergovernmental Affairs Community Planning Services Branch advised that their office does not have any concerns with regard to the proposal.

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

Mines Branch No concerns.

Manitoba Water Stewardship (Ecological Services Division)

- Construction dewatering will require an authorization under the Water Rights Act.
- There has been no assessment regarding mussels located in the vicinity of the existing and proposed bridge crossing. It is expected that if there are any mussel beds within the construction area, particularly where there will be temporary infilling, infilling of the river bank and the areas of the proposed pier structures, these mussels will be transferred either upstream or downstream to a similar habitat. A Live Fish Handling Permit (LFHP) is required for this and can be obtained from Water Stewardship Fisheries Branch.
- Similarly regarding the use of cofferdams during the construction, fish trapped within the cofferdam must be trapped and transferred either upstream or downstream of the project area. A LFHP is required for this as well but can be part of the permit required to transfer mussels.
- Due to the fishery value of this river and the type of construction work involved, to ensure that project works are not initiated prior to federal review, a clause in the licence should indicate the need to adhere to DFO review and recommendations. There was also limited information on the demolition of the existing bridge and if included under this license would also want DFO review of this component as well. As long as DFO is involved in reviewing this proposal and manage fish habitat to meet the intent of their no net loss policy, our provincial fisheries management interests should be met.
- The water intake for the Red River Regional Water Treatment Plant is located relatively close to the proposed site and is downstream of the site on the Red River.
- The water treatment system will likely be susceptible to physical disturbances of the river water quality that may occur due to construction activities; e.g. increase in turbidity, and will be at risk of chemical contamination that may occur due to accidental spills or run-off; e.g. petroleum products, paints.
- The proponent should identify the exact location of the water intake and apply mitigation measures to ensure that water quality near the intake is not adversely affected.
- The proponent should also provide an emergency response plan to deal with the possibility of spills or run-off that may affect the operation of the water treatment plant and its ability to provide a safe water supply. This plan should be developed in co-operation with the municipal and operational authorities for the plant.

Disposition: Comments can be accommodated as conditions of licensing. DFO has indicated that they will provide a letter of advice with respect to the project.

Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) (Land Use Planning and Policy Knowledge Centre) There are no objections however as indicated in earlier correspondence, it should be ensured that mitigative measures are undertaken to revert lands to their original state. However I assume that is consistent with ongoing protocol in such projects.

Disposition: Comments can be accommodated as conditions of licensing.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) Transport Canada has determined that an EA pursuant to CEAA is required. DFO will provide a letter of advice with respect to their interests at some point in the future yet to be determined. Federal responses have been forwarded to the proponent for consideration and follow-up as appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION:

A public hearing is not recommended. The TAC comments can be accommodated as conditions of licensing for the project as noted above. 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 the Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch maintain enforcement responsibility of the licence during construction.

PREPARED BY:

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