

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Urbanmine Inc.
PROPOSAL NAME: Waste Acid Batteries Transfer Facility
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: N/A
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Hazardous Waste – DGH&T Act
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5363.00

OVERVIEW:

On September 8, 2008, the Department received an Application from Urbanmine Inc. for the development and operation of a waste lead acid battery transfer facility to be located at 72 Rothwell Road in the City of Winnipeg.

On September 16, 2008 the Department placed copies of the Application in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station), the Millennium Public Library, Winnipeg and the Manitoba Eco-Network. As well, copies of the Application were provided to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members. The Department placed a public notification of the Application in the Winnipeg Free Press on September 20, 2008. The newspaper and TAC notification invited responses until October 20, 2008.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No comments or concerns were received from the public

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Historic Resources

No concerns.

Disposition

No action required

Infrastructure and Transportation

No concerns.

Disposition

No action required

Conservation, Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch

Had the following comments:

There is no information on the loading pad. If it is outside the building, there should be a paved loading pad with a concrete curb around it to prevent any soil contamination when loading or unloading batteries in case of an accident. The loading pad should also have an appropriately sized sump to catch contaminated runoff, either from washing it down or from precipitation.

Although the proponent has an emergency spill plan in place, a concrete curb should be in place so that if there is an unnoticed spill, it does not reach the drain.

Water used to flush a spill area should be disposed of appropriately because it may contain toxic substances.

Response from the Proponent

These comments were forwarded to the Proponent and the response was as follows:-

Batteries will be stored indoors in a building with dock level loading. The trailers are spotted on a 45' deep concrete pad. Therefore the batteries would never be in contact with the bare ground.

Batteries are stored indoors on a concrete surface. There are no drains in the warehouse area.

If a spill were to occur, the cleanup is washed and covered with a neutralizing agent (caustic soda). The wet material is containerized and shipped to the smelter with the battery loads.

Disposition

No action required. The licence has clauses that refer to battery storage and to spills.

Conservation, Parks and Natural Areas Branch

No comments

Conservation, Sustainable Resource & Policy Management Branch

No concerns

Disposition

No action required

Water Stewardship, Planning and Coordination Branch

Had the following comments

The Water Rights Act indicates that no person shall control water or construct, establish or maintain any "water control works" unless he or she holds a valid licence to do so. "Water control works" are defined as any dyke, dam, surface or subsurface drain, drainage, improved natural waterway, canal, tunnel, bridge, culvert borehole or contrivance for carrying or conducting water, that temporarily or permanently alters or may alter the flow or level of water, including but not limited to water in a water body, by any means, including drainage, OR changes or may change the location or direction

of flow of water, including but not limited to water in a water body, by any means, including drainage. If the proposal in question advocates any of these activities, application for a Water Rights Licence to Construct Water Control Works is required.

The proponent needs to be informed that if the proposal in question advocates any construction activities, erosion and sediment control measures should be implemented until all of the sites have stabilized.

It is recommended that the project be required to construct some form of containment for spills.

It is recommended that a *Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act* Licence require the proponent to develop and implement an Emergency Response Plan.

The Department requests information pertaining to the handling and disposal of “waste” and “waste” clean up water.

Response from the Proponent

These comments were forwarded to the Applicant and the response was as follows:-

There are no water control works involved in this operation.

There are no construction activities involved in the project.

All batteries are stored inside a concrete block building.

Urbanmine has an existing Emergency Response Plan. This plan will be re-written to fit the new building.

There will be no waste associated with the operation. Any spills and cleanup will be containerized and sent to the smelter with the batteries.

Disposition

The licence will contain clauses requiring the licensee to provide an emergency response plan and to contain spills.

Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives, Land Use Planning Branch

No concerns

Disposition

No action required

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

The application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this proposal will not be required.

Disposition

No action required

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Applicant should be issued a Licence, in accordance with the attached draft, to operate the Waste Batteries transfer facility. Enforcement of the Licence should be assigned to the Central Region.

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