

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Lake Nutimik Baptist Camp
PROPOSAL NAME: Wastewater Treatment Facility
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Sewage Treatment Plant (now altered)
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5112.00

OVERVIEW:

On June 6, 2005 the Department received an Environment Act Proposal (EAP) on behalf of the Lake Nutimik Baptist Camp for the construction and operation of a sewage treatment plant (STP) and an engineered sand treatment mound to serve the camp. The proposed facility would be located at the Lake Nutimik Baptist Camp, on Parcel A, SE 12-14-13EPM in the Whiteshell Provincial Park in the Province of Manitoba. Treated wastewater from the STP would be discharged to the sand treatment mound that would discharge into the sandy soil. The location of the proposed sand treatment mound is reported as being on top of an old septic field that is separated from Lake Nutimik by approximately 300 metres of a naturally forested, vegetated area.

The Department, on June 20, 2005, placed copies of the EAP report in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station); the St. James Assiniboia Public Library; the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Brokenhead River Regional Library, and the office of the L.G.D. of Pinawa and provided copies of the EAP report to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, the Interdepartmental Planning Board, and TAC members. As well, the Department placed public notifications of the EAP in the Lac du Bonnet Leader on Friday, June 24, 2005, the Winnipeg Free Press on Saturday, June 25, 2005 and the Beausejour Clipper on Monday, June 27, 2005. The newspapers and TAC notifications invited responses until July 25, 2005.

On June 23, 2005 a request for pre-authorization to construct the sewage treatment plant was submitted to Manitoba Conservation. In a June 28, 2005 response letter, Manitoba Conservation indicated that such activity is not a preliminary step and therefore could not be approved.

On July 15, 2005 the proponent's consultant, DGH Engineering Ltd. (the consultant), submitted additional information relating to the EAP. Manitoba Conservation distributed the newly acquired correspondence to the associated Public Registries that same day.

On July 29, 2005, comments and requests for additional information resulting from the initial review period of the EAP were forwarded to the proponent for response. On July 29, 2005 Manitoba Conservation distributed newly acquired and developed correspondences to the associated Public Registries.

In letters dated September 15, 2005, the consultant responded directly to the members of the public that had submitted comments and requests for additional

information. On September 21, 2005 the consultant forwarded copies of the September 15, 2005 letters to Manitoba Conservation. On October 5, 6, and 11, 2005, Manitoba Conservation distributed the September 15, 2005 letters to the Public Registries and appropriate TAC and public participants respectively. A three week response period was specified.

On October 13, 2005, Manitoba Conservation distributed the most recent correspondence to the appropriate Public Registries.

On November 22, 2005, comments and requests for additional information resulting from the second review period of the EAP were forwarded to the proponent for response. On November 30, 2005 Manitoba Conservation distributed newly acquired correspondences to the associated Public Registries.

In an April 21, 2006 letter to Manitoba Conservation, the consultant responded to the comments and requests for additional information. On April 26, 2006 Manitoba Conservation distributed the April 21, 2006 letters to the Public Registries and appropriate TAC and public participants respectively. A three week response period was specified.

On May 12, 2006 the participating TAC responded, providing recommendations regarding specific requirements of an Environment Act Licence regarding this EAP should one be generated. In letters dated May 8, 2006 and May 16, 2006 comments were delivered by the public participants of the review, one being an individual address, the other from the Whiteshell Cottagers Association Inc. representing a larger group. The Whiteshell Cottagers Association Inc. requested that a hearing be arranged to allow all interested parties an opportunity to raise their concerns.

In a June 15, 2006 Director's letter the participating public was told that a decision was made to not to recommend to the Minister that a Clean Environment Commission hearing be held. In the same letter it was indicated that a facilitated public meeting on the proposal was required to be held.

In a June 16, 2006 Director's letter the proponent was told that a decision was made to not to recommend to the Minister that a Clean Environment Commission hearing be requested. In the same letter it was indicated that a facilitated public meeting on the proposal was required to be held. Requirements for the meeting were supplied in the letter.

Two July 12, 2006 letters to the Minister appealed the decision to not require a Clean Environment Commission hearing on the EAP. These appeals were dismissed by the Minister and the Director's decision to require that a facilitated public meeting be organized was upheld.

The proponent was reminded of the need to organize and carry out a facilitated public meeting on this proposal in a September 14, 2006 letter from the Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch. It is believed that some form of public meeting was

held shortly after that time. However, representatives of the Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch were not requested to attend.

In a July 27, 2007 letter, the proponent submitted a proposed modification to the original proposal. The proposed modification involved the installation of holding tanks in lieu of the originally proposed wastewater treatment facility. However, the material submitted did not contain adequate detail regarding the design, operation and any associated service agreements that would be required to make it viable. The proponent was requested to provide complete information for consideration if the review was to continue.

In a June 4, 2010 letter, the proponent submitted a Notice of Alteration to the original proposal. The Notice of Alteration included general information regarding the proposed holding tanks and a copy of a letter from Manitoba Conservation – Parks and Natural Areas Branch indicating a long term commitment to allow the camp to haul their wastewater to provincially operated wastewater treatment lagoons in the area.

In an October 27, 2010 letter, the proponent was advised that the change would be considered as a minor alteration to the proposal as treatment and disposal of wastewater would occur at offsite licensed treatment facilities. It was also indicated that additional design information for the entire proposed wastewater holding tank system would be required for inclusion with the EAP review. In separate October 27, 2010 letters the participating public was informed of the Notice of Alteration and provided an opportunity to submit any additional comments or concerns for inclusion with the review. These letters stated to the participating public that after receipt of any comments a decision on the need for a facilitated public meeting would be made and that they would be informed of Manitoba Conservation's licensing decision upon completion of the review. No comments regarding the Notice of Alteration were submitted by the public.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public on the Notice of Alteration.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The concerns of the Technical Advisory Committee related to the original proposal.

COMMENTS FROM THE FEDERAL REPRESENTATION:

The initial review of the proposal application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (the Act)* will not be required for this project.

PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING:

The Whiteshell Cottagers Association, potentially representing a significant number of members of the public, requested that a public hearing be held on the original proposal. All participating public for which current addresses were available were notified of the June 4, 2010 Notice of Alteration. There were no supplementary requests for a public hearing or a public meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Issue an Environment Act Licence in accordance with the attached draft. Enforcement of the components of the Licence that relate to installation of the holding tank system should be assigned to the Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch until satisfactory installation has been completed.

PREPARED BY:

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