

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: CWP Limited Partnership
PROPOSAL NAME: Cartier Regional Water System - Distribution
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Two
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation/Transmission - Pipelines
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4351.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on July 6, 1998. It was dated June 26, 1998. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by Cochrane Engineering Ltd. on behalf of CWP Limited Partnership to construct main water supply pipelines connecting communities in the rural municipalities of Portage la Prairie, Cartier, St. Francois Xavier and Headingley. The proposed system includes three community treated water reservoirs and distribution pumping stations. It would connect with existing water distribution systems in some communities, and would supply water for future systems in other locations, as well as for rural residents. Water would be supplied to portions of the R. M. of Portage la Prairie from the City of Portage la Prairie Water Treatment Plant. Water would be supplied to Oakville in the R. M. of Portage la Prairie and to all areas to be serviced in the other three municipalities from the water treatment plant which is under construction near St. Eustache in the R. M. of Cartier. Proposed pipeline sizes range from 100 mm to 300 mm, and all pipeline would be installed in road and highway rights-of-way. Construction is proposed to begin in the summer of 1998, with completion by the late spring of 1999.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Winnipeg Free Press on Saturday, July 18, 1998, in the Portage Daily on Saturday, July 18, 1998, in the Portage Herald on Tuesday, July 21, 1998 and in the Headingley Headliner on Monday, July 27, 1998. It was placed in the Main, Centennial, Eco-Network and Portage Plains Regional Library public registries. The Proposal was distributed to TAC members on July 14, 1998. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was August 14, 1998.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

The Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba The July 1, 1998 proclamation of the Sustainable Development Act puts more onus on all government agencies to specifically consider the sustainability of the projects they handle. In the document “Applying Manitoba’s Water Policies”, Policy 4.1 requires that demand management options be explored and appropriate options implemented before providing financial assistance to

construct or improve water supply and waste water handling infrastructure. Evidence should be provided that this requirement has been met.

One objective of the General Development policy under the Provincial Land Use Policies Regulation (184/94) is to encourage the strengthening and growth of Manitoba's existing urban centres. A 1995 Rural Development Institute study found that the Macdonald

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regional pipeline encouraged Winnipeggers to move to the R.M. of Macdonald. The study recommended that improved water service provision should be subject to much more integrated and comprehensive planning. Because the proposed Cartier regional water system is being placed in rural municipalities which abut Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie, an assessment of how the water utility will encourage urban sprawl and thereby weaken existing urban centres is needed.

Disposition:

These considerations relate primarily to project planning. A discussion of the concerns was requested from the Proponent's consultants. The response is attached.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Environment – Water Quality Management Detailed plans for all components of the previously licensed Cartier project were to be submitted for approval prior to construction. This has not been done. The current proposal indicates that one crossing of the Assiniboine River will be accomplished by directional boring and that there are no other significant stream crossings. However, there is at least one other crossing of significance on the La Salle River. Directional boring should be used at this location and at any other stream crossing unless otherwise otherwise authorized in writing by the Director. Other conditions stipulated in the licence for the previous R. M. of Cartier project should be applied with respect to this regional proposal. Post construction activities should include such items as the replacement of topsoil and reseeded of trenched and other exposed areas.

Disposition:

Plans for the previous Cartier project are currently being prepared following the recent finalization of routing for the project. (The La Salle River crossing is part of the previous Cartier project.) The remaining comments can be addressed as licence conditions.

Historic Resources Conditions used in the licence for the previous R. M. of Cartier project would also apply to the present project. (This involved one week of notification to Historic Resources prior to construction to allow for construction monitoring.) Although no heritage resources have been recorded in the proposed pipeline routes, there is the potential for such resources to be present. Branch staff will conduct a

field reconnaissance of the entire water distribution route to determine the potential for intact heritage objects to be present in the road right-of-way. Similarly, Branch staff will examine the proposed Assiniboine River crossing just west of St. Francois Xavier. The use of directional boring to install the pipeline greatly reduces Branch concerns. More detailed locational information for the crossing is required prior to field reconnaissance. The Branch has no concerns with the water distribution pipeline in the R.M. of Portage la Prairie. The reconnaissance will be completed as soon as possible to ensure no project delays. A copy of the findings will be provided as soon as the field examination is completed.

Disposition:

This comment can be addressed as a licence condition which requires the heritage objects field reconnaissance prior to construction.

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Mines Branch

No concerns.

Highway Planning and Design Waterline agreements will be required for placing the waterline adjacent to, on, or across all provincial rights-of-way. The proponent is expected to meet or exceed certain standards when working adjacent to a provincial road or highway. For example, highway traffic control standards, waterline crossings must be sleeved, and rights-of-way must be returned to an acceptable condition, including the restoration of drainage and reseeded of all affected areas. The Departmental contact in this regard is the A/Technical Services Engineer in Region 2.

Disposition:

These comments have been brought to the attention of the proponent's consultant, and can be addressed in a licence condition requiring the completion of the formal agreement between the Proponent and MHT prior to construction.

Community Economic Development

No concerns.

Medical Officer of Health – Central Region
reliable supply of potable water to rural areas.

In support of proposals that provide a

Natural Resources The Proposal indicates that the crossing of the Assiniboine River will be completed by directional boring or drilling under the riverbed. This may not be possible as the Assiniboine River has many rocky areas. If open trenching is required the DNR regional fisheries manager and Fisheries Branch staff should be contacted immediately to review the method of open trenching. Bare ground should be kept to a minimum and reseeded should be done with appropriate native species or their cultivars. This seeding should be compatible with local flora and habitats.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed as licence conditions.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency PFRA will conduct an environmental assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, and are requesting additional information. Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans have offered to provide specialist advice.

Fisheries and Oceans Although the project description identifies only one “significant” watercourse crossing (the Assiniboine River at St. Francois Xavier), it would appear that the pipeline will also cross the La Salle River and possibly a few of its tributaries in the vicinity of Elie. The La Salle River is known to support fish and fish habitat. However, the project is not likely to result in significant adverse effects to fish and fish habitat after taking into account the implementation of the following mitigation measures. The proponent should notify DFO and DNR-Fisheries Branch at least five days before the directional drill crossing is initiated. Should a wet crossing be required at any fish bearing watercourse, detailed plans regarding the methodology, location, scheduling and erosion control methods should be submitted for review and approval by DFO and Manitoba Fisheries Branch prior to commencement of the crossing. Where site

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specific concerns regarding fish habitat in the vicinity of a wet crossing exist, or where detailed information about fish habitat at the crossing location is unknown, a detailed fisheries and fish habitat investigation to further evaluate the sensitivity of the crossing should be undertaken by the proponent. Authorization under Section 35(2) of the Fisheries Act could be required if dry crossings prove infeasible and wet crossings result in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed as licence conditions.

PUBLIC HEARING:

As no public requests for a hearing were received, a public hearing is not recommended.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The attached additional information addressing the public concerns regarding infrastructure development in the capital region was provided. The response notes that the conceptual planning of the project was done by others, and that others remain responsible for planning and policy issues relating to the provision of water services in rural Manitoba.

RECOMMENDATION:

All comments received on the Proposal have been addressed in the additional information, or can be addressed as licence conditions, or have been referred to the proponent's representatives for information. Therefore, it is recommended that the Development be licensed under The Environment Act subject to the limits, terms and conditions as described on the attached Draft Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended that enforcement of the Licence be assigned to the Winnipeg Region (respecting portions of the project in the Rural Municipalities of Cartier, St. Francois Xavier and Headingley) and the South-Central Region (respecting portions of the project in the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie.)

PREPARED BY:

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