SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: 4033515 Manitoba Association Inc.

(Thompson Regional Airport Authority)

PROPOSAL NAME: Thompson Airport Wastewater Treatment

Plant

CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Waste/Scrap Wastewater Treatment Lagoons

CLIENT FILE NO.: 5026.00

OVERVIEW:

On February 26, 2004, the Department received a Proposal from DGH Engineering Ltd. on behalf of the Thompson Regional Airport Authority for a Development to construct and operate a new wastewater treatment plant and to remediate an existing sand treatment mound to serve the Thompson Municipal Airport and adjacent buildings. The new facility will be located at the Thompson Municipal Airport, on SE 33-78-3WPM in the Local Government District of Mystery Lake. The treated wastewater will be discharged through an ejector system approximately 100 metres southeast of the facility, then into a natural wetland area, and then into a series of wetlands and creeks that empty into the Burntwood River.

The Department, on March 9, 2004 placed copies of the Proposal in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station), the St. James-Assiniboia Public Library, the Manitoba Eco-Network and the Thompson Public Library. Copies of the Proposal were provided to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members. The Department placed a public notification of the Proposal in the Thompson Citizen on Monday, March 15, 2004. The newspaper and TAC notification invited responses until April 14, 2004.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No responses were received from the public notification.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Agriculture and Food

No concerns.

Conservation - Sustainable Resource Management

• The maximum peak flow is almost 50% greater than the design capacity of the sand treatment mound. Use of this mound as a backup or additional treatment system should only be considered in emergencies and for short periods. In the event of a prolonged shutdown of the treatment plant, the proponent should make arrangements with the City of Thompson to resume hauling sewage to the community's sewage treatment plant.

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- There are questions as to whether the use of an ejector for the final discharge will be effective given the possibility of extended –30C temperatures. A better approach may be to spread the effluent over a larger area using a septic field or header system.
- The discharged effluent should meet the current Manitoba Water Quality Objectives and Guidelines and should not negatively impact the vegetation and water quality of the marsh.
- There is the possibility that, over time, the dead vegetation of the marsh will release nutrients into the water that could be transported to the Burntwood River. Consideration should be given to establishing a monitoring program at the inlet of the creek to the Burntwood River to ensure that the level of nutrients does not exceed the Water Quality Guidelines.

Disposition:

• Following a review of the additional information provided by the proponent, Sustainable Resource Management has no comments or concerns.

Culture, Heritage and Tourism - Historic Resources

• The Historic Resources Branch has concerns with regard to this project's potential to impact heritage resources.

Health

No concerns

Transportation and Government Services

- Thompson Airport is not managed by Manitoba Transportation and Government Services (Northern Airports and Marine Operations Branch), and the proposed sewage treatment plant and operation would appear unlikely to impact the Provincial highway system.
- The department has no concerns with this proposal.

Intergovernmental Affairs

- Community Planning Services, Thompson has no land use or development concerns with this proposal as presented.
- They would like to note that the L.G.D. of Mystery Lake is part of the Thompson Planning district and as such has both a Development Plan and Zoning By-law in place. The L.G.D. of Mystery Lake Zoning By-law NO. 541 zones the area of the Thompson Airport as "LD" Limited Development Zone. "Airports, as regulated by the Federal Government" are a permitted use in this zone as per Section 3.1.2 Permitted Uses.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

• Following a review by all federal departments with a potential interest in the proposed development, Transport Canada has identified that an environment assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act will be required.

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- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has determined that they have an interest in the project and would like to participate in the provincial review.
- DFO, Environment Canada, and Health Canada would be able to offer specialist information with respect to the project review.

Disposition:

• Following a review of additional information provided by the proponent, no response indicating additional concerns was received.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Proponent should be issued a Licence for the construction and operation of the Development in accordance with the specifications, terms and conditions of the attached draft Licence. Enforcement of the Licence should be assigned to the Approvals Branch until the facility is constructed and approved for use, at which time the Licence will be transferred to the Northeast Region.

PREPARED BY

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