

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Rural Municipality of Grey
PROPOSAL NAME: Village of St. Claude Aerated Wastewater Treatment Lagoon
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Waste Treatment and Storage
CLIENT FILE NO.: 241.50

As part of the [environmental assessment and licensing process](#), the purpose of this document is to summarize comments received from the public and government's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and how they are addressed. It includes a recommendation to inform the director's licensing decision.

INTRODUCTION

A proposal was filed by the Rural Municipality of Grey for removal and land application of biosolids from the L.U.D. of St. Claude aerated wastewater treatment lagoon located in NE 15-8-7 WPM that will precede work associated with a separately filed notice alteration regarding lagoon upgrades. Biosolids will be removed from the lagoon's two aerated cells and transported and injected at prescribed agronomic rates to agricultural lands located in SE 22-8-7 WPM and SW and SE 23-8-7 WPM. Subsequent lagoon upgrades include replacement of the aeration system and raising of the dykes of the existing storage cell. Lagoon discharges will continue to be to the Elm Creek via municipal and provincial drainage systems.

The proposal consisted of a revised proposal dated September 9, 2021 for the removal and land application of biosolids from the lagoon and an associated notice of alteration dated May 23, 2023 for upgrades to the lagoon.

The proposal was advertised in the Treherne Times on June 8, 2023. It was placed in the online Public Registry.

The proposal was distributed to Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members on June 7, 2023.

The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was June 22, 2023.

There have been ongoing discussions regarding design and operating specifics as well as matters pertaining to industrial use agreement(s) requirements.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The department did not receive any public comments on the proposal during the comment period.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) responses are listed in Table 1 below. Substantive comments and their dispositions follow the table. TAC comments are provided in full in the public registries at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/241.5/index.html>.

Table 1 R.M. of Grey – L.U.D. of St. Claude – Aerated Wastewater Treatment Lagoon Upgrade and Biosolids Land Application
Technical Advisory Committee Comments

No	Technical Advisory Committee Member	Response Provided
1	Environment and Climate Change	
	Environmental Approvals Branch	
	• Air Quality Management	No response
	• Land Use, Waste Management & Energy	June 12, 2023
	Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch	
	• Regional Office	June 23, 2023
	• Hazardous Waste Program	No response
	Office of Drinking Water	June 19, 2023
	Environmental Programs and Remediation Branch	No response
	Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch	June 12, 2023
	Water Science and Watershed Management Branch	
	• Water Quality Management Section	June 13, 2023
	• Water Science and Watershed Management	June 23, 2023
	• Groundwater Management Section	No response
	Climate Change and Clean Technology	June 19, 2023
	Parks Branch	June 22, 2023
2	Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources	
	Wildlife and Fisheries Branch (wildlife)	No response
	Wildlife and Fisheries Branch (fisheries)	No response
	Forestry and Peatlands Branch	June 29, 2023
	Lands and Planning	No response
	Crown Land Specialist	No response
	Mines Program	June 26, 2023
	Petroleum Program	June 12, 2023
	Lands Branch	No response
3	Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism - Historic Resources Branch	June 21, 2023
4	Municipal and Northern Relations	
	Community Planning Branch	No response
	Office of the Fire Commissioner	No response

No	Technical Advisory Committee Member	Response Provided
5	Labour and Immigration - Inspection and Technical Services	No response
6	Transportation and Infrastructure - Environmental Services	June 23, 2023
7	Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care – Winnipeg Regional Health Authority	June 15, 2023
8	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	No response

Water Quality Management

Sodium chloride – salinity characteristics in the wastewater, likely associated with the local industrial facility, and the related potential impact on surface water quality upon discharge from the aerated wastewater treatment lagoon

The following effluent standards should be in place for RM of GREY – L.U.D. of St. Claude wastewater treatment lagoon upgrade as per the *Manitoba Water Quality Standards, Objectives and Guidelines Regulation* (196/2011) for discharge events:

- BOD5 25 mg/L,
- TSS 25 mg/L,
- Total Phosphorus <1 mg/L,
- Fecal Coliforms or *Escherichia coli* 200 organisms / 100mL
- SAR 6.0

The Water Quality Management Section recommends maintaining 3 mg/L of dissolved oxygen at all times in the top 2.5m of the liquid in the aerated cells.

The Water Quality Management Section is concerned with any discharges that have the potential to impact the aquatic environment and/or restrict present and future uses of the water. Therefore, it is recommended that the licence require the proponent to actively participate in any future watershed-based management study, plan/or nutrient reduction program, approved by the Director.

Disposition:

These comments were shared with the proponent and additional information was requested to address these comments.

The draft licence contains a clause that requires that the sodium adsorption ratio of treated wastewater not exceed 6.0 upon discharge.

The draft licence contains a clause that requires that a dissolved oxygen concentration of a minimum of 3 mg/L in the top 2.5m of liquid in the aerated cells be maintained.

The draft licence contains a clause that requires, within twelve months of the date of the licence, that the licensee establish an industrial use agreement with any wet industries that are or will be directing wastewater to this lagoon and do not currently have such an agreement established.

Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch

Request for information regarding operation of the lagoon cells in consideration of an intercell connection that has a fixed elevation.

Disposition:

The original comments were shared with the proponent's consultant during the initial review as well as subsequently. Several related design adjustments have been made and the consultant expects the facility to operate effectively while meeting licence limits.

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure, Environmental Services Branch

Expressed concern relating to potential redirection and accumulation of surface water flow to drainage routes associated with their related infrastructure as well as potential placing of any temporary placing of any piping in or across their jurisdictions.

Disposition:

The proponent's consultant identified that the matter pertains to storm and site water accumulation. Surficial drainage flows will be re-directed to other parts of the lagoon site areas owned by the municipality rather than to ditches while silt fencing and erosion protection will be installed in areas where it could impact local ditches.

Approval for a temporary crossing will be requested by the licensee as necessary.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There were ongoing requests for additional information and clarification regarding engineering aspects of the lagoon design and operation. The responses submitted to the environmental approvals branch on July 15, 2025 provided information satisfactory to arrive at a recommendation to proceed to licensing the development.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

CROWN-INDIGENOUS CONSULTATION

The Government of Manitoba recognizes that it has a duty to consult in a meaningful way with Indigenous communities when any proposed provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of the Indigenous rights of that community.

As this proposal review was initiated prior to 2023, an Initial Assessment has not been conducted for this project. The project would occur on privately owned lands that are currently disturbed and used for agricultural crop production.

RECOMMENDATION

Comments received have been addressed through the provision of information and licence conditions. It is recommended that the development be licensed under The Environment Act subject to the specifications, limits, terms, and conditions as described on the attached draft Environment Act Licence. I also recommend assigning the administration of the licence to the both the Environmental Approvals and Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branches until such time as all proposed upgrades to the aerated wastewater treatment lagoon are completed to the satisfaction of both branches.

Prepared by:

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July 18, 2025

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