

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Rural Municipality of Gimli
PROPOSAL NAME: Biosolids Storage and Land Application
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Biosolids Application
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4522.10

OVERVIEW

Environmental Approvals Branch (EAB) received an Environment Act proposal, on June 13, 2018, for construction of a three-cell biosolids storage pond on portions of land located at SW 10-21-03 EPM, in the Rural Municipality of Gimli (Gimli). The biosolids are generated from Gimli's wastewater treatment plant located on the west half of 18-19-04 EPM. Gimli will apply the biosolids to agricultural lands it owns in accordance with application rates targeting optimum available nitrogen and phosphorous levels for grain or oil seed crops, and set metal loading limits for each agricultural field in the application program.

On October 17, 2018, EAB placed the proposal online at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/4522.1gimli/index.html>, for public review. Environmental Approvals Branch forwarded the proposal to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members for review and comment. On October 25, 2018, EAB placed a notice of the proposal in the Express Weekly News and Interlake Spectator newspapers. The newspapers and TAC notifications invited responses until November 26, 2018.

The project consultant provided additional information on October 23, 2019. On December 16, 2019, EAB issued approval to construct the biosolids storage ponds and test the storage liner. The approval included a condition to submit information regarding land application of the biosolids. The consultant provided the requested information on June 19, 2020. The constructed clay core liner in the berms of the storage did not meet the required hydraulic conductivity. The in-situ material forming the liner in the lower portions of the berms and bottom of the storage met the required hydraulic conductivity. On March 25, 2021, the consultant provided a notice of alteration regarding operations of the storage. The alteration is to reduce the biosolids stockpile height from one metre to 0.69 metre and increase the freeboard from one metre to 1.31 metre. Clause 29 of the draft licence reflects this alteration.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No member of the public provided comments during the public comment period.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

No.	Technical Advisory Committee Member	Response Provided	Date Received
1	Manitoba Sustainable Development (Now — Environment , Climate and Parks)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance and Enforcement Branch • Climate Change and Air Quality Branch • Wildlife and Fisheries Branch • Parks and Protected Spaces Branch • Forestry and Peatlands Branch • Indigenous Relations Branch • Lands Branch • Groundwater Management Section • Water Quality Management Section • Office of Drinking Water • Drainage and Water Rights Licensing • Regional Services Branch • Water Power Act Licensing Section • Petroleum Branch • Mines Branch 	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No concerns</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No concerns</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No concerns</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p>November 19, 2018</p> <p>November 19, 2018</p> <p>December 3, 2018</p> <p>November 14, 2018</p> <p>November 13, 2018</p>
2	Manitoba Sport, Culture, and Heritage		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Resources Branch 	No	
3	Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade (Now — Economic Development, Investment and Trade)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Fire Commissioner 	No	
4	Manitoba Infrastructure (Now — Transportation and Infrastructure)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway Planning and Design Branch 	No concerns	December 12, 2018
5	Manitoba Municipal Relations		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and Regional Planning 	No concerns	December 14, 2018
6	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (Now — Health)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Health Unit 	No	

A copy of the responses and the additional information provided are available at the following link: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/4522.1gimli/index.html>

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Conservation and Climate – Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch

1. The NE side of the “Development Area” looks to be adjacent the closed waste disposal ground (p.3 of EAP). I don’t know exactly where the edge of the closed cell is, but this is overlapping on the one side of butting up next to it.
2. What is the leachate ditching system going to be compacted to (or constructed with), if there’s not enough clay to line the bottom of the ponds?
3. The plan is to build 4 ponds and the bottoms of the ponds will be dense till, while the walls will be clay. Why don’t they line the ponds with geosynthetic liner?
4. The plan is to truck haul the biosolids after they have been dewatered by 19%. What does 19% mean? If this is still quite wet, will the truck/trailer have a liner to prevent leakage and spillage during transport?
5. They want to collect leachate form the ponds into a holding tank. But no details have been provided on the tank, or the type of hauler. It is going to be hauled back to the WWTF.
6. A perimeter ditch should be constructed to keep surface water out of the leachate collection system.

Disposition: The project consultant addressed the above comments in the October 23, 2019, additional information. Environmental Approvals Branch emailed the comments to the proponent and consultant for information.

Manitoba Conservation and Climate – Forestry and Peatlands Branch

Trees identified as Elm, that are cleared due to the construction biosolids storage facility, must be disposed of properly to reduce the spread of insect and disease. Proponent to be aware of the Forest Health Protection Act and its regulations.

Disposition: Environmental Approvals Branch emailed the above comment to the proponent and project consultant for information.

PUBLIC HEARING:

No one requested a public hearing. Environmental Approvals does not recommend holding a public hearing.

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.

The proposal is for construction of a three-cell biosolids storage pond on portions of land owned by the Rural Municipality of Gimli, located at SW 10-21-03 EPM the Rural Municipality. The biosolids are generated from Gimli's wastewater treatment plant located on the west half of 18-19-04 EPM. Gimli will apply the biosolids in accordance with application rates targeting optimum available nitrogen and phosphorous level for grain or oil seed crops, and set metal loading limits for each agricultural field in the application program.

The department does not anticipate adverse effects on surface water or habitat for wildlife or fisheries due to the project. Since the project does not affect resource use, there would be no infringement of Indigenous rights under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Therefore, the department concludes that Crown-Indigenous consultation is not required for the project.

RECOMMENDATION:

The proponent should be issued a licence for construction of a three-cell biosolids storage pond, located at SW 10-21-03 EPM in the Rural Municipality of Gimli. The pond will be used to store biosolids generated from Gimli's existing wastewater treatment plant, which would eventually be land applied in accordance with the specifications, limits, terms, and conditions of the attached draft licence. Environmental Approvals Branch recommends assigning administration of the licence to the central region of the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

Prepared by:
Bereket Assefa, Ph.D., P. Eng.
Senior Environmental Engineer
Industrial and Wastewater Section
Telephone: (204) 330-4613 Fax: (204) 945-5229
E-mail Address: Bereket.Assefa@gov.mb.ca

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