



Environmental Health Program (EHP)
Regulatory Operations and Regions Branch (ROEB)
Health Canada
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May 8, 2024

Jennifer Fitzgerald
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Sent by email to: jennifer.fitzgerald@iaac-aeic.gc.ca; lakemanitoba-lakest.martin@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Subject: Health Canada's Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment Report and Draft Potential Federal Conditions for the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project

Dear Ms. Fitzgerald:

Thank you for the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's (IAAC) April 8, 2024 invitation to comment on the *Draft Environmental Assessment Report* and *Draft Potential Federal Conditions* for the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project.

Health Canada (HC) is participating in the environmental assessment review of Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's (Proponent) Lake Manitoba & Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project as a Federal Authority under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*.

As requested, our department reviewed the characterization of potential environmental effects, key mitigation measures, monitoring, and follow-up programs, as well as those comments and views attributed to Health Canada, which in its current draft is accurately reflected in both documents with the exception of potential conditions 6.2 & 6.5.3.

With regard to sections 6.2 & 6.5.3 of the *Draft Potential Federal Conditions*, HC noted that management and monitoring for water discharges into outside drains was limited to the Lake St Martin Outlet Channel, as identified in Figure 3C-22 of the May 2023 Update to the Project Description. HC recommends adding the outside drains referenced in Figures 3C-14 to account for the drains located along the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel where feedlots and agriculture occur.

With regard to Section 7.5.3 of the *Draft Environmental Assessment Report* (p.181) and section 6.3 of the *Draft Potential Federal Conditions* (p. 18), HC acknowledges that the department will be consulted as part of the proponent's effort to develop an air quality follow-up program, and is prepared to provide relevant health-related information and knowledge to support satisfying this condition.

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HC guidance was cited in the Agency's assessment and consideration of key mitigation and monitoring (i.e., *Health Canada's Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Impact Assessment: Noise*). The department has additional published guidance (e.g., *Health Canada's Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Impact Assessment: Human Health Risk Assessment; Drinking & Recreational Water Quality; and, Country Foods*) that may be relevant to other follow-up programs pertaining to human health impacts in the *Draft Environmental Assessment Report* and *Draft Potential Federal Conditions* (e.g., methylmercury in fish). HC is available to provide specialist or expert information and knowledge, upon request, in developing specific follow-up plans as part of other draft conditions relevant to HC's mandate.

Hopefully these comments support the Agency's efforts to finalize this report. Should you have any questions regarding HC's comments, please contact Paul Partridge at paul.partridge@hc-sc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Chantal Roberge
National Director
Environmental Health Program
Regulatory Operations & Enforcement Branch
Health Canada

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