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Président

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August 26, 2022

Amna Mackin
Director, Major Projects
Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure
<email address removed>

Amna Mackin:

On June 30, 2022, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) received your request for an extension to the three-year legislated time limit to provide the required information or studies for the environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) of the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project (the Project).

As per subsection 181(2.1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (the IAA), at the proponent's request, the Agency may extend the time limit by any period that is necessary for the proponent to provide the Agency with the required information or studies.

Following a review of available information, including the information submitted in your request and comments received from Indigenous groups regarding the request, the Agency has determined that it **will extend the time limit**. The Agency is of the view that:

- the environmental assessment for the Project is well-advanced and Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure has been active in developing the required information;
- Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure has provided a work plan to demonstrate how it will provide the required information within the requested extension;
- extenuating circumstances (i.e., COVID-19 pandemic) delayed the gathering of information; and
- Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's engagement with Indigenous groups is ongoing, with plans to respond to the concerns raised.

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The deadline to submit the required information or studies described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines is now **February 27, 2024**. Note that no further extension may be granted by the Agency.

The required information and studies to be provided include the EIS and any additional required information or studies that may be identified as a result of:

- the technical review of the EIS by the Agency and federal authorities; and
- associated consultation and engagement by the Agency with Indigenous communities.

If the information or studies are not provided within the extension of the time limit that has been granted, the environmental assessment for the Project under CEAA 2012 will be terminated in accordance with section 181(3) of the IAA. If the environmental assessment is terminated, note that, in accordance with subsection 7(1) of the IAA, proponents of a designated project are prohibited from carrying out any act related to the project that may cause one of the effects listed therein. If the proponent wishes to continue with the Project after the termination of the assessment, it must submit an Initial Project Description to the Agency in accordance with section 10 of the IAA.

Please note, your request, this determination, and a notice informing the public of the new time limit will be posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Sean Carriere, Director, Prairie and Northern Region, by telephone at <contact information removed> or by email at <email address removed>

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Terence Hubbard (he/him, il)