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June 6, 2022

Amna Mackin
Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure
1520-215 Garry Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3P3

Sent via email: Amna.Mackin@gov.mb.ca

SUBJECT: Review of Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's responses to Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project Information Request Round 1 Package 1

Dear Amna Mackin:

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) and federal authorities are conducting a technical review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project (the Project) received from Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) on March 5, 2020.

Following review of the EIS by the Agency and federal authorities and input received by Indigenous groups and the public, the Agency Issued Information Request Round 1 Package 1 on April 23, 2020 and Information Request Round 1 Package 2a on July 10, 2020 for the Project. On May 31, 2022, the Agency received MTI's responses to both Information Request Round 1 packages.

The Agency understands that environmental management plans (EMPs), which contain mitigation measures, follow-up and monitoring programs referenced throughout the responses to Information Request Round 1 are being completed by MTI and will be submitted on June 30, 2022. Upon assessing the information request responses, the Agency identified missing information in the IR responses, in addition to the outstanding EMPs, that would be required for the purpose of moving forward with the environmental assessment's technical review of the complete responses.

The Agency has prepared a table listing the missing information required to complete the response to Information Request Round 1 (Attachment 1). In accordance with CEAA 2012, time taken by Manitoba Infrastructure to provide the required information is not included in the legislated timeline within which the Minister of Environment and Climate



Change must make an EA decision. Until such time that the Agency receives the required information, the timeline remains paused at day 154 of 365. The Agency will complete the technical review of the responses, including a comment period for participants in the process, once the required information is received.

The outcomes of the technical review of the responses will inform whether required information remains that is necessary to determine whether the Project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects and to inform the Agency's preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) Report under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012).

The Agency welcomes the opportunity to discuss the outcome of this review with you and provide further advice on how to best address the information required to move forward with the assessment process. If you have any questions, please contact me at Sean.Carriere@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or 416-436-7357.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Sean Carriere
Regional Director, Prairie and Northern Region

cc:

Cynthia Ritchie, Assistant Deputy Minister, Manitoba Transportation and infrastructure
Jaime Smith, Manitoba Transportation and infrastructure
Scott Johnstone, Manitoba Transportation and infrastructure
Eric Landry, Director General, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Ian Martin, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Greg Bosse, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Jay Gerritsen, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Attachment (1): Outstanding Information in Response to Information Request Round 1

Attachment 1: Outstanding Information in Response to Information Request Round 1

#	Item	Comment	Request
1	Environmental Management Plans	Attachment 1: Updated Environmental Management Plans	Provide the Updated Environmental Management Plans as indicated in Attachment 1 of the round 1 Information Request (IR) response submission (the submission).
2	Referencing/Concordance	<p>A large volume of information has been provided during the EIS phase. Some referenced documents were provided as part of the EIS submission and the first submission of responses to Information Requests Round 1 Package 1. These reports are available on the Registry. Additional reports and information was provided as part of the submission as attachments 1-4.</p> <p>Attachment 2 is a collection of several reports. Unlike Attachments, 1,3, and 4, which are consistently referenced in the IR responses, reports referenced that are contained in Attachment 2 are often not identified as such. It is not always clear where the referenced report or document can be located.</p>	To facilitate the identification of the documents submitted and their location in the IR responses, provide a table of concordance that identifies where referenced material can be found or accessed for each IR response.
3	IAAC-11: Errata	<p>Appendix IAAC-11A appears to be mistakenly cited as 11C in some places. There is no Appendix 11C provided.</p> <p>There are 4 tables in the response, three of which are named Table IAAC-11-2.</p>	Clarify the table names, the referenced Appendix, and any references to them as applicable.
4	IAAC-13: Errata	Two tables are labelled 13-2.	Clarify the table names
5	IAAC-13: Location Maps	The response states, "Baseline surface water quality data location maps are provided in Appendix IAAC-13B3. In addition, locations are listed in an MS Excel	Clarify the reference to Appendix IAAC-13B3 or provide the maps as indicated.

Attachment 1: Outstanding Information in Response to Information Request Round 1

		file, which provides coordinates, data source, and data availability (first years and last year of data in record) for each site." Maps are not provided in Appendix IAAC-13B3.	
6	IAAC-14: Missing Information	The IR references the following document that appears to be missing: KGS Group. 2021h. Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel - Design, Tender & Contract Administration: Design Discharge Criteria. Draft/Rev A. September 23, 2021. 20 pp.	Provide the missing information.
7	IAAC-14, IAAC-30: Missing Information	The IR references the following document that appears to be missing: KGS Group. 2021d. Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Nutrient Mass Balance Analysis – DRAFT. June 17, 2021.	Provide the missing information.
8	IAAC-21: References	Figure IAAC-21-2 is referenced in the response to iii, but it appears that Figure IAAC-21-3 should be referenced instead. Figure IAAC-21-6 is referenced in response to iv, as displaying sentinel wells. No sentinel wells are on the figure. The reference could be Figure IAAC 21-7 but it is unclear.	Clarify the references.
9	IAAC-24: Missing Information	Figure IAAC-24-4 is missing.	Provide the missing figure.
10	IAAC-26: Missing Information	The response refers to Figure 16 of Appendix IAAC-21B in response to Technical Information Request IAAC-21. This figure is missing and there is no Appendix IAAC-21B	Provide the missing information.

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11	IAAC-27: Missing Information	The Response refers to Plates D6-5 and D6-6 in Appendix IAAC-27A. The Appendix is missing.	Provide Appendix IAAC-27A including the Plates that are referenced.
12	IAAC-27: References	"KGS Group 2021" is referenced in the response to b)i. There are three entries in the references section: 2021a, 2021b, 2021c.	Clarify what is being referenced.
13	IAAC-28: References	"Map 28-1" is referenced in response to d) but it is not clear what that map is. It could be Figure IAAC-28A-1.	Confirm what the reference to "Map 28-1" is.
14	IAAC-30: References	The response references "Hatch 2022" however there is no long reference provided to indicate which Hatch report is being referenced.	Clarify the reference and provide the document if it was not included in the submission.
15	IAAC-36: Missing information	Reports referenced in the response as NSC 2022d, NSC 2022e, NSC 2022g, NSC 2020 appear to be missing.	Provide the missing information.
16	IAAC-38 IAAC-43, and IAAC-68: Missing Information	A memo referenced as the following appears to be missing: Manitoba Infrastructure. 2020. Integration of Modified Lake St. Martin Permanent Outlet Channel Design Configuration and Lake St. Martin Narrows into Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Hydrologic Water Balance Model. Memo from Peter Johnston (Senior Hydrologic Operations Engineer, Hydrologic Forecasting & Water Management) to Chris Propp (Hydrologic Services Engineer Hydrologic Forecasting & Water Management). November 3, 2020. 15 pp.	Provide the missing information.
17	IAAC-72: Missing Information/Reference	The response states, "Information on modelling used to develop the assessment provided in the Project EIS and Conceptual Engineering Design Reports (KGS Group 2017a, 2017b) in subsection "Assessment of Effects of Project on Bedrock Aquifer Near the LMOC.""	Clarify or provide the subsection of the referenced report.

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		The subsection appears to be missing in the referenced report.	
18	IAAC-82: Missing Information	Two reports referenced in the response (NSC 2022b and NSC 2022f) appear to be missing.	Provide the missing information.
19	IAAC-83: Missing Information/Referencing	The response references a 2022 report for spawning movements in Fall 2021. In Attachment 2, a 2021 report for spawn movements in fall 2020 is provided (NSC - LMOC & LSMOC Aquatic Environment Monitoring, Fall 2020 - Lake Whitefish Spawning Movements), which may be the proper reference.	Provide the referenced 2022 report for fish spawning movements in Fall 2021 or clarify the reference.
20	IAAC-84: Missing Information	Appendix IAAC-84A appears to be missing.	Provide the missing information.
21	IAAC-86: Missing Information	The IR references “Stantec. 2022. Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel 2021 Surface Water and Groundwater Monitoring Report. Prepared by Stantec Consulting. Project 111475107”. Attachment 2 contains the 2019 and the 2020 Surface Water and Groundwater Monitoring Reports but the 2021 report appears to be missing.	Provide the missing monitoring report.

Attachment 1: Outstanding Information in Response to Information Request Round 1 (Amended)

Amended as of June 22, 2022:

- In item 19, the reference to IAAC-83 is changed to IAAC-82.
- In item 21, the reference to IAAC-86 is changed to IAAC-13.
- In Item 5, it is the MS Excel file with location data referenced in the quoted text from the response to IAAC-13 that appears to be missing, rather than the maps as previously indicated.

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2	Referencing/Concordance	<p>A large volume of information has been provided during the EIS phase. Some referenced documents were provided as part of the EIS submission and the first submission of responses to Information Requests Round 1 Package 1. These reports are available on the Registry. Additional reports and information was provided as part of the submission as attachments 1-4.</p> <p>Attachment 2 is a collection of several reports. Unlike Attachments, 1,3, and 4, which are consistently referenced in the IR responses, reports referenced that are contained in Attachment 2 are often not identified as such. It is not always clear where the referenced report or document can be located.</p>	To facilitate the identification of the documents submitted and their location in the IR responses, provide a table of concordance that identifies where referenced material can be found or accessed for each IR response.
3	IAAC-11: Errata	Appendix IAAC-11A appears to be mistakenly cited as 11C in some places. There is no Appendix 11C provided.	Clarify the table names, the referenced Appendix, and any

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		There are 4 tables in the response, three of which are named Table IAAC-11-2.	references to them as applicable.
4	IAAC-13: Errata	Two tables are labelled 13-2.	Clarify the table names
5	IAAC-13: Reference, Missing data	The response states, "Baseline surface water quality data location maps are provided in Appendix IAAC-13B3. In addition, locations are listed in an MS Excel file, which provides coordinates, data source, and data availability (first years and last year of data in record) for each site." The location data appears to have been provided in Appendix 13B3	Clarify the reference to MS Excel file and provide the file.
6	IAAC-14: Missing Information	The IR references the following document that appears to be missing: KGS Group. 2021h. Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel - Design, Tender & Contract Administration: Design Discharge Criteria. Draft/Rev A. September 23, 2021. 20 pp.	Provide the missing information.
7	IAAC-14, IAAC-30: Missing Information	The IR references the following document that appears to be missing: KGS Group. 2021d. Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Nutrient Mass Balance Analysis – DRAFT. June 17, 2021.	Provide the missing information.
8	IAAC-21: References	Figure IAAC-21-2 is referenced in the response to iii, but it appears that Figure IAAC-21-3 should be referenced instead. Figure IAAC-21-6 is referenced in response to iv, as displaying sentinel wells. No sentinel wells are on the figure. The reference could be Figure IAAC 21-7 but it is unclear.	Clarify the references.

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9	IAAC-24: Missing Information	Figure IAAC-24-4 is missing.	Provide the missing figure.
10	IAAC-26: Missing Information	The response refers to Figure 16 of Appendix IAAC-21B in response to Technical Information Request IAAC-21. This figure is missing and there is no Appendix IAAC-21B	Provide the missing information.
11	IAAC-27: Missing Information	The Response refers to Plates D6-5 and D6-6 in Appendix IAAC-27A. The Appendix is missing.	Provide Appendix IAAC-27A including the Plates that are referenced.
12	IAAC-27: References	"KGS Group 2021" is referenced in the response to b)i. There are three entries in the references section: 2021a, 2021b, 2021c.	Clarify what is being referenced.
13	IAAC-28: References	"Map 28-1" is referenced in response to d) but it is not clear what that map is. It could be Figure IAAC-28A-1.	Confirm what the reference to "Map 28-1" is.
14	IAAC-30: References	The response references "Hatch 2022" however there is no long reference provided to indicate which Hatch report is being referenced.	Clarify the reference and provide the document if it was not included in the submission.
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16	IAAC-38 IAAC-43, and IAAC-68: Missing Information	A memo referenced as the following appears to be missing: Manitoba Infrastructure. 2020. Integration of Modified Lake St. Martin Permanent Outlet Channel Design Configuration and Lake St. Martin Narrows into Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Hydrologic Water Balance Model. Memo from Peter Johnston (Senior Hydrologic Operations Engineer, Hydrologic Forecasting & Water Management) to Chris Propp (Hydrologic Services Engineer Hydrologic Forecasting & Water Management). November 3, 2020. 15 pp.	Provide the missing information.

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18	IAAC-82: Missing Information	Two reports referenced in the response (NSC 2022b and NSC 2022f) appear to me missing.	Provide the missing information.
19	IAAC-82: Missing Information/Referencing	<p>The response references a 2022 report for spawning movements in Fall 2021 (NSC. 2022d. Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project - Aquatic Environment Monitoring Fall 2021. Lake Whitefish Spawning Movements. A report prepared for Manitoba Infrastructure by North/South Consultants Inc.). In Attachment 2, a 2021 report for spawn movements in fall 2020 is provided (NSC - LMOC & LSMOC Aquatic Environment Monitoring, Fall 2020 - Lake Whitefish Spawning Movements), which may be the proper reference.</p>	Provide the referenced 2022 report for fish spawning movements in Fall 2021 or clarify the reference.
20	IAAC-84: Missing Information	Appendix IAAC-84A appears to be missing.	Provide the missing information.
21	IAAC-13: Missing Information	<p>The IR references “Stantec. 2022. Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel 2021 Surface Water and Groundwater Monitoring Report. Prepared by Stantec Consulting. Project 111475107”.</p> <p>Attachment 2 contains the 2019 and the 2020 Surface Water and Groundwater Monitoring Reports but the 2021 report appears to be missing.</p>	Provide the missing monitoring report.