



October 22, 2019

Christine Baljko
Project Director – Environment and Consultation
Manitoba Infrastructure
1520-215 Garry Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3P3

SUBJECT: Conformity review outcome for the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Christine Baljko:

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted by Manitoba Infrastructure on August 30, 2019 for the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project (the Project).

The Agency has determined that this EIS does not conform to the requirements of the May 15, 2018 *Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 for the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project* (the EIS Guidelines). The Agency received advice on the conformity of the EIS from federal authorities and Indigenous groups.

Annex 1 (attached) identifies the areas where information and/or clarity are required in order for the EIS to meet the requirements of the EIS Guidelines. For ease of reference, the Agency has included a reference to the corresponding section of the EIS Guidelines for each area of required information or clarity.

The outcome of this conformity review, including this letter and annexes, as well as submissions from federal authorities and Indigenous groups that informed this review, will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site, found at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80148>.

Manitoba Infrastructure is required to provide a revised EIS that meets the requirements of the EIS Guidelines, as detailed in Annex 1. The timeline for the federal environmental assessment process will be paused while Manitoba Infrastructure completes this work.

Upon receipt of a revised EIS, the Agency will conduct a conformity review in accordance with its "*Operational Policy Statement: Information Requests and*



Timelines, February 2016” (<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/news/media-room/media-room-2016/information-requests-timelines.html>).

Once the Agency determines the EIS conforms with the EIS Guidelines, the federal environmental assessment can proceed to the technical review and public comment period.

Annex 2 (attached) is advice to Manitoba Infrastructure from federal authorities and Indigenous groups based on their reviews of the EIS. This advice applies more broadly than to information requirements associated with the conformity of the EIS and should be considered throughout the preparation of the revised EIS, the remainder of the environmental assessment process, and the regulatory processes that follow, as applicable.

The Agency welcomes the opportunity to discuss the outcome of this review with you and to provide further advice on how to best address the outstanding information required to move forward with the assessment process. To this end, the Agency proposes technical workshops with federal experts and your team to facilitate a better understanding of the expectations of the Agency and federal authorities, and to ensure complete responses to information requests. Please contact the Agency to confirm availability during the week of November 4 – 8, 2019 for a discussion or to suggest an alternative date.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter or conformity review table please contact the undersigned at 587-710-0133 or via email at matthew.dairon@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by]

Matthew Dairon
Project Manager