GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
Department of Environment and Conservation

Honourable Tom Osborne
Minister

August 2005

G U I D E L I N E S

for

Environmental Preview Report

on the

SOUTH BROOK (PASADENA) WATERCOURSE CHANNEL RELOCATION

ENVIRONMENTAL PREVIEW REPORT GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are intended to assist the proponent, Town of Pasadena, with the preparation of the Environmental Preview Report (EPR) for the proposed South Brook (Pasadena) Watercourse Channel Relocation. The EPR is a report that presents the results of an investigation based on readily available information that supplements the information already provided by the proponent upon registration of the undertaking. The purpose of the information in the EPR is to assist the Minister of Environment and Conservation in making a determination as to whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required for the proposed undertaking. The EPR is expected to be as concise as possible while presenting the comprehensive information necessary to make an informed decision.

The EPR should include and update the information provided in the original registration and focus on the information gaps identified during the government and public review of the registration. The EPR should address the information gaps in sufficient detail to enable the Minister of Environment and Conservation to make an informed decision as to the potential for significant environmental effect from the undertaking.

The contents of the EPR should be organized according to the following format:

1. NAME OF UNDERTAKING:

The undertaking has been assigned the Name “South Brook (Pasadena) Watercourse Channel Relocation.”

2. PROPONENT:

Name the proponent and the corporate body, if any, and state the mailing address.

Name the chief executive officer if a corporate body, and telephone number, fax number and E-mail address (if any).

Name the principal contact person for purposes of environmental assessment and state the official title, telephone number, fax number and E-mail address (if any).

3. THE UNDERTAKING:

State the nature of the project.

State the purpose/rationale/need for the project. If the proposal is in response to an established need, this should be clearly stated.

4. ALTERNATIVES TO THE UNDERTAKING

This section shall describe alternatives to prevent damage to the treatment lagoon while minimizing effects downstream. These alternatives consist of functionally different ways to meet the project need and achieve the project purpose including those alternatives which were considered and rejected. For example, five alternatives could be: i) repairs and/or modifications to the existing channel, ii) relocation of the sewage lagoon, iii) relocation of the watercourse channel, iv) construction of a bypass channel to handle higher flows, and v) combinations of the above alternatives.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING

Describe the technically and economically feasible alternatives that meet the project need and their biophysical and socio-economic selection criteria. Provide complete information concerning the preferred choice of location, design, construction standards, maintenance standards, etc., together with additional information on each alternative method of carrying out the undertaking. For example, if relocation of the sewage lagoon is a viable alternative include alternative sites for the lagoon and if relocation of the watercourse channel is a viable alternative include alternative channel locations and configurations. Alternatives which may have been considered and rejected, but which may still be regarded as viable should be described. State reasons for the rejection of any alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking.

5.1 Geographical Location:

Describe the proposed site, planned layout and infrastructure, borrow pits and excavations, and temporary construction yard/laydown areas, including boundaries, for each viable alternative. A site plan showing the layout and infrastructure should be drawn to scale. Also attach 1:50,000 original base maps. The appropriate National Topographic Survey edition should be affixed on the maps.

5.2 Construction

State the total construction period (if staged, list each stage and its approximate duration) and proposed date of first physical construction-related activity for each viable alternative.

6. ENVIRONMENT

6.1 Hydrology and Hydraulic Analysis

Provide a thorough hydrologic analysis of the watershed and a detailed hydraulic analysis, including the effects of ice formation and breakup, of the stream channel and flood plain area upstream and downstream of the sewage lagoon. Indicate how the results of the analysis were used to generate alternatives and provide a comparison of the analysis for each alternative.

6.2 Fish and Fish Habitat

Describe the physical characteristics of the watercourse (e.g., substrate, flow, depth, etc.) including the type, quantity and availability of fish habitat and results of a fish survey including fish presence and species. "A standard methods guide for freshwater fish and fish habitat surveys in Newfoundland and Labrador: rivers and streams" (Sooley et al. 1998) provided to the proponent contains the standard methods for the collection of fish and fish habitat information. Other information required includes a description of existing and potential subsistence, recreational or commercial fisheries in the area.

Describe the characteristics of each alternative diversion channel in terms of incorporation of any natural stream features and the temporal nature of the diversion (i.e., if it is to replace the existing channel permanently or to be used as an overflow for seasonal or high water events). Mitigations to be employed during construction/operation to reduce any potential effects on fish and fish habitat should be included.

6.3 Petroleum Exploration

Describe the existing petroleum exploration licences in the area of the undertaking as well as any future potential petroleum exploration that may be affected by each alternative method of carrying out the undertaking.

6.4 Preliminary Impact Assessment

Provide a preliminary evaluation of the significance of the effects of each alternative with specific reference to:
- prevention of damage to the treatment lagoon,
- hydrology and hydraulics downstream of each alternative
- minimization of effects from increased velocities downstream, specifically with regard to erosion of stream banks and deposition,
- minimization of flooding in the area near the treatment lagoon, and
- description of potential effects each alternative may have on fish and fish habitat in, and downstream of, the project area (e.g., flow implications such as change in hydraulic regime as it relates to fish and fish habitat).

7. OCCUPATIONS

Provide an enumeration and breakdown of occupations anticipated for construction of each alternative.

8. PROJECT-RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Provide a bibliography of all project-related documents already generated by or for the proponent (e.g., business plan, feasibility study, engineering reports).

9. APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING

List the main permits, licences, approvals, and other forms of authorization required for the undertaking, together with the names of the authorities responsible for issuing them (e.g., federal government department, provincial government department, municipal council, etc.).

10. FUNDING

If this undertaking depends upon a grant or loan of capital funds from a government agency (federal, provincial or otherwise), state the name and address of the department or agency from which the funds have been requested.

The required 10 copies of the EPR, and an electronic version for posting to the Environmental Assessment website, should be sent together with a covering letter to:

Minister
Environment and Conservation
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NF
A1B 4J6