



Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Minister responsible for Efficiency Manitoba

Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8 CANADA

Aimée Craft
Chair
Clean Environment Commission
305-155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 3H8
Aimee.Craft@gov.mb.ca

SEP 12 2025

Dear Aimée Craft:

In accordance with section 6(5) of The Environment Act, I hereby request the Clean Environment Commission to conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed Crystal Spring Colony domestic wastewater treatment lagoon.

I am requesting that the Clean Environment Commission public hearing and review process begin as soon as possible. I have provided a review mandate and terms of reference as enclosed. Additionally, in accordance with section 7(3) of The Environment Act, I am requesting a final report with recommendations, including licensing conditions, be provided by February 28, 2026. The Clean Environment Commission may ask for clarification on this request at any time.

Please contact Agnes Wittmann, Director, Environmental Approvals Branch, at EABDirector@gov.mb.ca or 204-945-8321, regarding information obtained through the environmental assessment process should you wish to discuss this request further.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Moyes".

Honourable Mike Moyes

Enclosure
c. Agnes Wittmann

bc. Jocelyn Baker
Shannon Kohler
Siobhan Burland Ross
Matt Popowich
ECESD25-00043

Terms of Reference

Clean Environment Commission Review of Crystal Spring Colony Wastewater Treatment Lagoon Proposal

Background

On August 17, 2023, Crystal Spring Colony submitted an Environment Act Proposal for the construction and operation of a wastewater treatment lagoon for their community located in the Rural Municipality of Armstrong.

The proposal includes an environmental assessment report prepared by an engineering consultant in accordance with Manitoba's guidelines for the design of wastewater treatment lagoons.

During the public comment period, requests for a Clean Environment Commission (CEC) hearing were made by members of the public. The director of Environmental Approvals Branch decided not to recommend to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change that a CEC hearing be held because the concerns raised can be addressed in the design of the facility and the standard terms and conditions of an Environment Act Licence.

Seven appeals were filed with the Minister appealing the director's decision not to recommend a CEC hearing. Due to the additional public concerns raised during the appeal process, as well as during a community learning session held on June 4, 2025, the CEC is being requested to conduct a public hearing on the proposal.

Public hearings provide an opportunity for citizens to exercise influence over the quality of their living environment, which aligns with overarching intent of The Environment Act, to protect and maintain the environment in a manner which sustains a high quality of life for present and future generations.

Mandate of the Review

In accordance with section 6(5)(b) of The Environment Act, the CEC, at the request of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, shall conduct a public hearing to consider the potential environmental and public health effects of the proposed Crystal Spring Colony wastewater treatment lagoon.

The CEC shall conduct the hearing in general accordance with its *Process Guidelines Respecting Public Hearings*.

The CEC will provide advice and recommendations to the Minister in the form of a report pursuant to section 7(3) of The Environment Act and in accordance with the following terms of reference.

Terms of Reference

1. The CEC will conduct a public hearing relating to The Environment Act proposal and the environmental assessment report and provide advice and recommendations to the Minister regarding potential environmental effects of the proposed wastewater treatment lagoon.
2. The CEC will provide members of the public the opportunity for input regarding the Crystal Spring Colony wastewater treatment lagoon proposal as part of the public hearing in a location consistent with the affected community.

The CEC review process should begin immediately and be completed as soon as possible.

The CEC's final report with recommendations, including licensing conditions, should be provided by February 28, 2026.