

EXHIBIT NUMBER: WPE-0/3  
File Name: LWR  
Date: MAR 18, 2015  
Received by: [Signature]  
(Commission Secretary)

**Presentation to Clean environment Commission  
with regards to issuance of Manitoba Hydro Final license of  
Lake Winnipeg Regulation  
March 18th, 2015**

The question of issuing a final license to operate Lake Winnipeg as a water reservoir should be denied. Not only denied but the interim license should have never seen the light of day. Manitoba Hydro is an entity that has shown by past performance it has absolutely no corporate conscience or responsibility. It's primary purpose is to produce revenue for its operations and as a cash stream for the province and it has shown in no uncertain terms that it will try to achieve those aims by any means in conjunction with it's partners, the line of successive provincial Manitoba governments.

What a change since to original concept of an engineering feat that was to be a benefit to all Manitobans. Both Canada and Manitoba corroborated on a comprehensive study of the parameters necessary to achieve a balanced scale between nature, engineering and peoples of the lake. They undertook 4 years of study and millions of dollars of investment to recognize and protect what nature created in the form of such a massive watershed as the lake Winnipeg basin. Hence, the Summary report of 1971 and its completion in 1975, just before Hydro closed the gates on Jenpeg Power dam.

One of the first recommendations among many was the creation of an independent body with authority to oversee and advise Hydro in its operations and the effects thereof. This board never came into being. Why?

Another recommendation, Manitoba Hydro was to provide compensation for all damages. So far Hydro only says damages are caused by Nature and that no compensation is due anyone.

And another, an appeal mechanism was to be established to which appeals can be adjudicated. I for one have never before heard of this. And another, also a mechanism to deal with social psychological stress?

2

And another, Governments and agencies develop and implement long term coordinated ecological monitoring and research. I take that to mean Federal and Provincial and their departments.

Whereas Manitoba Hydro is the beneficiary and cause of changes to Lake Winnipeg should it not be their responsibility to see those requirements are enacted?

While the Study Board was beginning its investigations, Manitoba Hydro changed the parameters of the outlet channels of Lake Winnipeg from two gated structures to the generating dam of Jenpeg. The dam itself was special in that it is a low head facility necessitating special turbines that were only available in Russia creating considerations that caused much angst. Language and different measurements extended time and expenses. The outlet channels at Ominawin were not properly surveyed for material consistency and rock outcropping causing further delays and expenditures. Realignment of Ominawin entrance today causes further restrictions to water outflow of the lake. Delays to that portion of the overall project hampered water discharge in 1975 that combined with a wet spring enhanced the flooding around the South Basin where # 9 highway was underwater and many temporary dykes needed constructing. Results such as this are further compounded by ice build-up during winter months and a reluctance by Hydro to go into a maximum discharge mode until the 715 ASL mark is met, at which point Hydro seems to finally notice they must react but in a hampered manner.

Measuring statistics were originated and long kept by the federal government station at Winnipeg Beach. Those numbers were actual with wind set included. 1913 to 1966 produced a open water lake level of 713.4 feet. compared to today's statement of a lake average of 713.2 wind eliminated. Is this a fair comparison? Enter into the mix of calculations, glacial rebound. I for one do not know whether that measurement is recognized in elevation calculations.

The phenomenon and its effects is now a known consideration changing the face of the landscape of Manitoba. Raising the lake at the north end higher and faster than the south end. While the process is slow, it is there

and should be dealt with. Repercussions, I am told include, less water head available at the Jenpeg outlet thereby necessitating a renewed deepening of channels. Continuing along the do nothing path the Manitoba government in conjunction with Hydro has so far taken will increase the expropriation by erosion that has and is now in effect. While this effect is a responsibility of Manitoba, it can be noted that the deepening of outlet channels to protect Lake Winnipeg shorelines would also allow extra outflow to Nelson River Dams.

Why was it necessary to change the original plans? Gated control structures produce no revenue, whilst grasping at expanding efficiencies, Hydro has only produced deficiencies. In attempting to confirm my thoughts and asking for cost/revenue statements to Jenpeg, I am told there is no such accounting statistics. Sad, but true that a corporation the size of Manitoba Hydro does not keep records of this kind.

Manitoba Hydro was forced to implement the Northern Flood Agreement to involve Native communities on the downstream side of Jenpeg dam at the behest of the Federal Government. Why the same was not conceived for the Lake Winnipeg First Nations is beyond me. The lack of Federal guidance definitely is a bonus for Hydro operations where consultations between the First nations are kept at a minimum and the ability to play one community against another eases any outcomes. It also helps in keeping all other communities in the dark as to any negotiations. Which brings up the question of the CEC holding private non-advertised meetings such as the one at Sagkeeng First Nation. Was this meeting and perhaps others, a directive by the CEC board, Manitoba Hydro or the Manitoba Government?

The signed and agreed to recommendations by the Study Board make note and states that government parties covenant and agree to assess the impact of the water regime changes on existing and potential tourism and recreational activities, including cottage development, sport fishing, boating and swimming: and to consider the benefits and costs of developing such additional recreation opportunities. Coming from a resort location, nothing of this sort I am aware of has ever been mentioned.

It also seems there is a statistic coming into notice that there is now a restricted or extended time water remains in the lake. Prior to regulation the time period was 2.7 years for a flush through. It now is being suggested that the time has expanded to 7 years. This at a time of increased pollution and concerns of eutrophication. But then one Hydro spokesperson did mention that one drop of water not going through a turbine was wasted. Which to me points to the most basic of human failings and that is of greed.

For these reasons, and more, I ask that Manitoba Hydro be denied any access to a final license.

As the provincial government is the regulatory body, who has created the regulations of the Water Power Act, the so-called independent arms length crown corporation of Manitoba Hydro, the duty falls to them to control and discipline its creations for the betterment of the public they are in power to govern. To act arbitrarily on their own agenda and to allow Manitoba Hydro to continue its bullying is termed tyranny. If there ever was an appropriate analogy to encompass this situation is that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Baldur Nelson

Gimli, Mb.  
R0C 1B0