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Municipality of/Municipalité de La Broquerie

November 9, 2006

Tracey Braun, Director
Environmental Assessment & Licensing Branch
Manitoba Conservation
123 Main Street – Suite 160
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5

Dear Ms. Braun:

**Re: Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Inc.
Supplemental Groundwater Supply System**

The Rural Municipality of La Broquerie herewith registers several concerns on the proposal of the Pembina Valley Cooperative Inc. The R.M. of La Broquerie recognizes that the residents of Pembina Valley should have a stable and secure water supply. However the Municipality has concerns and would like answers on the following list of issues:

1. The proposal is entitled "SUPPLEMENTAL" groundwater supply. Is the pipeline going to be an "open tap" and potentially turn into the prime source of water to the PVWC? We feel strongly that certain limits need to be discussed prior to the issuance of the license. What limits (# of days of operation/year or maximum volume/year) will be placed on the Environment License?
2. What is the current volume used by residents supplied by the PVWC, and what are the calculations of future demand?
3. PVWC has indicated that approximately 50% of the water they require is used for agricultural purposes. What significant efforts have been made within their watersheds to create retention areas where that water is then used for agricultural production, when required?
4. If the groundwater staff from Manitoba Water Stewardship don't actually know how much water is within the aquifer and what effects pumping more water out under drought conditions may have on all the residents, farm operations and businesses in the Steinbach area, is the Province adhering to its' principles of sustainable development, and considering this development within the definition of "sustainable"?

.../2



Municipality of/Municipalité de La Broquerie

- 2 -

5. Is it possible that the extraction of water from this aquifer would affect the volume usage of the current users? In other words, what we have taken for granted as an adequate supply of water for Steinbach and surrounding areas could become limited and affect our way of life.
6. If this license is issued, it will essentially set precedence for allowing other larger users to extract water from this aquifer. What does the Province have in place to protect the aquifer from becoming over-allocated and potentially resulting in serious long-term consequences?
7. Does Manitoba Conservation or Water Stewardship have any plans to charge a levy to groundwater users within the Province? Could a Groundwater Protection Fund be set up to be used by water management organizations, like Conservation Districts, to assist with groundwater protection initiatives such as sealing abandoned wells, creating water storage / retention areas, and protecting groundwater recharge areas?
8. Considering that the Province has announced a commitment to developing Source Water Protection plans for Southeast Manitoba, would it be too much to request that people hooked up to the PVWC network contribute, in some way, towards the implementation of the plan?

In closing, the R.M. of La Broquerie would like to object to the project until answers are given and guarantees or assurances that the aquifer will not be depleted for South East Manitoba.

Thank-you for the opportunity to make a presentation today.

Claude Moquin
Councillor Ward 4
R.M. of La Broquerie