



September 11, 2007
For Immediate Release

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICE

“KEEP OUT” OF ACTIVE FLOODWAY CONSTRUCTION ZONE AT THE OUTLET CONTROL STRUCTURE IN LOCKPORT

Fishermen Advised to Use Alternative River Access Locations in Lockport

With construction on the Outlet Control Structure in Lockport underway, the Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) is warning the public to avoid the “active construction zone” as the use of explosive blasting will make the construction zone extremely dangerous. Pending regulatory approval, the work may begin as early as Wednesday, September 12 and continue for approximately one month. Prior to the start of blasting a loud horn will sound three times to advise the public of the blasting and signs will be erected warning people to avoid the area.

Currently, the area near the Outlet Control Structure is used as a site for unauthorized recreational activity including an access point to the Red River for fisherman and the general public. **As floodway construction proceeds all members of the public should keep away from this very active construction zone.** In addition, as the blasting proceeds members of the public should expect loud sounds to accompany the blasting.

MFA does not anticipate any long-term adverse impacts related to the explosive blasting that will occur on the embankment in the construction zone within the floodway right-of-way. However, as a precautionary measure MFA has retained KGS Group, an engineering consultancy firm, to carry out pre-construction inspections of buildings and structures in the immediate vicinity of the construction zones.

Fishermen and the general public are advised that alternative locations are available for accessing the Red River including:

- “Cats on the Red”, a private operation on the West Bank of the Red River across from the Outlet;
- A boat launch at Selkirk Park, in Selkirk, Manitoba, operated by the City of Selkirk; and
- Junction of PTH 204 and PTH 509, on Henderson Highway approximately 7 km north of the outlet control structure near East Selkirk;

Construction of the Outlet will widen the existing outlet structure to approximately twice its existing size to accommodate the increased flow. Side walls will also be constructed in the channel to prevent erosion and chute and baffle blocks will be constructed on the downstream end of the outlet to further reduce the speed of water re-entering the Red River. These improvements will help to ensure that the speed of water passing through the outlet remains largely unchanged from the pre-expansion condition. Work on the Outlet began this summer and is scheduled to occur over the next two years.

The MFA reminds the public that currently construction work is proceeding on the entire floodway channel. This means that workers and heavy equipment are on site at any time - including weekends - which means that new construction hazards are created and changed throughout the year. As a result, the public is advised to avoid all floodway construction zones.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping the construction site safe for the public and for floodway workers.

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