



November 17, 2005

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Floodway Construction and Groundwater Action Response Plan

The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) has established a Groundwater Action Response Plan, which includes a 24 hour, seven day per week, toll-free telephone line, to respond to any well water impacts that may be experienced by property owners in the vicinity of construction. If you experience problems with your water supply that may be the result of the construction, the number to call toll free is

**1 - 877 - 456 - 1201**

This toll-free number, part of MFA's Groundwater Action Response Plan, will ensure that MFA responds in a timely manner to any unforeseen and temporary groundwater impacts due to construction. **The MFA does not anticipate any permanent groundwater impacts for water in your well over the course of the project.**

During the development of the project and as the MFA included input from the project's public consultation process, MFA decided to widen rather than deepen the floodway channel to protect groundwater supplies. As a result of this decision, bridges that cross the floodway need to be raised and lengthened. The MFA anticipates that the occasional pumping of groundwater to control groundwater pressure around bridges during construction may be required over the next five years. For example, PTH 59 South Bridge and the Trans-Canada Highway Bridge are starting construction and pumping around the bridge piers may begin as early as mid-November. Residents in that vicinity were presented the outline of the Groundwater Action Response Plan at public meetings in Ile Des Chenes and Lorette. Public meetings will be held for all bridges prior to construction and the Groundwater Action Response Plan will be discussed at each meeting.

As part of its commitment to groundwater protection, the MFA has developed a comprehensive groundwater management program to mitigate any related impacts to surrounding wells. This program has been reviewed and approved by the provincial regulators. Permits under the Manitoba *Water Rights Act* have been issued that authorizes work to proceed.

Groundwater protection has been a top priority for the MFA. The Groundwater Action Response Plan is an important component of our commitment to groundwater and environmental protection, as we move forward with the floodway expansion project. The Groundwater Action Response Plan and the 24/7 telephone line will help us to respond to residents on this important issue. If you have any questions about this plan, please do not hesitate to contact the MFA directly at 945-4900.