



Release

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For Immediate Release

BARKMAN CONCRETE NAMED SUCCESSFUL BIDDER TO SUPPLY CONCRETE BARRIERS FOR FLOODWAY EXPANSION PROJECT

Steinbach Firm to Supply Concrete Barriers For Floodway Project

Winnipeg, MB – The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) has announced that Barkman Concrete Ltd. has been awarded a contract to supply 500 concrete barriers for traffic detours during bridge construction on the Red River Floodway Expansion Project.

“Today’s announcement is a good example of how the benefits of floodway expansion will help stimulate the economy,” said Reg Alcock, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

“Floodway expansion provides an important opportunity to help invest in rural economies,” said Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship. “Over the next five years, floodway expansion will provide many opportunities for workers, businesses, and local communities to benefit from the project.” Ashton noted that it is estimated that over 1000 workers will be required to work on the floodway project over the next five years.

In June, 2005, the MFA issued a tender for the supply and delivery of 500 concrete barriers. The barriers are safety devices used to divide traffic traveling in different directions across highway bridges during construction. Barkman Concrete supplied the lowest of four bids in response to the tender. The estimated value of the contract is approximately \$400,000.

“We are extremely pleased to be awarded this contract,” said Wayne Wiebe, Assistant Sales Manager for Barkman Concrete. “It will provide important work for our Steinbach production facility and also our Winnipeg sales office. The benefits to our company will carry on for many years and our participation in a large project like the floodway expansion will be a highlight in our portfolio of projects and clientele”.

Barkman Concrete Ltd. was established in 1948 in Steinbach, Manitoba and has been a manufacturer of precast concrete products including concrete pavers, sidewalk and patio slabs, retaining walls, site furnishings as well as numerous industrial products. The firm has production facilities in Steinbach, Winnipeg, Alberta and Minneapolis and sales in Manitoba, Northwest Ontario, Saskatchewan and the Northern United States.

“We are pleased to secure a single contractor with a long history of producing concrete products to supply the barriers for the project,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “We look forward to working with the Steinbach firm on this contract.”

By improving flood protection to 1-in-700 year level, floodway expansion will protect more than 450,000 Manitobans, over 140,000 homes, over 8,000 businesses and prevent more than \$12 billion in damages to the provincial economy. The estimated budget for the floodway expansion is approximately \$665 million. The original Floodway was constructed between 1962 and 1968 at a cost of \$63 million and since its has saved Manitobans more than \$8 billion in flood losses.

The project is scheduled to provide a 1-in-700 year level of flood protection for the spring of 2009 with associated bridge and related work being completed in 2010.

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