



Release

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For Immediate Release

LAFARGE CANADA AWARDED \$21 MILLION CONTRACT ON FLOODWAY EXPANSION PROJECT

Contract Among the Largest Precast Concrete Awards in Manitoba's History

Winnipeg, MB – The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) has announced that Lafarge Canada Ltd. has been awarded a \$21 million contract to supply concrete girders for the construction of six highway bridges over five years for the Red River Floodway Expansion Project.

“Today’s announcement is very good news for the Manitoba economy,” said Greg Selinger, Manitoba Minister of Finance, on behalf of Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship. “Lafarge is a major employer and awarding this contract to a Manitoba firm ensures that we are able to benefit from the expertise available in our own back yard.” Selinger noted that the long-term contract will provide ongoing work for Lafarge’s Winnipeg operation for the next five years.

“Lafarge’s Winnipeg plant has a long history of manufacturing concrete products for the marketplace in St. Boniface,” said Raymond Simard, Member of Parliament for St. Boniface, on behalf of Reg Alcock, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. “This contract is a significant investment in St. Boniface that will result in economic spinoffs for other firms in the area. We congratulate Lafarge for being named the successful bidder.”

In June, the MFA issued a tender for the supply and delivery of 417 precast, prestressed concrete girders. The manufacturing of prestressed concrete girders is a very specialized trade that requires skilled workers and specialized equipment. LaFarge was the lowest of two contractors who provided bids in response to the tender.

“We are very pleased to be provided an opportunity to contribute to this historic and important flood protection project,” said Mitch Schaufler, Vice-President of the Greater Winnipeg Region of Lafarge Canada Ltd. “This contract will be one of the largest for our firm and will allow us to better plan for the future. In particular, the floodway construction schedule means that we will have work during traditionally slower periods. This is good news for the firm and our workers.”

“Tendering the supply of the concrete girders is a major step in the preparations for replacing and upgrading the bridges,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “This tender will ensure that the girders are on hand when required as the project proceeds. We look forward to beginning construction on the PTH 59 South Bridge and Trans-Canada Highway Bridge later this year.”

Lafarge North America Inc., together with its subsidiary, Lafarge Canada Inc., is the largest diversified construction materials company and supplier of cement, aggregates and concrete, as well as other materials for residential, commercial, institutional and public works construction in Canada and the United States. Since 1949, the Winnipeg precast manufacturing operation has been serving Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Northwestern Ontario. The plant employs approximately 30 people and is located in the St. Boniface Industrial Park at 185 Dawson Road North.

It is estimated that over 60,000 people cross the six highway bridge crossings over the floodway on a daily basis.

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.

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