



Release

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For Immediate Release

FLOODWAY AUTHORITY UNVEILS FIVE YEAR CONSTRUCTION TENDER PLAN

Schedule to Assist Residents and Construction Industry Plan for Floodway Work

Winnipeg, MB – In preparation for the start of construction for the Red River Floodway expansion project, the Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) today unveiled its proposed Five Year Construction Tender Plan. As part of today's announcement, MFA also announced that the first construction tender for the project will be advertised at the end of May.

"Today, we are another step closer to beginning construction on the floodway expansion project," said Reg Alcock, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. "This announcement is a major milestone for the floodway project and will assist Manitoba's construction industry in getting ramped up for this enormous and historic undertaking."

"In addition to protecting the environment, the floodway project will result in economic benefits for workers, the construction industry, the engineering community, local communities and the provincial economy," said Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship. "By outlining a five year tender plan, Manitobans and the construction industry will have a better understanding of the project. In particular, it means that contractors are better prepared to provide their services, in a timely manner, for this critical flood protection project."

"Contractors are very interested in the opportunity to bid on contracts for the floodway project," said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of MFA. "The proposed plan provides information to contractors that will assist them in determining resources, labour and time required to complete the various projects. The schedule will also benefit the public by providing them a better understanding of the project timetable."

As part of the Five Year Construction Tender Plan, MFA has confirmed the year one schedule will consist of tenders for the following projects:

- Channel Excavation – Floodway Inlet to Highway 59 South Bridge
- Inlet Control Structure improvements
- PTH 59 South Bridge
- Trans-Canada Highway Bridge
- CNR Sprague Railway Bridge
- Seine River Siphon Improvement
- Pre-purchase of highway bridge girders
- Purchase of temporary detour railway bridge

The first tender that will be advertised involves excavation of earth on the East Embankment of the Floodway Channel near Grande Pointe which will allow floodwater to enter the floodway more efficiently. The tender will be issued within the month with an award expected to be announced in mid July. The first bridge tenders will be advertised later this summer. The estimated value of the tenders to be issued in the first year of the five year program is \$90 million. The tender schedule for subsequent years is tentative and is subject to change as the project proceeds.

Pending environmental approval, construction will begin in summer of 2005 and is scheduled to occur over five years. 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.

Gilroy noted that the timetable for construction on the project may vary depending on a variety of factors including environmental licensing conditions, final design engineering and floodway operation. In particular, during spring flood situations and when the floodway is operated, construction will be interrupted. As a result, the construction tender schedule will be updated on a regular basis as the project moves forward.

Today's progress compliments the announcement made last week by MFA that two consortiums of Manitoba engineering firms will perform the final design engineering work, estimated at approximately \$27 million, on the project.

The Red River Floodway expansion project will divert more water around Winnipeg during major floods by more than doubling the capacity of the floodway channel. By improving flood protection to 1 in 700 year level of protection, 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. Canada and Manitoba have confirmed their commitment to complete the expanded floodway at an estimated cost of \$665 million.

Contact: Ronuk Modha
Manitoba Floodway Authority
(204) 945-4178, (204) 945-4900, or 1-866-356-6355

Lise Jolicoeur, Press Secretary
Office of the Honourable Reg Alcock
Government of Canada
(613) 957-2566

Naline Rampersad
Manitoba Cabinet Communications
(204) 945-1494

Backgrounder

Proposed Construction Tender Schedule

Year One

Channel excavation – (Floodway Inlet to Highway 59 South Bridge)
Inlet Control Structure improvements
PTH 59 South Bridge
Trans-Canada Highway Bridge
Seine River Siphon Improvements
CNR Sprague Railway Bridge
Pre-purchase of highway bridge girders
Purchase of temporary detour railway bridge

Year Two

Channel Excavation (Highway 59 South to Highway 59 North)
PTH 15 Bridge twinning
Greater Winnipeg Water District Railway Bridge
CNR Redditt Railway Bridge
West Dyke

Year Three

Channel Excavation (Highway 59 North to Outlet Structure)
PTH 59 North Highway Bridge
PTH 44 Highway Bridge
CPR Emerson Railway Bridge
CPR Keewatin Railway Bridge
Outlet Control Structure upgrade
West Dyke

Year Four

PR 200, St. Mary's Road Bridge
West Dyke

Year Five

CEMR Pine Falls Railway Bridge

Channel Excavation and West Dyke

Tenders for the channel excavation and West Dyke construction will vary in size and be advertised over the next four years. Construction will be ongoing through the next four years.

NOTE: SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE