



Release

November 28, 2005
For Immediate Release

ERICKSON CONSTRUCTION AWARDED TENDER FOR FLOODWAY CHANNEL EXCAVATION

Floodway Channel Work Underway

Winnipeg, MB - The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) announced today that Erickson Construction Ltd. from Riverton, Manitoba, has been awarded a contract worth \$10 million dollars for the first excavation tender for work within the floodway channel from the Inlet to the PTH 59 South Bridge. The work will also include requirements for erosion and sedimentation control, revegetation and low flow channel stabilization.

“While increasing the capacity of the channel, this contract also strengthens and reinforces the low flow channel,” said Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship. “This will improve the ability of fish to migrate through the channel and back into the Red River rather than becoming stranded. At the same time as improving fish habitat, the contract also provides for important erosion and sediment control measures.”

“This contract represents the first major excavation work in the floodway channel,” said Reg Alcock, President of Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. “We are pleased that work on the channel is moving forward in a timely manner.”

As part of the tender, Erickson Construction will undertake approximately 4 km of floodway channel excavation and approximately 7 km of east dike construction as well as the upgrading and placement of 125,000 tonnes of rockfill riprap in the low flow channel. Altogether, approximately 900,000 cubic metres (1.2 million cubic yards) of earth will be excavated as part of the contract. The work began this month and the main components of the work are to be completed in the 2006 construction season. Erickson Construction submitted the lowest of five bids in response to the tender.

“Working on the floodway expansion project is a great opportunity for our company,” said Craig Erickson, General Manager of Erickson Construction. “While providing our firm an opportunity to be part of this historic project, this contract also provides work for our company and our employees during the traditionally slower winter period.” Erickson noted that approximately 40 people will be working on the project and approximately 24 pieces of heavy equipment will be used to undertake the work.

“Important components of this contract are erosion and sediment control, revegetation and low-flow channel stabilization,” noted Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “The floodway authority is committed to “best practices”, sustainability and environmental protection as we proceed with the excavation of the floodway channel.”

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.

-30-

Contact: Naline Rampersad,
Manitoba Cabinet Communications
(204) 945-1494

Lise Jolicoeur, Press Secretary
Office of the Honourable Reg Alcock
Government of Canada
(613) 957-2666

Ronuk Modha
Manitoba Floodway Authority
(204) 945-4178, (204) 793-3969, (204) 945-4900, or 1-866-356-6355

Craig Erickson
Erickson Construction Ltd.
(204) 378-5101