



Release

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For Immediate Release

FIRST CONSTRUCTION TENDER TO BE ISSUED FOR FLOODWAY EXPANSION PROJECT

Initial Tender for Flood Protection Improvements Near Grande Pointe

Winnipeg, MB – The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) will be advertising the first construction tender for the Red River Floodway Expansion Project for excavation work on the Floodway Embankment east of Grande Pointe on Monday, May 30, 2005.

“This tender sends a clear signal that preparations are well underway for the start of construction on this critical flood protection project,” said Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship. “This contract will help to improve flood protection in the Grande Pointe area and provides the earth moving industry an early opportunity to participate in this historic project.”

“Work on the Floodway Embankment is an important component of the floodway expansion project and will provide benefits for the residents in the vicinity of Grande Pointe,” said Reg Alcock, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

The excavation of the Floodway Embankment east of Grande Pointe is designed to allow floodwater to enter the floodway more efficiently, thereby improving flood protection in the area. The deadline for bids for the tender is 12:00 noon on June 28, 2005 and is expected to be awarded in mid July.

“The public and the construction industry have expressed significant interest in the first construction tender for the project,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “In anticipation of receiving environmental approval on the project, we are moving forward with our plans and preparations for construction. We encourage contractors to take this opportunity to review the tender on MERX and consider bidding on the work.”

Last week, the Federal Government released a Screening Report on the floodway project that concluded that with the proposed mitigation measures and follow-up program, *the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.*

For the initial construction tender, a mandatory bidders' conference will be held on June 6, 2005 to provide contractors information on the tender process, requirements, and details of the work. For more information on tender requirements and the bidders' conference, please visit the MERX electronic tendering service at www.merx.com. For this contract and all other future floodway expansion tenders, digital bid documents will be distributed **only** through MERX. Contractors are advised to monitor MERX on an ongoing basis as the Floodway project proceeds.

Earlier this month, the MFA unveiled its proposed Five Year Construction Tender Plan. As part of this plan, MFA confirmed that 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 estimated value of the tenders to be issued in the first year of the five year program is \$90 million.

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.

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 floodway expansion project.

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

Naline Rampersad
Manitoba Cabinet Communications
(204) 945-1494

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