PRELIMINARY BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

STEEP CREEK BRIDGE

REFERENCE MILE 511 MACKENZIE HIGHWAY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EDMONTON, CANADA



F. F. SLANEY & COMPANY LIMITED

Vancouver, Canada

PRELIMINARY

BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL DATA STEEP CREEK BRIDGE REFERENCE MILE 511

MACKENZIE HIGHWAY NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EDMONTON, CANADA

JANUARY, 1973

F.F. SLANEY & COMPANY LIMITED VANCOUVER, CANADA





PART 1

BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

1.1 SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

The bridge site is flanked by abandoned alluvial terraces which appear to have stable banks.

The stream channel has a braided character which indicates that the stream is highly active. Proposed spur dike may be ineffective for control of stream. Data is especially insufficient for this site; a detailed review is recommended.

1.2 SOILS

The long approach fills cause minimum soil disturbance. Plans to provide a mantle of soil on slopes of the fill to facilitate establishing plant growth should be considered.

1.3 VEGETATION

The forest cover comprises of aspen with spruce and larch. The wide fill proposed will necessitate a wide cut through the timber. Further disturbance should be minimized.

1.4 WILDLIFE

Normal movement of wildlife along the flood plain may be restricted by the extended fill. Adequate shoreline passage under the bridge should be incorporated into the fill design.

1.5 FISH

Approach fills encroach onto the stream bed from both sides of the creek. These conditions will lead to unnaturally high stream velocities at high water levels of Steep Creek.

The reduction in width of the stream bed will also increase the potential for ice and debris jams to form at the site, posing a further threat to fish movement.

No specific information is available on fish populations or aquatic communities of Steep Creek. It is assumed that the stream is used by several species between May and October.

1.6 ARCHAEOLOGY

Cabins are noted on both sides of the creek at the crossing. This area was possibly an access area to north end of Blackwater Lake and the Franklin Mountains.

The location has a high probability for further archaeological finds and should be investigated prior to further development.

1.7 LANDSCAPE - RECREATION

The large gravel bars of the river will attract visitors and some provision for parking and access to these sites should be incorporated in the approach design.

PART 1

1.8 AESTHETICS

PART 1

The large fills and protective dykes would be difficult to make attractive.

1.9 SOCIO-ECONOMIC

The bridge site has no particular socio-economic significance.

1.10 CONSTRUCTION

The construction camp should be located on the fill or cleared right-of-way to avoid unnecessary disturbance of the forest cover.

The pier construction and as much as possible the hauling of fill material should be scheduled for winter months.

ASSESSMENT

The active stream channel appears difficult to control. Barriers to fish may be created by restricting the river channel which would tend to increase water velocities and possibly trap ice flows.



26.10.72. Steep Creek. Note highway location outline. Adjacent materials well drained and stable at crossing site. Bridge plan recommends spur dikes upstream on both sides. Although fluvial and terrain data is insufficient for evaluation this kind of erosion prevention may not be required especially if two span bridge is utilized. Normal rip-rap will be required along stream bank in any case. Braided character of this stream and wide active alluvium indicates a highly active channel; spur dikes may be ineffective. Detailed review of this site is required. Crossing will have low impact on fish if passage assured. Archaeological Site No. 38. Old cabins are found on both creek banks. These should be excavated for artifacts that may be prehistoric, as well as historic origin.









