

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROPONENT:** Manitoba Hydro  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** Glenboro-Rugby-Harvey 230 kV  
Transmission Line  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** 2  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Transmission  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 4670.00

### **OVERVIEW:**

The Proposal was dated August 24, 2001 and was received on August 30, 2001. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal filed by Manitoba Hydro to construct and operate a 230 000 volt (230 kilovolt [kV]) tie line between Glenboro Station, located in southwestern Manitoba and substations in North Dakota, located at Rugby and Harvey. Manitoba Hydro’s portion of the project extends from Glenboro Station to the Manitoba/North Dakota border. Xcel Energy (formerly Northern States Power Company) and Otter Tail Power Company are proposing to construct the North Dakota portion of the line. The facility is required to increase import capability to Manitoba, enhance transmission support and future load servicing southwestern Manitoba and north central North Dakota and increase export capability to the United States. Site selection and environmental assessment documentation for the Manitoba portion of the project has been developed by Manitoba Hydro in consultation with the public and Federal, Provincial, and Municipal Governments. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been filed by Manitoba Hydro in support of their Application. As the proposed line is an international facility, Manitoba Hydro has also made application to the National Energy Board (NEB). The project will be scheduled for construction once all government agencies' requirements have been met. The planned in-service date for the line is October, 2002.”

The Proposal was advertised in the following newspapers:

The Winnipeg Free Press on Saturday, September 15, 2001;  
The Brandon Sun on Saturday, September 15, 2001;  
The Killarney Guide on Saturday 15, 2001;  
The Baldur Gazette-News on Tuesday, September 18, 2001;  
The Cartwright Southern Manitoba Review on Tuesday, September 18, 2001; and  
The Glenboro Gazette

The Proposal was made available for public review at the following locations:

Main Registry/Centennial Public Library/Manitoba Eco-Network(Wpg);  
Lakeland Regional Library (Killarney)  
Municipal Offices of the R. M.'s of South  
Cypress/Argyle/Strathcona/Roblin/Turtle Mountain

It was also distributed to the "Transmission" TAC members for comment. All comments were requested by October 15, 2001.

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### **PUBLIC RESPONSE**

No public concerns were registered as a result of the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

**Historic Resources** - No concerns.

**Mines Branch** - No concerns.

**Petroleum Branch** - No concerns.

**Intergovernmental Affairs** - The transmission line should not interfere with aviation activities at the Glenboro airfield.

**Disposition:**

This information will be forwarded to the proponent for direct follow up with appropriate authorities.

**Health** - Recognize that studies have not demonstrated public health risk from exposure to EMFs, however, recommend that Hydro continue to monitor worldwide research on the subject in order to take appropriate action should information regarding potential effects become available. Recommend that equipment additions to the Glenboro Station associated with the project conform to established protocol and standards.

**Disposition:**

Manitoba Hydro has been and will continue to be committed to monitor and report on ongoing EMF research worldwide. Therefore, this area need not be addressed in the Licence for this project.

With respect to established protocol and standards for station operation, the SSEA report states that it is Manitoba Hydro's intent to provide oil containment for existing and new equipment at Glenboro Station, as approved by provincial regulatory authorities. This requirement will be included as a licencing condition.

**Transportation and Government Services** - Recommend that transmission poles be placed outside of highway right-of-way and that the offset from highway property (on both sides) be maximized at highway crossings. Height clearance from highway road surfaces should allow for future pavement overlays or roadbed reconstruction. An extra 1.0 clearance is recommended.

**Disposition**

This information will be forwarded to the proponent for direct follow up with MTGS.

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**Conservation (Policy Coordination Branch)** - A Water Rights Act Licence is required for any changes to surface water flow patterns as a result of the project.

Recommend that Manitoba Hydro consider the following mitigation for loss of prime white-tailed deer wintering habitat in sections 24,11,13 and 14-3-15W:

- A slight alteration of the proposed route in section 13-3-15W to avoid clearing forested cover by going southwest across open fields from a point 150 yards short of the half mile line to the corner of NW 13 and SW 13-3-15W.
- For the right-of-way cleared in Section 24, 14-3-15W work with the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation to fund conservation easements in the area to secure prime white-tailed deer habitat.

Recommend that the following construction and mitigation practices apply to the stream crossings noted in Table 7.5 of the EIS:

- Construction should be completed under frozen ground conditions between November 1 and March 30 in order to minimize disruption to riparian and floodplain areas.
- A minimum 30 meter buffer zone from the top of the stream banks be flagged within which all existing low growth vegetation such as grasses, shrubs and willows will be maintained and any clearing of trees will be completed by hand.
- Transmission pole placements will be planned and located in a manner to maximize placement away from riverbanks.
- All disturbed land/soil based areas within flood plains and associated river valley slopes should be stabilized through vegetation as soon as possible and monitored to ensure effectiveness.

**Disposition:**

Approvals Branch discussed with Manitoba Hydro the suggested mitigation for loss of prime white-tailed deer wintering habitat in sections 24,11,13 and 14-3-15W.

On October 31, 2001, Manitoba Hydro advised Approvals Branch in writing that consultation regarding the proposed route alignment had been conducted with directly affected landowners in the area during the course of their Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) process. In the case of 13-3-15 WPM, the landowner agreed to an alignment along the north side of the half mile line of his property, which minimizes impacts on forested lands to the south of the half mile line that is under title of the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation. Alteration of the proposed route may result in impacts on agricultural operations and would be discussed between the landowner and Manitoba Hydro during property easement negotiations.

Manitoba Hydro also advised that it is their intent to work with directly affected landowners in sections 24, 11, 13, and 14-3-15 WPM, to encourage low vegetative re-growth within the transmission line right-of way through areas of wildlife habitat.

Approvals Branch concurs with Manitoba Hydro's approach to the suggested mitigation for loss of white-tailed deer wintering habitat and concludes that it is appropriate to address the matter directly with affected landowners through property easement negotiations.

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With respect to the stream crossings outlined in Table 7.5 of the EIS (Oak Creek, Pembina River, Long River, Stony Creek and Gimby Creek), Hydro confirmed that it is their intent to undertake construction activities through these areas under frozen ground conditions to minimize potential environmental impacts.

The recommended stream crossing construction and mitigation practices can be accommodated as licencing conditions.

Manitoba Hydro confirmed that no changes to surface water flow patterns are anticipated as a result of construction.

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CCEA)** - An Authorization under Section 35(20) of the *Fisheries Act* will not be required. DFO –WD is satisfied that the potential impacts to fish and fish habitat are mitigable and will not likely result in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. DFO will provide a Letter of Advice to Manitoba Hydro confirming their site specific mitigation measures for the watercourse crossings as identified in their Environmental Protection Plan (EPP).

Environment Canada notes that the preferred route would seem to have the least impact on migratory birds. Recommend that construction occur in late fall and winter to avoid migratory bird habitat.

Disposition:

The Licence will require the preparation and approval of an EPP. The Licence will also stipulate that construction be restricted to the late fall and winter to avoid impacts to waterfowl habitat.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing is not recommended for this project on the basis that no comments or concerns were received in response to the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal.

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:**

The comments received from the technical review of the Proposal can be accommodated as conditions of licencing. It is therefore recommended that the project be licenced pursuant to the Environment Act in accordance with the terms and conditions described in the attached draft Environment Act Licence.

#### **PREPARED BY:**

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November 1, 2001

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