

THE MINING ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA INC.  
700 - 305 BROADWAY  
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3C 3..17  
TELEPHONE: (204) 989-1890  
FAX: (204) 989-1890

February 9, 2010

Ms. Tracey Braun  
Director, Environmental Assessment  
Manitoba Conservation  
Union Station Building  
123 Main Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 1A5



Dear Ms. Braun:

**RE: Seeking an Extension of Time to File Comments for File #5433.00 Proposal Name — Manitoba Hydro — Bi-pole III Transmission Project: A Major Reliability Initiative.**

The Mining Association of Manitoba represents all of the operating metal mines in Manitoba as well as a significant portion of firms engaged in mineral exploration in the province..

The deadline for comments due, are to be filed by February 10, 2010. We are seeking a 26 day extension of time to March 8, 2010 to file select mining sector comments related to land use and surface compatibility concerns, safety and other matters. These issues have only recently come to light. Thank you for your consideration.

MINING ASSOCIATION OF MANITOB INC.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed H ebert".

Ed H ebert  
Executive Vice President

Cc: Manitoba Hydro

THE MINING ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA INC.  
700 - 305 BROADWAY  
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3C 3J7  
TELEPHONE: (204) 989-1890  
FAX: (204) 989-1899

sspoEivicy  
lc  
mBcoNGERvATIioN Ice'  
MAR 1 2010

March 3, 2010

Patrick T. McGarry  
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer  
Manitoba Hydro  
Licensing & Environmental Assessment  
Transmission Planning & Design Division  
820 Taylor Ave  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 2P4

ORECTOR  
—

RE: Mining Association of Manitoba Inc. Comments on Bipole III Preferred Route Selection

Dear Mr. McGarry:

On behalf of the Mining Association of Manitoba Inc. (MAMI), we wish to express our comments with respect to the Route Alternatives to the proposed Bipole III. There are two areas where there are conflicts between the mining interests and the alternative routes for the proposed Bipole III. We appreciate your willingness to meet with us on both at the November 19, 2009 and the January 27, 2010 meetings between Manitoba Hydro and the Mining Association of Manitoba Inc. and its members.

MAMI wishes to address three main issues with respect to the impact of the Bipole III on: (1) the compatibility of the proposed surface use of land in the Snow Lake area within the context of the Provincial Land Use Regulations, specifically Policy 9 on Minerals; (2) future mineral exploration in the impacted area; and (3) the use of mine explosives in a safe manner for current and proposed mine development in the study area.

#### PROVINCIAL LAND USE POLICIES REGULATION POLICY #9 — MINERAL RESOURCES

Mineral potential for metallic resources in Manitoba is fundamentally aligned with the Province's identified and known Greenstone and Thompson Nickel Belts which respectively account for 6% and 1% of Manitoba's total surface area. The relative rarity of areas of high mineral potential is expressed through Mineral Resources Policy #9 of the Provincial Land Use Policies.

The Provincial Land Use Policies Regulation 184/94, established under the authority of the Planning Act (C.C.S.M. c P80), includes Policy #9 that states:

*'Economically valuable mineral and oil and gas resources shall be protected from land uses that would restrict mineral and oil and gas exploration and development. Ongoing and future development of the development of the province's mineral and oil and gas resources shall be encouraged'*

Section B. Policy Application expresses several key points as they relate to conflicting land use:

*2. Within an area designated as "High", no conflicting land use shall be allowed.*

*5 Where conflicts with existing adjacent uses can be minimized, exploration and extraction should be recognized as the primary land use in areas of high mineral or oil and gas potential.*

*8. In Manitoba, all known metallic mineral deposits, as well as areas of high metallic mineral potential such as greenstone belts and the Thompson nickel belt shall be protected from land uses that would prohibit or unduly restrict exploration, development and extraction of metallic minerals.*

MAMI understands that the Province considers both the Flin Flon - Snow Lake Greenstone Belt and the Thompson Nickel Belt as areas of –high mineral potential–. MAMI contends that the running a 500 Kva HVDC through these areas of high mineral potential is a land use that conflicts with mineral exploration and mineral development.

## MINERAL EXPLORATION

The Flin Flon — Snow Lake Greenstone Belts and the Thompson Nickel are two of the most prolific mineral producing areas of Canada and both are considered world class mineral districts.

- Flin Flon — Snow Lake Greenstone Belt. This belt currently contains 3 producing mines, 34 past-producing mines and at least 3 advanced projects, 2 of which are in the immediate study area. The Flin Flon — Snow Lake region of Manitoba accounts for roughly 50% of all current and past producing mines of Manitoba. Of the 37 mines that have been developed in the Flin Flon — Snow Lake region, none had a mineralization surface footprint of over 1 km. With current commodity prices, historic mineral production from this area represents over \$54 billion to date.
- Thompson Nickel Belt. This region includes 3 active mines and 7 past producers. In total this is almost two thirds of the Provinces' total number of current and past producers. The Thompson Nickel Belt includes a production equivalent of over \$75 billion to date at current commodity prices. The mines developed in the Thompson Nickel Belt have a longer strike length and can in some cases have a surface footprint of 3-5 km.

## Airborne Geophysics

Future mine development in the Flin Flon — Snow Lake Greenstone Belt and the Thompson Nickel Belt will be accomplished through the use of airborne geophysics to identify potential areas of mineralization.

'This is a key point because the current technology for electromagnetic (EM) airborne geophysics requires an increasingly larger surface area to help locate future mineral exploration targets. With the last generation technology (VTEM) a 500 Kva HV DC transmission line would generate a 3 km "dead zone" in which airborne geophysics will not work due to interference from the transmission lines.

Emerging technologies (ZTEM) would increase the size of the dead zone to upwards of 6 km. The Flin Finn Snow Lake Greenstone Belt and the Thompson Nickel Belt would be impacted. Given the length of the proposed transmission line through the Flin Finn — Snow Lake Greenstone Belt and Thompson Nickel Belt, and the width of the "dead zone", many hundreds of square kilometres would be impacted. An area this size has a good chance of containing an economic mineral deposit. If industry is prevented from using airborne geophysics in this area because of the exposure of both the transmission towers, mineral development in northern Manitoba could be seriously curtailed.

#### SAFE USE OF EXPLOSIVES

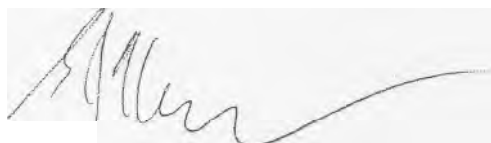
Mineral development requires the use of explosives. The International Society of Explosive Engineers (ISEE) in the ISEE Blasters' Handbook notes that the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME) has established the maximum 'safe' current permitted to flow through an electric detonator as one fifth of the minimum firing current, or 0.05 amperes (50 milliamperes).

Conductive minerals in various ore bodies can interact with the proposed transmission line towers. Galvanic currents and other risks have not been fully assessed and require additional scrutiny. There are at least two projects within the Snow Lake existing Route Options A, B, and C that would place the operations in very close proximity to the proposed transmission line corridors and could increase blasting risk.

#### RECOMMENDATION

MAMI believes that Alternate Routes A, B, and C in relation to mineral exploration and future mineral development in both belts is in conflict with future mineral exploration and development. Alternative Routes AA, AB, B, CB, CC and CD are included as MAMI's recommended alternatives.

Yours truly,



Ed Huebert  
Executive Vice President  
Mining Association of Manitoba Inc.

Cc: John Clarkson  
Linda McFayden  
Tracey Braun

## Blunt, Bryan (CON)

---

From: Nelson Almey [nelson.eagleagro@inetlink.ca]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 8:33 PM  
To: Blunt, Bryan (CON)  
Subject: Fw: Bipole III Transmission Project

-- Original Message --

From: Nelson Almey  
To: Bob Brennan ; Patrick McGarry ; C.B.Johnson  
Cc: [Jeanette Gaultier](#) ; [Keystone Aq Producers](#) ; [Leanne Rowat](#) ; [Stuart Briese](#) ; [Cliff Cullen](#) ; [Hugh McFadyen](#) ; [Stan Struthers](#) ; [Dave Chomiak](#) ; [Rosann Wowchuck](#)  
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 5:43 PM  
Subject: Bipole III Transmission Project

The Manitoba Aerial Applicators Association, representing over 90% of the aerial applicators in the province of Manitoba, are opposed to routing of the Bipole III Transmission line through highly productive agricultural lands in southern and western Manitoba.

This proposed route jeopardizes the safety of our professional aerial applicators and has long term negative consequences to agricultural lands and producers.

The proposal, to route Bipole III through prime agricultural land in the central and western area of Manitoba will adversely affect the farming practices presently utilized in these areas.

Agricultural growers in the proposed Bipole III areas primarily rely on aerial application to protect the quality and quantity of their crops. Specialty crops such as sunflowers, potatoes and corn rely on aircraft for disease, pest and insect control.

Our association strongly believes that an alternative route on lands not primarily used for food production would be far more cost effective, practical and less intrusive on the present farming practices implemented by today's agricultural producer.

Please forward any comments to:  
Nelson Almey  
Manitoba Aerial Applicators Association  
Box 806  
Neepawa, Manitoba  
ROJ 1H0  
nelson.eagleagro@inetlink.ca  
204-476-2448



Mrs Connie J Ballen  
Mr. Jack H Ballen  
58 Barker Blvd  
Winnipeg MB R3R 2E1



1fA t/Dt^t 'v

JAN 07 2010

January 2, 2010

Manitoba Conservation  
123 Main, St, Suite 160  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3C 1A5



Re: Bi Pole 111 Transmission Project

As lifetime residents of Manitoba, we are protesting the idea of a western route for this line due to huge extra costs of a longer line, more susceptible to weather damage because of length and loss of energy.

In terms of environmental problems, a proposed all weather road to service the eastern native reservations could also serve a transmission line to some extent.

We , senior citizens, and our children and grand children would suffer unnecessary increased energy costs and taxation for decades if the project is completed using the proposed route.

Jack Ballen

Conme Ballen

## Blunt, Bryan (CON)

---

From: Blunt, Bryan (CON)  
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 3:08 PM  
To: 'Bockus, Gina'  
Cc: 'leonbrightnose@hotmail.com'  
Subject: RE: Bi-Pole Transmission Line Project

Good afternoon Mr. Brightnose,

Thank you for your e-mail regarding the Bi-Pole III Project.

With regard to the status of the project I can advise you that Manitoba Hydro is conducting a Site Selection and Environmental Assessment process that will result in the selection of preferred route over the course of the next several months. Subsequent to that selection a fourth round of public consultation will take place at which point stakeholders will be contacted. Manitoba Hydro has targeted late June 2010 for conducting their fourth round of consultation based on the preferred route.

Currently, Hydro is nearing completion of their Round 3 consultation process which involves identifying several alternate routes within the project study area. However, they are still encouraging individuals to comment on the alternate routes presented during the Round 3 consultation process.

I apologize that the Manitoba Environment Act ad information is not available in the Thompson Library. Our records indicate that the information had been sent to them prior to Christmas. We appreciate you letting us know about that and will follow up.

In the meantime you can access the same information on our website. Go to: Province of Manitoba Department of Conservation Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch "Public Registries Available On-Line" File No. 5433.00 "Bi-pole III Transmission Project.

In addition to the information posted on our website you will find information on the alternative routes is available on the Manitoba Hydro website. The Hydro website also provides an opportunity to submit a comment on-line. Go to: [www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/bipole111/](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/bipole111/)

Alternatively, you may contact by email or phone:

Patrick McGarry  
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer  
Licensing and Environmental Assessment  
Transmission and Distribution Division  
Manitoba Hydro  
820 Taylor Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2P4  
(204) 474-3016  
[pmgarry](mailto:pmgarry) [hydro.mb.ca](http://hydro.mb.ca)

regards,

Bryan Blunt  
Senior Environment Officer  
Manitoba Conservation  
Environmental Assessment & Licensing Branch  
123 Main Street  
Ste. 160 Union Station  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1A5  
(204) 945-7085  
(204) 945-5229 Fax

e-mail: Oryan.blunt@gov.mb.ca

---

From: Bockus, Gina [mailto:gbockusgucn.ca]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 2:12 PM  
To: Blunt, Bryan (CON)  
Subject: Bi-Pole Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. Blunt:

RE: Manitoba Hydro - Bi-Pole III Transmission Project: A Major Reliability Initiative (file: 5433.00)

In response to the ad which was placed in the January 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Thompson Citizen, I am requesting further information regarding the Bi-Pole Transmission Line Project.

I am a concerned citizen as I have a trap line which runs from the Burntwood River, through the Grass River, up to Partridge Crop and Didimus Creek - all in Northern Manitoba. I would very much be interested in receiving more information on the proposed project as I feel I would be directly affected by this development.

The ad stated I could find further information from the Thompson Public Library - this is untrue. I went there last week, the staff had no idea what I was referring to, even after I showed them the specific ad.

I look forward to receiving your response. I can be reached at:

677-8562

1035 OPspwagon Drive

Thompson, Manitoba

R8N 1P8

[leonbrightnose@hotmail.com](mailto:leonbrightnose@hotmail.com)

Sincerely,

Leon H.E. Brightnose





# MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.

300 - 150 Henry Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C3 0J7

Phone: (204) 586-8474  
Fax: (204) 947-1816  
Website: [www.mmtf.mb.ca](http://www.mmtf.mb.ca)

David Chartrand  
*President*

February 8, 2010

VIA FAX TO 204-945-5229

Environmental Assessment  
& Licensing Branch  
Manitoba Conservation  
123 Main Street, Suite 160  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

**ATTENTION: Bryan Blunt Senior, Environment Officer**

Dear Mr. Brunt:

Subject: Bipole III Transmission Project — File No. 5433.00

I am, writing with respect to the Scoping Document for the Environmental Assessment of the Bipole III Transmission Project (the "Project").

The MMF asserts it represents a rights-bearing Métis community consistent with *R. v. Powley*, [2003] 2 S.C.R. 207, whose members live throughout, use and rely on a traditional territory which the proposed Project will pass through. Members of this Métis community hunt, fish, trap, gather and pursue traditional pursuits connected to the land throughout their traditional territory. These Métis customs, practices and traditions are protected rights in Canada's Constitution. The Project's potential impacts on these rights trigger the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate the rights-bearing Métis community, consistent with *Haida Nation British Columbia* [2004] 3 S.C.R. 511.


The MIVIF is in the process of reviewing and considering the Scoping Document. Unfortunately, the MIVIF will not be able to conclude its review and provide its comments to Manitoba Conservation by the February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 deadline. As you should be aware, the Manitoba Government has not provided and continues to not provide any resources or capacity support to the MMF with respect to the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate Métis in the province on this Project or any other Project in Manitoba. Further, while the MMF is currently in productive discussions with Manitoba Hydro in order to finalize a workplan and begin to engage Manitoba Hydro in relation to the Project, this workplan and its funding has not yet been finalized.

Based on the above, we believe that the Manitoba Government's 30 day deadline to provide comments on such a significant document is unreasonable for the Metis community to meet and this unrealistic deadline would stop the Metis community from providing its perspective on this important document. Therefore, the MMF is requesting an extension to the current deadline in order for the IVITAF to provide its comments on the Scoping Document. If the extension was granted, **the MMF would** provide its comments to Manitoba Conservation on the Scoping Document on or before March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

In addition to the Manitoba Government's constitutional obligations to ensure the perspectives of potentially affected Aboriginal communities are considered, the MMF would note that Manitoba Hydro does not intend to file its Environmental Assessment for the Project until June 2011, As such, we believe this requested extension for the 1141\4F is more than a fair request in light of the Project's significance in relation to the Metis community's traditional territory.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 204-586-8474. The MMF looks forward to Manitoba Conservation's response to this extension request.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Goodon', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Will Goodon  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Ivlanitoba Metis Federation

Anita Campbell, MIMI' Minister of Hydro

Blunt, Bryan (CON)

---

From: Don and Bea Rogers [dandb2@mts.net]

Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 10:23 PM

To: Blunt, Bryan (CON)

Subject: bi-pole III

regarding a notice in the manitoba co-operator concerning the bi-pole III transmission project. i am concerned about the affect such a project would have on my cattle ranching operation if it should be constructed nearby but i have not been able to find out which route has been chosen.i am wondering how i can comment on how the proposal would affect me without knowing where the line is going to be built.-  
Don Rogers, Silver Ridge MB