

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Hydro
PROPOSAL NAME: Harrow Station to Bishop Grandin Blvd. 115 kV Transmission Project
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation and Transmission – 115 kV – 230 kV
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5766.00

OVERVIEW:

An Environment Act proposal (EAP) has been filed by Manitoba Hydro for relocating and rebuilding two 115 kV double circuit transmission lines by upgrading the lines with new towers and conductors between Harrow Station (Harrow Street and Taylor Avenue) and Bishop Grandin Boulevard. The project will be constructed along 5km of the existing right of way owned by Manitoba Hydro. The anticipated in-service date is summer 2016.

The proposal was distributed to the "Transmission" Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for review. It was also placed in the public registries and advertised in the Winnipeg Free Press on May 2, 2015.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

The following is a summary of public comments received pertaining to the EAP. Copies of the original comments from the public are available in the Public Registries.

David M. Sanders

- Opposed to approving the proposed project and recommends that the EAP be rejected as incomplete.
 - Manitoba Hydro failed to submit “*alternatives to the proposed development processes and locations*” and the “*details of proposed environmental management practices to deal with the issues*” as required pursuant to *The Licensing Procedures Regulation, MR 163/88*.
- Manitoba Hydro should conduct a proper survey of the flora and fauna of the affected project area.
- A licence should be withheld until the completed EAP is subject to a Clean Environment Commission hearing.
- The Manitoba Hydro Transmission Project is being presented in part to facilitate the construction of the proposed Stage 2 of the Southwest Transitway between the Pembina Highway/Jubilee Underpass and the University of Manitoba. These projects should be considered together, and supported by far more factual and relevant evidence than has been presented so far.

Disposition:

Manitoba Hydro was advised that a vegetation and wildlife survey of the project area was required to confirm the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (MCDC) search results regarding species of conservation concern in order to proceed with a licensing

decision. In response, Manitoba Hydro submitted the results of visual vegetation survey conducted on June 19, 2015. The report did not identify any species of concern along the route, or in adjacent areas. The report also provided recommendations on precautionary mitigation measures to be employed during construction. These recommendations have been included as licence conditions. A copy of Manitoba Hydro's vegetation survey report is available online in the public registries (<http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eal/registries/5766mbhydroharrow/index.html>).

Regarding concerns about the completeness of the EAP, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship has completed a review of the EAP and additional supplementary information and confirmed that the information pertaining to the proposed project's purpose, alternatives and potential impacts of the development on the environment is sufficient to make a final licensing decision. The technical issues surrounding the project are sufficiently understood and can be addressed by the proposed mitigation measures identified in the EAP or addressed through licence conditions and as such a public hearing for this project was not recommended

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The following is a summary of TAC comments received pertaining to the EAP. Copies of the original comments from TAC are available in the Public Registries.

Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation – Highway Planning and Design Branch

Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation has reviewed the proposal under *The Environment Act* and we do not have any concerns with the proposed development.

Disposition:

No action needed.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch has reviewed the above noted Environment Act Proposal and does not have any comments to provide.

Disposition:

No action needed.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Parks and Protected Spaces Branch

Parks and Protected Spaces Branch have no comments of concerns to offer.

Disposition:

No action needed.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Wildlife Branch

The Wildlife Branch has reviewed the EAP and would like to provide the following comment regarding the setback distance of active migratory bird nest of 50m (*Appendix B – Table 3: Setbacks and Buffers*):

If any bird species listed provincially under the *Endangered Species and Ecosystems Act* or federally under the *Species At Risk Act* are observed in the project area, this setback distance should be increased to at least the minimum distance recommended by Manitoba's Conservation Data Centre for that species. The Wildlife Branch can provide these distances and definitions of disturbance to the proponent if needed. Furthermore, all occurrences of listed species observed during construction and monitoring activities should be reported to the MCDC.

Disposition:

Comments forwarded to the proponent for information.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Office of Drinking Water

Office of Drinking Water found no cause for concern respecting drinking water quality or safety.

Disposition:

No action needed.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Water Use Licensing Section

No concerns.

Disposition:

No action needed.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Water Drainage and Water Control Licensing

Any water control works (drains, culverts, dykes, dams, etc.) associated with this project will require licensing under the *Water Rights Act* – an application is attached for the proponent's convenience. Any inquiries in this regard may be directed to the local *Water Resource Officer*. Their contact information may be found at http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/waterstewardship/licensing/pdf/areas_of_focus_jan_23_12.pdf

Disposition:

Comments forwarded to the proponent for information.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Historic Resources Branch

Historic Resources Branch (HRB) has no concerns with the project at this time. However, please be advised that if any heritage resources are encountered in association with the planned area during development, the Developer is required to notify HRB and HRB may require that a heritage resource management strategy be implemented to mitigate the effects of the development on the heritage resources.

Disposition:

Comments forwarded to the proponent for information.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Climate Change and Air Quality

It is expected that the proposal has no significant impact on air quality (as well as noise) provided that the control measures cited are implemented. The noise clause is suggested to be included in the Licence.

Disposition:

Comments regarding noise nuisance can be accommodated as a licence condition.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Lands Branch

No concerns.

Disposition:

No action needed.

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

No concerns.

Disposition:

No action needed.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA)

This is not a designated project under CEAA 2012, so we will have no further comments.

Disposition:

No action needed.

The following TAC members did not provide a response:

- Manitoba Municipal Government
- Manitoba Health
- Manitoba Mineral Resources
- Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship:
 - Environmental Programs and Strategies Branch
 - Forestry and Peatlands Branch
 - Aboriginal Relations Branch
 - Water Science and Management Branch
 - Fisheries Branch

PUBLIC HEARING:

The technical issues surrounding the project are sufficiently understood and can be addressed by the proposed mitigation measures identified in the EAP or addressed through licence conditions and as such a public hearing for this project was not recommended

CROWN-ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

The Government of Manitoba recognizes it has a duty to consult in a meaningful way with First Nations, Métis communities and other Aboriginal communities when any proposed

provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of a treaty or Aboriginal right of that First Nation, Métis community or other Aboriginal community.

The proposed development is located on previously disturbed right-of-way owned and currently used by Manitoba Hydro. The lands upon which the project would be built are not used for traditional uses such as hunting, fishing, trapping, or gathering.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that an Environment Act Licence be issued for the project subject to the limits, terms and conditions as described in the attached draft licence.

PREPARED BY:

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