



Conservation and Water Stewardship

Climate Change and Environmental Protection Division
Environmental Approvals Branch
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File: 5433.00

August 31, 2012

Mr. Terry Sargeant
Chair
Clean Environment Commission
305 – 155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 3H8

Dear Mr. Sargeant:

Re: Bipole III Transmission Project

The Environmental Approvals Branch (EAB) has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and associated filings submitted by Manitoba Hydro for the Bipole III Transmission Project. As part of this review, EAB has solicited and considered comments from the public and the federal/provincial Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

EAB has determined that the concerns raised by TAC during the review of the EIS have been resolved in Manitoba Hydro's responses to information requests or can be addressed through licensing conditions, other than for the proposed location of four short segments of the transmission line in the following locations:

1. Game Hunting Areas (GHA) 14 and 14A,
2. GHA 19,
3. between PTH 373 and Hwy 6 (Wabowden boreal caribou herd), and
4. PR 10 between Red Deer River Provincial Park and Steeprock Wildlife Management Area.

EAB has instructed Manitoba Hydro, in a letter dated August 29, 2012, to provide detailed options and recommendations for relocation of the line in these locations. It is anticipated that Manitoba Hydro's response to this request will be available shortly.

The EIS and related filings are considered sufficient for the purposes of proceeding to a hearing for ongoing public review of the project. A final decision on the location of the line in the above mentioned areas can be made upon completion of the hearings. Accordingly, I recommend that the Clean Environment Commission proceed with the public hearings for this project.

Yours truly,

Tracey Braun

Tracey Braun, M.Sc.
Director

- c. **Public Registries File 5433.00**
Patrick McGarry, Manitoba Hydro
Don Labossiere, Environmental Compliance and Enforcement
Public Distribution List (see attached)