

# RECORD OF MEETING

Project: Bipole III Transmission Project

Title: Meeting with G7 Municipalities

Date of Meeting: February 4, 2013

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Minitonas Community Centre

In attendance: Representatives from the following town and municipal councils

- Minitonas (Town and RM)
- Swan River (Town and RM)
- RM of Mountain
- Town of Bowsman
- Town of Benito

In attendance (Manitoba Hydro): Pat McGarry, Manitoba Hydro

## Meeting Description

Pat McGarry gave a 20 minute presentation to the G7 delegation that outlined the three routing adjustments, which are being proposed for the Bipole III Project. Each participant received a hard copy of the presentation and maps of the three proposed route adjustments.

## Description

As an addition to the usual presentation provided to municipal councils through out the engagement process, Pat McGarry presented the recent data of the moose survey which was undertaken for the supplemental filing with MCWS.

It was noted that the area observed moose count was up to 200 animals and a member of the audience noted that they believed that number was quite low. It was noted that this was a survey and not a population estimate. It was noted that those who undertook the survey believed that that many observations in a flight was large.

A member of the audience noted that the cow/calf ratio presented in the survey data was low and not as optimistic as it was presented. Pat McGarry noted that the ratios were considered good when compared to other populations based on the opinion of Manitoba Hydro's moose experts.

A question regarding the number of wolves noted in the survey was asked. That information was not able to be provided at the time it was asked.

A member of the audience requested a copy of the Adjusted Preferred Route Assessment Report which contained the moose survey. Pat McGarry forwarded the report by email on February 6th 2013.

Recorded By:

Pat McGarry

# RECORD OF MEETING

Project: Bipole III Transmission Project

Title: Meeting with Sapotaweyak Cree Nation - Leadership

Date of Meeting: February 12, 2013

Time: 3:00pm

Location: 360 Portage Avenue

In attendance: Chief Genaille, SCN  
Michelle, SCN  
Reginald Cook, SCN

In attendance (Manitoba Hydro): Pat McGarry, Manitoba Hydro  
Ruth Kristjanson, Manitoba Hydro  
Deirdre Zebrowski, Manitoba Hydro

## Meeting Description

The meeting was held to discuss SCN's concerns regarding the Bipole III Project and to get a better understanding of the current issues regarding the process.

## Description

Chief Genaille requested additional funding for further traditional land use studies and there was discussion regarding Section 35 funding.

Manitoba Hydro noted that the SCN's Final TK study has not been received. Chief Genaille noted he would supply the report. Chief Genaille noted that the current study only covered the Bog area and that their traditional lands covered a much greater area to the south.

Chief Genaille questioned whether there was additional funding to consult on the additional routes (S.35). Deirdre noted that she believed there was funding available.

Chief Genaille noted that he believed that Manitoba Hydro needs to compensate the FN for the impact of Bipole III on their traditional area.

Deirdre noted that Manitoba Hydro would like to come to the community to discuss Bipole III and the route adjustment with the members of the Community. Chief Genaille noted he would take it under advisement.

Concerns raised by Chief Genaille include;

- impacts on fish
- effect of EMF on plants and berries
- harvesting berries and the collection of medicinal plants

Chief Genaille noted that there are many scattered grave sites in the area and that they provide a spiritual connection to hunters and other people on the land. Chief Genaille believes that Bipole III will disturb or remove some of these sites.

Deirdre noted that Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation had recently completed a traditional land use study and that perhaps we could share that with SCN to provide additional information in the area of interest near Mafeking and further south towards Bellsite.

Chief Genaille noted that we was not entirely opposed to the Project as long as SCN was accommodated. He noted that the First Nation may have to take legal action if the First Nation is not satisfied by the end of February.

Outcomes of the meeting were summarized:

- Chief Genaille to provide the Traditional land use study which Manitoba Hydro funded
- Chief Genaille requested a response from Manitoba Hydro on his request for further study funding or "accommodation" process by February 20th.
- Deirdre to discuss with the government regarding funding for S.35 in relation to the route adjustments
- Pat McGarry to determine if we can supply the Wuskwi Sipiik First nation traditional land use study to SCN.

Recorded By:

Pat McGarry

# RECORD OF MEETING

Project:	<u>Bipole III Transmission Project</u>
Title:	Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation Community Open House
Date of Meeting:	January 23, 2013
Time:	1:00 -4:00 pm
Location:	Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation
In attendance:	17 attendees
In attendance (Manitoba Hydro):	Trevor Barker, Karin Johansson, John Dyck (Plus 4 Consulting)

## Meeting Description

The open house ran in a meeting format with participants engaging in a group discussion about the Bipole III project. Trevor Barker provided an update on the Project including the route adjustments. There was general discussion on a number of items as follows:

## Description

Regarding the proposed route adjustment in the Moose Meadows area:

-It was indicated that the previous route (the Final Preferred Route) went through important moose habitat. Attendees knew of moose meadows as an area that was good feeding ground for moose because of the willow flats. However, WSN staff indicated that the proposed route also runs close to a large willow flat. Dan Soprovich indicated that he would look into where the willow flat was located and provide the information to Manitoba Hydro.

-WSN staff mentioned that the proposed Moose Meadows route adjustment crosses an archaeological site. WSN staff indicated that the site is in the provincial database and is located west of Bellsite.

Regarding the proposed route adjustment in the GHA 19A and GHA 14A area:

-WSN staff indicated that there are 3 mineral licks located close to the adjusted route. These are generally very close to the adjusted route crossing of PTH 20 and located north of the North Duck River.

-Attendees indicated that community members use this area for hunting.

There was a question about potential project impacts on salt flats. Manitoba Hydro indicated that their understanding was that the proposed line avoided all salt flats. The closest the line will come to a salt flat is north of the Red Deer River where the proposed route travels along the edge of the salt flat.

There was a discussion about the noise that will be omitted from the lines. There was concern expressed about potential health impacts on people and animals.

There was a discussion regarding EMFs.

There was a discussion regarding how Manitoba Hydro had made many of the routing decisions and what type of routing constraints were considered.

Concern was expressed about the research methods that Manitoba Hydro used to complete the Bipole III Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Specifically, there were a number of questions about the aerial surveys that were used to determine the presence of marten.

There were a number of concerns expressed about the information presented in the EIS. WSNF staff felt that information about key issues was missing, such as potential project impacts on the Kettle Hills blueberry patch, mineral licks, and traditional medicines. It was acknowledged that WSNF did receive funds to complete a traditional knowledge study however WSNF staff felt that the funds provided were not sufficient to conduct interviews with enough of their members. In addition, WSNF staff indicated that all of their community's concerns would not have come out at previous engagement activities because there was a lack of awareness of the project.

Concerns were expressed about increasing access into new areas. Attendees made reference to outsiders coming into the Kettle Hills area and wrecking berry plants with the tools they use (to pick berries). There were also concerns about opening new areas to outside hunters.

Concerns were expressed regarding the declining local moose populations. Attendees felt that the population decline being observed today was a result of the various developments in the area: forestry, mining, hydro. There was a concern that Bipole III would contribute to the degradation of the local environment including deforestation, flooding, and declining water quality. It was indicated that moose travel down from the hills and will now have to cross the Bipole III project. There was also a discussion about Manitoba Hydro's involvement in the local moose committee.

The importance of the Kettle Hills area to the community was discussed.

There was a discussion about the loss of traditional plants such as red willow. WSNF staff mentioned that there were berries, known as "bottle berries", which used to be prevalent in the area. Bottle berries are shaped like a bowling pin, have the colour of blueberries, and grow 2 to 3 feet off the ground in shady areas. The only area where these berries are known to grow now is in near proximity to where the line is proposed at the Red Deer River crossing.

Concerns were expressed regarding the use of herbicides; attendees indicated that they do not want herbicides used in their area. Manitoba Hydro indicated that they would like to have a meeting with WSNF representatives to discuss the Environmental Protection Program. This meeting would be a good forum to discuss specific mitigation measures that relate to vegetation management and access.

WSNF representatives indicated that the Bipole III project runs through WSNF traditional territory and between various parcels of reserve land. For this reason, WSNF feels like their First Nation will be impacted more than any other along the route.

Councillor Audy spoke about the community's position with regards to Bipole III. There were concerns about potential project impacts on the community's mining corporation. The community would like to ensure they receive benefit from Bipole III. Councillor Audy indicated that the community receives stumpage fees for forestry activity that occurs within WSNF's Community Interest Zone. The community is looking for compensation for the Bipole III project and would like to engage with Hydro decision makers about reaching some kind of partnership or settlement agreement. WSNF is also looking for business, training, and employment opportunities.

Concerns were expressed about potential project impacts on WSNF's treaty land entitlement.

There was a discussion about potential impacts on eagle and osprey nesting areas in the area. The areas where the project crosses the Woody, Swan, and Red Deer Rivers are known as eagle nesting areas.

There were concerns regarding the aesthetic impact of the project in WSNF's area of use. This could potentially impact the local eco-tourism industry.

There was a discussion about potential impacts of the project on geese. Geese usually travel off the hills into the wet areas (traversing the area that is proposed for the Bipole III project). Goose hunting is an important activity for WSN.

WSN staff indicated that they would like to conduct more traditional use studies so that the community can be more prepared when development is proposed in their area of use. They would like to see the province as well as corporations provide funding to support this work.

Recorded By:

Karin Johansson