

PO Box 7950 Stn Main • Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada • R3C 0J1 (204) 360-4394 • sjohnson@hydro.mb.ca

September 9, 2013

Client File No. 5433.00 Licence No. 3055

Ms. Tracey Braun Director Environmental Approvals Manitoba Conservation Suite 160, 123 Main Street Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

Dear Ms. Braun:

RE: Bipole III Transmission Project (Licence 3055) – Keewatinoow Area Infrastructure Urgency

Manitoba Hydro would like to begin as soon as possible several initial construction activities in the Keewatinoow area during non-frozen conditions to facilitate the start of Bipole III development in the area. These activities are on the critical path and will impact all other construction. As discussed Tuesday, September 3, 2013, Manitoba Hydro would like to begin work on the Keewatinoow Construction Power Station in advance of meeting all Bipole III licence conditions due to urgent schedule requirements. In conjunction with this work a security gatehouse needs to be installed on the Conawapa Access road in advance of major construction that will begin once all approvals are obtained. Also in preparation for Keewatinoow station development, two archeological sites, previously identified on the land, need to be fenced out to protect them from construction activities. The following provides information on the proposed work activity in the Keewatinoow area where Manitoba Hydro is seeking approval to begin work within two weeks time.

Mitigation measures as described in the commitments table and in the draft Construction Phase Environmental Protection Plans that pertain to the following sites will be implemented or adhered to. There are no identified Environmentally Sensitive Sites affected by the development of the Construction Power Station Site or on the Conawapa Access Road Security Gatehouse. The requested fencing around the Keewatinoow Station Archeological Sites is a mitigation measure for this sensitive site.

Keewatinoow Construction Power Station

As stated in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the Keewatinoow Construction Power Station site is located on a former construction site used during development of the Conawapa access road. As such the area is already a disturbed site and mostly cleared. A small amount of additional clearing of approximately 0.25 hectare will be required to facilitate construction. Upon completion, the graded and fenced area occupied by the station equipment will be approximately 90 metres by 65 metres in dimension (see attached site plan). The initial work on the site includes minor clearing, excavation and grading, site drainage and fencing which would take place beginning in mid-September. In addition the access to the site will be improved from the Conawapa access road as indicated in the attached site plan. Initial installations of pre-cast concrete foundation materials may also begin by mid-October.

Initial Construction Power Station work requires non-frozen ground conditions to excavate and begin site preparation. Immediate commencement of work is critical as freeze up will begin in late October. Any delays could push the in-service date for the station. This could impact the project in-service date as the power from this station is required for construction of the Keewatinoow Converter Station and to ensure the Keewatinoow Main Camp is operational at full capacity.

Conawapa Access Road Security Gatehouse

To ensure the safety of the general public and Project workers, the existing Conawapa access road will be operated as a private road for the duration of the Project in accordance with the Keewatinoow Access Management Plan (AMP). To control access to the Keewatinoow work areas, a security gate and associated gatehouse building needs to be installed. A portion of the gatehouse development work needs to precede the construction of the converter station, specifically installation of a 20m x 10m concrete pad, gatehouse building, sewage holding tank, and communication infrastructure. The gatehouse will be located adjacent to the Conawapa Access Road as shown in the attached map.

Keewatinoow Station Archeological Sites

Two archeological sites were discovered during heritage resource investigations in 2009 on the Keewatinoow Station site. The sites are designated for protection and require the installation of a fence around them to protect and preserve the archeological findings as described on pages 8-354 and 8-355 of the Bipole III EIS. The location of the fence is shown in the attached figure.

Please accept this letter as request to proceed with the above described activities in advance of final approvals on several Bipole III licence conditions. By way of copy of this letter to the North East Regional Director, please also accept this letter as notice required under Clause 25 of the Bipole III licence, should this work request be approved.

Your timely attention to this urgent request is appreciated.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 204-360-4394.

Regards,

Original signed by Shannon Johnson

Shannon Johnson Manager Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department Manitoba Hydro 820 Taylor Ave (3) Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 3T1

Cc: P. Roberts, North-East Regional Director, MCWS

Attachments: 3





