

MANITOBA–MINNESOTA TRANSMISSION PROJECT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Implementation of Manitoba's Endangered Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan and its attendant activities are undertaken at Parkland Mews, a Canadian non-profit organization. The proposed expansion of Manitoba Hydro Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Line Project infrastructure is in close proximity to Parkland Mews and raises questions regarding the potential impacts of the Project on Peregrine Falcon conservation activities.

Peregrine Falcons in Manitoba frequently use hydro structures as perching locations and peregrine falcon mortality as a result of hydro infrastructure has been documented. Peregrine falcons are at risk of mortality posed by the hydro structures associated with the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission line, specifically given the close proximity of the Project to existing Peregrine Falcon recovery activities.

The precise points of conservation concern relate to the period of time when young inexperienced falcons are at liberty on the landscape, particularly during a time known as "tame hack". Tame hack is the essential building block of all Peregrine Falcon conservation activities as they relate to the Recovery Plan at Parkland Mews. It is a period when falcons, under the protection of a falconer, are left to range free on the landscape in order to promote physical, mental, and social well-being. It is also a period when the critical stages of development are ongoing, when genes are beginning to express themselves in different aspects of survivorship, and when high early mortality from natural and manmade causes can be expected.

Two compass points, East and North, of Parkland Mews is where the proposed Project comes within 2-3 kilometres of tame hack activities and therefore, are well within the distance where encounters between young inexperienced Peregrines and the Project hydro structures are likely to occur. Given the close proximity of the Project, it is anticipated that the young falcons will encounter these structures at an age when they are still in the formative stages of development, inexperienced, and unskilled. A substantial investment is undertaken, as a part of the species at risk recovery planning, to breed and raise young peregrines to the period of tame hack. It is imperative that further research is undertaken to assess the implications of this proposed Hydro development project on peregrine falcons and these species at risk recovery efforts.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

In the Peregrine Falcon conservation setting at the Parkland Mews location, young falcons are put onto the landscape for experiential learning from an approximate age of 35 days or slightly older. Prior to this time, the Peregrine falcons have been parent reared in the safety of specially designed enclosures thereby ensuring that nestling mortality associated with some wild nests is avoided, and proper social development with parents and siblings remains intact.

The practice at Parkland Mews is to begin human interaction at a time when it is believed that the falcon's fear response is not fully developed, thus allowing the falconer to seamlessly become part of the young falcon's social interactions. The consequence of this early interaction is a taming process that is consistent with the Peregrines early development. Some of the factors involved with the formative life cycle stages include physical growth during the pre-fledging and post fledging periods, cognitive development, imprinting and its sequencing, the fear response, social patterns of behavior, and early attempts at hunting. It is a time when the combination of both nature and nurture are shaping the mental, physical, and social aspects of the young Peregrines lives for their future survival.

The intent of introducing young Peregrines to the process of tame hack around 35 days of age is to maximize the advantage of working with early developmental windows of opportunity rather than impose a man-made regime that works counter to this early development. The result of this process is believed to be far more humane than traditional falconry methods and also almost entirely negates the need for birds to be tethered. The lure, a device used in falconry for recalling free flying falcons, serves a more important role during the tame hack process as a substitute for parental teaching of young when they are making early attempts to chase and eventually capture their own food. At Parkland Mews the young Peregrines are already conditioned to associate the lure with food before they fledge. Once the falcons are at liberty on the landscape they can be brought back into the safety of their enclosure each night, thereby avoiding being killed by Great Horned Owls until such time as they have gained enough independence to disperse from their natal area.

EARLY POST FLEDGING PEREGRINE BEHAVIOUR RELATED TO HYDRO STRUCTURES

Peregrines by nature are described in the literature as a species of open spaces consistent with much of the terrain in southern Manitoba and traditionally nest at cliff locations. In southern Manitoba, where there is an absence of high cliffs, urban centres provide an alternative nesting habitat. Hydro structures often serve as vantage points in these fairly open and relatively flat landscapes. Peregrines appear to be visual learners with excellent memories and almost without exception, endeavour to attain some sort of visual advantage over the immediate area by using objects, such as Hydro structures, that serve to meet these behavioural needs. Furthermore, these same structures lend themselves to direct flying attacks, an early hunting strategy favoured by young inexperienced Peregrines with limited flying ability. Therefore, it is not surprising that young Peregrines spend large amounts of time frequenting Hydro structures for both perching and hunting purposes. Hydro poles are also used as roosting locations overnight. They seem to be habitually attracted to them from a very early age as they are often the highest object on the landscape, providing an uninterrupted 360 degree view of the nearby habitat. The overall result of encounters between Peregrines and Hydro structures is a negative impact due to risk of

mortality from electrocution, collisions, and predation by other raptors. Suggested evidence from electrocution/collision has been found right at the Parkland Mews location involving an immature Peregrine while transitioning from a tame hack to a wild hack situation. This mortality was one of a number in Manitoba and documented as part of doctoral research undertaken by Isabel Martinez- Welgan. Her conclusions indicate that after natural mortality Hydro structures are the highest cause of Peregrine mortality in Manitoba.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Bipole III Environmental Act License # 3055 indicated Manitoba Hydro is required in Clause 18, to monitor the impacts of the Bipole III Transmission Line Project on Peregrine Falcons, including the design and effectiveness of outlined and adopted mitigation measures.

Given the proposed Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Line Project may have potentially negative consequences on species at risk conservation activities and consistent with the Bipole III License requirements, funding is required to research the impacts of the Project on Peregrine Falcons and to monitor the effects of construction and operation of the Project on Peregrine Falcons and recovery planning efforts. Research is required to determine whether tame hacked falcons fly within range of the new transmission line and to determine whether there is an association between the young Peregrines and the actual Hydro infrastructure as development proceeds. Further, ongoing monitoring of the Project on Peregrines should be undertaken to assess falcon mortality during construction and operation and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Wheeldon
Parkland Mews

Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

From: David Dawson [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: November-26-15 8:18 PM
To: Dagdick, Elise (CWS)
Subject: Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project.

Attn: Elise Dagdick
Manitoba Conservation & Water Stewardship
Environmental Approvals
Winnipeg

Re: Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project.

As a resident of La Broquerie I wish to add my objection to the above project for the following reasons.

1. In a world that will soon have 10 billion humans to feed it is wrong to put this transmission line across top quality food-producing land. There are already millions of people in the world that are starving due to overpopulation and climate change and soon every piece of land will be required for food production.
2. A route further east through the Sandilands Forest, a non food producing area, would not destroy food producing land. There are already two transmission lines through the Sandilands Forest so there can be no objection to adding a third.
3. I understand there is a reluctance to consider the Sandilands route and I believe the reason for this is that Manitoba Hydro has surveyed the proposed route and is unwilling to spend the money necessary to survey the alternative Sandilands route. Long term, does the reluctance and cost of surveying an alternative route justify the destruction of so much food producing land?

Respectfully

David Dawson
[REDACTED]

Dear Elise,

My name is Bernard Fournier and this letter is being written on behalf of myself as well as my wife Marge, and my two sons Renald & Gilles, that live on the farm.

Our farm is located at [REDACTED] in the R.M. of Ste. Anne but just outside the town of La Broquerie. The farm has been in the family since 1899 and was deemed a century farm by Agriculture, Food and Rural Development in 2004. The preferred route for the Manitoba Minnesota Transmission Line will be passing approximately 600 ft from the farm, our home and right in the middle of the Century Farm.

We were reviewing the information sent to you by Manitoba Hydro, "Socio-Economic Technical Data Reports under Heritage Resources 2.3 and noticed a discrepancy in the information presented in regards to our family farm. On the map page [REDACTED] the legend shows century farms identified by a red triangle. There is one on this map but the location of it is incorrect. As far as I know there is no century farm where they have it marked and where our farm is located there is no red triangle. See attached map showing where the farm actually is in proximity to the line. I found this error in the first 5 minutes of reviewing what affected me. I am a little concerned as to what other discrepancies there are that may not be caught... like Hydro is trying to hide something???

We have a 300 head beef cattle farm. We harvest our own feed and have our cattle grazing in the field where the line is supposed to pass. My two sons have always worked on the farm and will eventually take over and I am concerned that this Transmission line will affect the health of the cattle as well as the conception rate of the cattle. This line will be an AC line and the EMF's that emit from that line are much worse than a DC line which in turn will have more impact on the cattle.

We are also concerned as the line will also be going through prime agricultural land and will affect the feed supply to the cattle.

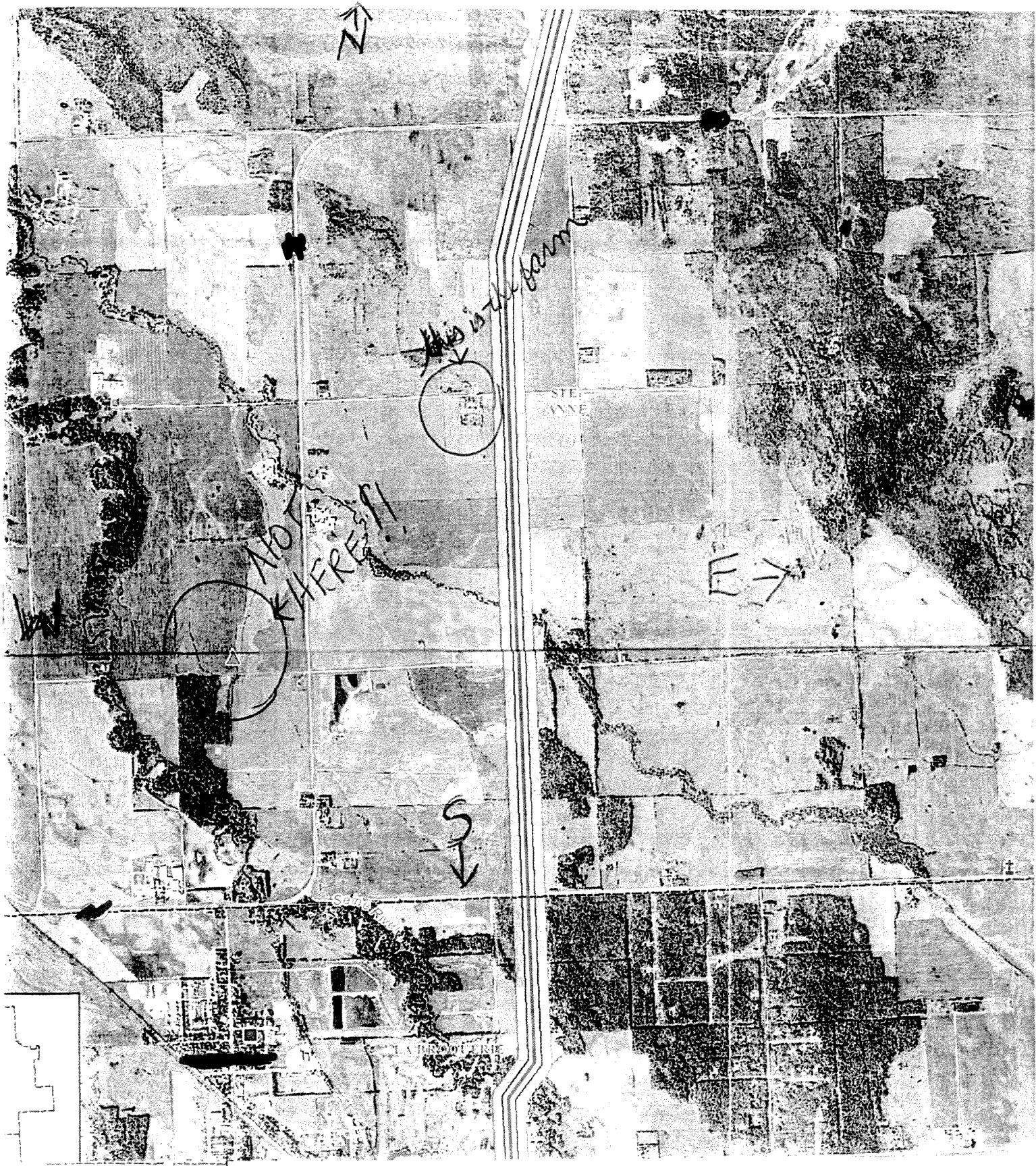
My grandfather was a farmer, my father was a farmer, my wife and I are farmers and my sons are farmers. I purchased the farm from my dad when I was 19 and I am now 81 years old. My sons still live and work on the farm and have all their lives. This is what we know and are proud to be farmers. The fact that the transmission line could threaten that has us quite concerned about the future of the farm. It is very disheartening to know that after all these years and hard work to get the farm where it is today,(and it has not always been easy), that it can just be ended in this way.

I take pride in my heritage and what it stands for and believed that it would continue for many years to come. If this Transmission line goes through, I am afraid that the heritage that I worked so hard to preserve and pass down to my sons will no longer be.

Hydro would have us believe that this line is safe for our health but all the research we have done says otherwise and therefore we may be forced to move. Please understand this is not just our home it is our whole life, our livelihood and our future that this line will be threatening.

Sincerely,

Bernard Fournier on behalf of Marge Fournier, Renald Fournier and Gilles Fournier

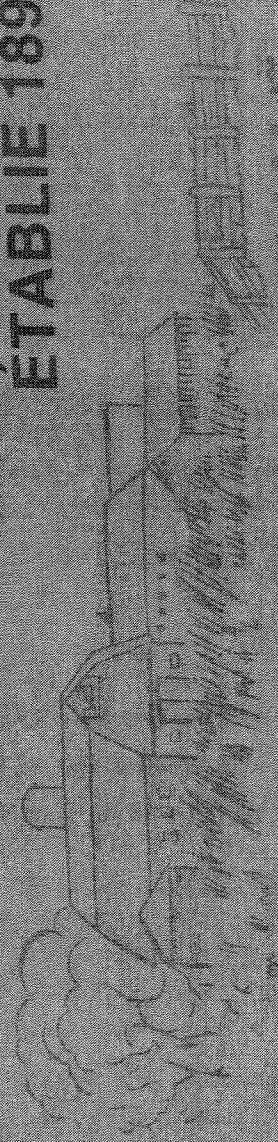


Ferme Centenaire

FERME FOURNIER

BERNARD et MARGE
RENALD, ALAIN, GILLES

ÉTABLIE 1899



100 ANS-FERME FAMILIALE

Rosann Wowchuk, Ministre
Agriculture, Alimentation et
Initiatives rurales Manitoba

Manitoba 

Dear Elise,

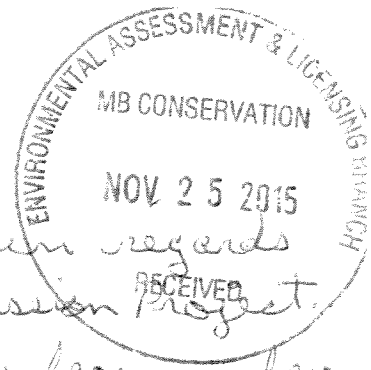
I am writing to you today in regards to the Manitoba Minnesota Transmission Project. I live approximately 3/4 mile away from where the line is suppose to be. It goes through my dad's beef farm which is a registered century farm from 1899. I really hope to one day being able to continue farming but with the line going through, I really don't know what the long term effects will be on the cattle as they are grazing underneath the transmission line. I think it will affect conception rate of the cows along with birth defects + health problems. I really don't know what the viability of the farm will be and it is very sad to see my heritage end this way.

I really can't see why the line cannot go further east where there would be very little impact on human life + animals.

sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim [mailto:]
Sent: November-30-15 1:52 AM
To: Dagdick, Elise (CWS)
Subject: File 5750.00 MMTP TRANSMISSION PROJECT

From Jim and Donna Teleglow
[REDACTED]

Hello Elise I am writing this letter to ask the Ministry of Conservation and water stewardship to look deeper into this proposed MMTP by calling an inquiry. This project is a 550 kv AC which Hydro proposes to run through our community in eastern Manitoba. We live in the RM of Tache directly in the path of this project ! We live 1mile away from a 230 kv line also ending up in Minnesota. Our concerns have not been dealt with from Manitoba Hydro and we have not received any help from anyone in government to get Hydro to address them., As I mentioned before this proposed line will cut a path through acreages and close to our homes and businesses. This cannot be allowed to happen !Our concerns about EMFs should not be taken lightly ,as it effects everyone who will be FORCED to live near this line if it is allowed to precede! This is the major concern of most of the residence in our community's ,we have conflicting information on what is safe and what is not ! STRESS is high for everyone not knowing if EMFs will effect our children and grandchildren ,this is the reason why we live where we live ,away for all the stressors and pollution in the city ! Hydro's answer is they are within Canadian standards . Canadian standards have not been looked at or changed for years . Hydro knows EMFs off an AC LINE are worse than a DC line but still choose to put US at risk by putting this 550AC line close to our homes!

The future of our communities is at risk ,the proposed line will run through some of the most densely populated areas east of Winnipeg. The RMs of Springfield , Tachè ,St.Anne ,Labroquerie, and Piney need tax \$ to improve and maintain services and plan for the future. Most of the \$ come from homes and businesses who pay taxes ,if this line is allowed to proceed our municipalities will loose money from future development which will not take place on land occupied by hydro,they will receive 0 tax dollars from hydro! An average of 1500to 2000 dollars per year will be lost by our Municapilities for every building lot that hydro occupies . We have letters of support from our councils in all municipalities that agree this line should be RELOCATED to a less intrusive route ! We have given hydro letters from the RM of Reynolds that state they will have no objections of MMTP going though their MUNICIPALITY

We have asked hydro why the route to the east was rejected ,and their answer was "WE WERE TOLD WE CANT GO THERE"

If hydro was told where the can't go then how can the route selection be fair? If hydro was told by Forestry or Conservation or mines and minerals they can't go on CROWN LAND then the government had their mind made up it was going on PRIVATE LAND . Hydro had NO CHOICE but to do as they were instructed to do ,we all know the CROWN told hydro to take a longer route for BIPOLE III ,and we will all pay dearly for that decision!!

Our government has already called OUR LAND ,Their ASSETS and they do not have an easement ,or title or even a permit for MMTP,!!
Our Municapilities need to have control of their futures ,they would rather have a good BUISNESS plan than a handout as in the 60 million dollar "GIFT" from Bipole iii.
Land owners have spoken and many have used their right to vote to protest and WILL do so again in the upcoming election!
Our councillors in all munipallities have dealt with the fallout of this "GIFT" many have lost their seats on council because they chose to take the "Gift" .
This "gift " has divided more councils than it has brought together !
This way of doing BUISNESS is not right Our residence and councils deserve more respect than we are getting from hydro .
In closing there are many reasons an enquiry MUST be called ,I have mentioned only a few ,if there is nothing to hide then an inquiry should be no problem for all stakeholders involved!
I would welcome further discussion on this matter or any questions you may have ,I would be happy to answer If our Government does not want a CROWN CORP to put Mmtp on land owned by ALL MANITOBANS then what is the whole story?
Could you please confirm receipt of this email

Ph 20
Email
Thank you,
Jim Teleglow

Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

From: ejrak@mymts.net [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: November-30-15 9:00 AM
To: Dagdick, Elise (CWS)
Subject: Fwd: Hydro Line

Good morning Elise,

In regards to the proposed Hydro line concerning ██████████ will make the value of my property nil.

I have 40 acres and there is already one Hydro line on it. By putting another line on it will make my property completely worthless because no one would build under two Hydro lines.

There is a river going through the middle of the property which will make it very bad for wildlife and fur bearing animals. I will have no bush left on the property and there will be absolutely no potential for sub division. Everything will be destroyed. Please take all this into consideration.

The property at ██████████ is under my name.

Edward Rak

Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

From: Ashley Poiron [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: November-30-15 12:41 PM
To: Dagdick, Elise (CWS)
Subject: Re: Manitoba-Minnesota transmission project.

Hello Elise,

Please find attached the victim impact statement that my fiancé has written up regarding why we believe the Manitoba Minnesota transmission line should not be built on the current proposed route. We both strongly believe that this is a project that will adversely affect the growing population of these rural areas and the wildlife that we have seen in abundance. We have been told that this transmission line is being built mostly to be able to sell electricity to the states, which we believe more research should be done on since it doesn't seem like there is a need for or any monetary gain to be made with this line. Instead of spending billions of dollars into a transmission that is not needed we should be rehabbing the ones that are currently in operation.

Thank you for you time,

Ashley Poiron

On Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 12:36 PM, Ashley Poiron < [REDACTED] > wrote:
Hello,

My name is Ashley Poiron and my partner and I own the NE corner property on parcel [REDACTED] in the RM of Tache. We recently purchased this property and were not aware that the Preferred route for the Manitoba - Minnesota transmission project would be going right through our property destroying an untouched natural habitat for wildlife. The marsh that takes up the bottom portion of our property is home to families of white tailed deer, beavers and many different waterfowl. The transmission line going through this area would be devastating to these creatures and would completely disrupt/destroy their ecosystem. I have just found the Notice of Environment Act proposal and would have responded earlier if I had known. I only found out about this proposed route yesterday as a friend that lives in the same RM had received a letter in the mail. I would appreciate if you could give me more information on how to make a representation against the proposal. Please contact me as soon as possible. I can be reached by email ([REDACTED]) or by telephone ([REDACTED]).

I appreciate your help in this matter.

Ashley Poiron

To whom it may concern,

My name is Mikel Rondeau. I am 29 years old. I was born and raised in Manitoba and I am currently living in Winnipeg with my fiancé and my two dogs. My fiancé and I have recently purchased an 80 acres property just outside of Ste. Genevieve in the RM of Tache. Unfortunately we have been blindsided with news of a Manitoba hydro transmission line project that hydro has been developing for a couple of years and we have learned that the preferred route in their round 3 of planning is set to cut straight through our 80 acres, cutting our property in two and crossing right in front of our intended building site. Needless to say we have many concerns and fears of how this will affect our health and our future plans of building a house, starting a farm and raising our family. Please read on.

After a couple months of visiting said property (and many others), doing our due diligence and figuring out a budget to purchase the 80 acres, we nervously decided to go for it. It was our dream come true. The east of the city is where we wanted to buy (for many personal reasons), so we focused our attention on the RM of Tache. It's not like there was any reason not to buy land in this area, or at least that no one knew of at the time. Hydro made no efforts of warning real estate agents specifically of such an enormous plan in the rm. So if you didn't see it on the news or read it in the paper, you would have no way of knowing this transmission line was being proposed. My real estate agent has told us she is sick and losing sleep over making this deal for us! The previous seller most likely had no knowledge of this route either, nor would he have been legally inclined to mention it in his listing if he had anyways because it was only a "proposed" plan. We actually have the chance now to sell the property in the next two months before the route is officially determined without having to legally mention the hydro project as well. But we could never live with ourselves if we sold it to a young couple like us looking for peace of mind and to raise a family in the country without telling them about it. NEVER. That should be illegal but for some reason it isn't in this case.

How am I supposed to convince my Fiancé that any easement is worth our time when she WON'T live next to a power line? How am I supposed to change the way she thinks and feels? How am I supposed to shelter her from the boat load of information on the negative impacts of EMFs available on the internet? How am I supposed to make her believe hydro's little pamphlet on how it's actually not dangerous to live around EMFs? How am I supposed to calm her down when she is crying because she won't be able to build the house of her dreams like she was already beginning to plan? How do I tell her (or myself) everything will be ok when we just used up the majority of our life savings to purchase this land? Should I even begin to sink any more money into the property at all come spring? I had so many plans! How do we start over somewhere away from power lines if we can't re-sell our property for what we paid for it? I am now caught in a very unique and stressful scenario I could have never seen coming.

And on top of everything else hydro is telling us that they won't replace any property devaluation costs?? Ahem...let me get this straight...

My entire life has been put on PAUSE because of these power line plans. I mean we might as well not build the house of our dreams on the land (and spend the rest of our budget) if we have honest, practical and legitimate concerns...am I right? Convincing my fiancé to build and raise a family on this land will be next to impossible for me if it is expropriated for this reason. It's not like I already have a farm and a house established and have lived here for many years and now hydro is encroaching...I JUST bought the property and my possession date fell on the EXACT SAME DAY the new route was publicly released (Jan 15...no joke either). Now what are we to do? We have both been through our share of hardships in our lives, only to keep moving forward to get to this point. Why should a young taxpaying couple such as us, in such a scenario be FORCED to "take one for the team"? Why are we the ones losing out here? If Hydro's policy is to not leave any land owner "worse off than they were" then there is a huge gap in policy here.

When I asked hydro reps if a buyout of this property is in any way possible, a resounding "NO" was the answer. When we asked about re-routing it around our property, Hydro reps replied by telling us that every corner post in the line costs them \$500,000 so that would be a highly unlikely scenario, so an easement agreement for the line is "preferred"...More like..."forced". Are we supposed to sit back and take it because Hydro and the government can't spend that kind of money to accommodate its citizen's? I don't think so. We should at least be made "whole" by hydro so we can move on with our lives and I think the most ethical way that can happen is with a fair compensation OR if Hydro buys our land outright so they can do what they want with it. We are very attached to this perfect piece of land but our mental wellbeing is more important in the long run.

One of the other main reasons we bought the property was the deer and wildlife, as I practice my traditional metis harvesting rights. Now the giant lines will open up a corridor for atvs and ski doos (noise, disruption) and especially hunters who will take advantage of my wetland areas where the deer bed to poach on my land. Also we will have to put up no hunting and no shooting signs all over our property for of a fear of getting shot by a trespassing hunter. I was going to use the property for bird watching and duck hunting as well as the property boasts a vast wetland where birds flock to breed and rest. Now if I call ducks into my property they will get killed on the hydro lines before they make it to my ponds. That is HUGE property devaluation to me.

I was planning on using the section of land hydro wishes to expropriate to potentially farm and have livestock. How do I go about that now? Hydro will own a huge chunk right through the middle of my land and I can't modify or change their path or I will be liable for damages.

There is just TOO much information on the internet for my fiancé and I to believe that it is safe to live, get pregnant and raise a family near these giant towers. How is she supposed to feel like a responsible person when we raise a baby this close (less than 200m) to power lines? I just can't see it.

I've also been told that I will have to get insurance on the towers or the piece of land hydro wish to expropriate. Meaning if something were to happen to one of the towers I would be responsible. Say a 4 wheeler goes racing down the path and sparks from his exhaust ignite the tall grass, or a hunter tosses his cigarette and a fire ensues and damages the towers, then I'm going to be responsible?? Wait a minute...Now I'm really getting freaked out!

And what about the other people hydro moved the transmission lines for?? Why are they better than us? It should be fair for everybody who is concerned, should it not? Especially in our case considering the route information was released only on the day that we took possession (coincidentally!!) of the 80 acres. We could have NEVER known. Even my lawyer told me we could have never known! Are we just too late? Are we **** out of luck simply because we bought land too late in the process? That doesn't sound right...

We are praying Manitoba Hydro listens to our concerns. Our future is in very real jeopardy as we have invested nearly everything we have into this land. We cannot afford to lose the value we hold in the land on a personal level, nor the devaluation on a market value level. I believe hydro didn't plan for this kind of unique scenario properly which has left us badly victimized. I believe this situation has demonstrated a gap in hydro's policies and we are pleading that hydro listens to us before it is too late.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Mikel Rondeau and Ashley Poiron

Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

From: Michelle [mailto:]
Sent: November-30-15 2:33 PM
To: Dagdick, Elise (CWS)
Subject: Fwd: opposition to MB Hydro proposed route

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michelle Frankard <michellefrankard@yahoo.ca>
Date: November 22, 2015 at 4:52:33 PM CST
To: "elise.dogdick@gov.mb.ca" <elise.dogdick@gov.mb.ca>
Subject: **opposition to MB Hydro proposed route**
Reply-To: Michelle Frankard <michellefrankard@yahoo.ca>

My wife and I moved to this community 5 ears ago with the intention of putting down routes in a vibrant growing community. It would now appear that future has been pulled out from under us along with numerous other families in the area , thanks to to the actions of MB Hydro. We took part in all of the meetings put forward by MB Hydro and in doing so realized the arrogance of MB Hydro and how this was just a fait accompli. They went through the motions of an environmental impact study, but only to fulfill the commitments of the licensing process. When we met with individuals from MB Hydro it was not have our voice heard, but rather for the to tell us this is what was happening and to assure us that there would be nothing for us to worry about.

While the assertions that nothing negative can come as a result of this power line , I can assure you nothing good can come from it either. There have been numerous studies produced about the negative impact of prolonged exposure to EMF both for humans and live stock. These studies have been discredited By MB Hydro and their represntatives as you aren't able to draw a direct cause and effect. Drawing a direct cause and effect is impossible as we do not live in a controlled eco system or in a where we can control variables. If there is even a 1% chance of negative repercussions the prudent action would be avoid communities where ever possible .

Mb Hydro has taken the exact opposite approach, by scrapping the original route through underpopulated areas. So the question becomes why. The first rational is because it would put it in too close a proximity to the existing line and would therefore increase the possibility of both lines being destroyed in the event of a natural disaster. By natural disaster they are referring to forest fires since the regions doesn't suffer from floods , earthquakes etc. The distance between the new lines does not eliminate this problem as just last summer fires extended to the regions of Woodridge and Marchand. All this new line does is mitigate the risk. If this proposed line is as profitable as we are led to believe wouldn't the profits be sufficient to offset any repair costs in the event of a once is a generational event.?? Second, the original lines were meant going through lands protected by civil interest groups. Groups that are well funded and well represented legally and would present a formidable and lengthy opposition. By taking

the route through smaller communities there is no such funding or organized resistance, making it a much easier option for MB Hydro.

Finally we are told by MB Hydro that this line and its profits are necessary if they are to continue to offer reduced rates to MB customers. Yet they don't have the business or customers in the US that would support this increased capacity. They don't have sales to warrant this expansion and recent articles in MN refer to State and private agencies out sourcing other more cost effective solutions. So MB Hydro is building this line on the solicitation of future business . Why then would you alienate your exiting customers and potentially endanger them all for a potential opportunity. Doesn't this action seem at odds with their corporate mandates of community first???

In closing MB Hydro may "FEEL" this is necessary , but I know protecting my family "IS" necessary. As such we, like many others will now be leaving this community . This community was on a path to be so much more and that future and promise is now vanishing thanks to the greed and recklessness of a corporation that has lost sight of who the are attempting to help.

Regards,

Robert and Michelle Frankard-Cooper
La Broquerie

Mr. Mike Lambert

il.com

November 30, 2015

Elise Dagdick, B.Sc.
Environmental Officer
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Environmental Approvals
123 Main Street, Suite 160
Wpg, MB R3C 1A5

Re: Environmental concerns – proposed Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Line Project

Dear Elise:

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to address my environmental concerns regarding the proposed construction of the MB-MN transmission line project on my land. I have several concerns that need to be brought forth, many of which were previously mentioned in a letter written to Premier Greg Selinger and Hon. Stan Struthers on June 15, 2014.

The proposed clear-cut to be done along the west side of my property (and adjacent to my home) will remove an important timber source that is used for wood heating. Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), which generates very high BTUs (British thermal units), grow in its highest abundance in that particular section of my forested land. Other dominant tree species that grow elsewhere on my land, primarily poplar (*Populus* spp.), have considerably lower BTU values and will thus require more trees to be harvested each year for burning.

The above-mentioned section of forest that is to be clear-cut also serves as an important wooded buffer zone between the west side of my house and the edge of the existing cut-line, a linear distance of approximately 110 m. The expected loss of basically the entirety (I repeat, "entirety") of this wooded buffer zone, followed by the construction of tall tower structures within 100 m of my home, will make the visual landscape from my dwelling aesthetically unappealing (to say the least!). Also, given the close proximity of these towers to my home, there is potential the constant 'humming' noise from the new power lines will be heard from my house. I also have grave concerns that the baseline scientific data used by Manitoba Hydro to determine minimal safe distances between tower structures and personal home dwellings is completely out-of-date and, therefore, unreliable.

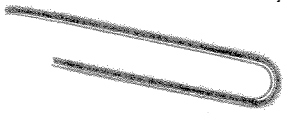
As a registered Métis in Manitoba, I exercise my rights to harvest domestically on my land, and plan on trapping on it in the future. With the increased fragmentation of dense woodland on my property, there will be a noticeable decrease in preferred habitat cover for large mammals (i.e., large tracts of dense

forest). Fragmentation of the land may also affect wildlife species biodiversity. Species commonly observed on my land include: white-tailed deer, black bear, fisher, marten, mink, red fox, snowshoe hare, great-horned owl, long-eared owl, blue heron, and common snipe. Other less common species seen consist of lynx, bobcat, long-tailed weasel, and even moose. In addition to the forested habitat, ephemeral ponds on my land (all located within 50 m of the proposed clear-cut) provide: aquatic habitat for painted turtle and various frog and aquatic insect species; feeding habitat for blue heron and belted kingfisher; and nesting habitat for various marsh birds. Abundant fruit-bearing shrubs also occur on my land and are foraged upon readily by wildlife. Such shrubs include saskatoon, chokecherry, plum, and cranberry.

Undoubtedly, the proposed Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Line Project will have a profound negative effect on several biophysical, socio-economic, and land and resource use elements on my land.

I am strongly opposed to this proposal and would appreciate confirmation that my environmental concerns have been read. Correspondence should be addressed personally to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Lambert". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Mike Lambert

Environmental Assessment Branch

As landowners and residents of La Broquerie, my family and I would like to voice our many concerns to the proposed Manitoba Minnesota Transmission Line.

First as affected landowners we are deeply concerned about having the line on our land.

Significant points include:

The destruction of a part of a Managed Woodlot that has been conserved per Manitoba Forestry guidelines for over 20 years.

The removal of a shelterbelt providing conservation to a sandy type soil.

The removal of a significant amount of trees and land relating to our tree business.

The area in question is going to be the site of a future house.

There are also significant question marks relating to health concerns for these high voltage lines.

In relation to the health issues, the location of the line in proximity to the two schools, the arena, the golf course and the ball diamonds in the town of La Broquerie is of grave concern. As a crown corporation and a government, we would think you would put the health of our children at the forefront. We understand the claims that the lines are within the guidelines but governments have been known to be wrong. DDT and asbestos were once considered safe, we have regrettably found out many years later that it was not the case. Even though there is no conclusive proof yet, many scientist have questioned the long term safety of these high voltage power lines, especially for children. Is the government willing to gamble on these same results?

In addition to all of the unknown health risks, the economic development of the town of La Broquerie will be severely affected by this project.

The town and RM of La Broquerie are some of the higher growth areas in the Province of Manitoba. This proposal would not only have potentially devastating health consequences but would also altar the economic development of this community and area forever.

On top of all of the above, numerous knowledgeable independent people and companies have questioned the need of the entire Manitoba Minnesota project as well as the whole dam construction plan. Manitoba Hydro itself did not want to build BiPole 3 on the west side of the Lake. The whole plan is putting Manitoba Hydro and the Province of Manitoba into potential financial ruin.

It is time to stop political agendas and put the interest of the people of La Broquerie and all Manitobans first.

Respectfully yours,

Darren Bouchard