

DATE: February 20, 2015

TO: Elise Dagdick  
Environmental Approvals  
Conservation and Water Stewardship  
123 Main St Suite 160 (Box 80)  
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5

FROM: Environmental Compliance and  
Enforcement  
Conservation and Water Stewardship  
Box 4000  
Lac du Bonnet MB R0E 1A0

**SUBJECT: MB Hydro Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project – Draft Scoping Document  
(Client File No. 5750.00)**

Environmental Compliance and Enforcement has reviewed draft Scoping Document for the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project and has no concerns or comments.

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DATE: February 09, 2015

TO: Elise Dagdick  
Environmental Approvals  
Branch  
Manitoba Conservation and  
Water Stewardship  
elise.dagdick@gov.mb.ca  
(204) 619-0709

FROM: Christina Nesbitt  
Impact Assessment  
Archaeologist  
Historic Resources Branch

SUBJECT: Manitoba Hydro  
Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project  
File: 5750.00  
HRB Review and Comments

PHONE NO:

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HRB FILE: AAS-15-8700

Further to your memo regarding Manitoba Hydro's Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project (the "Project"), I have examined the location of the Project (the "Planned Area") in conjunction with the Historic Resources Branch's ("HRB") records for areas of potential concern and can advise that there are several previously recorded heritage sites located within the vicinity of the Planned Area and the potential to impact significant heritage resources has been deemed high in this area and herefore HRB has some concerns with the project.

When a finale route is decided, HRB may identify areas along the route of no concern.

Under Section 12(2) of The Heritage Resources Act of Manitoba, being the governing legislation for HRB, if the Minister of Culture, Heritage, and Tourism has reason to believe that heritage resources or human remains are known, or thought likely to be present, on lands that are to be developed, then the owner/developer is required to conduct at his/her own expense, a heritage resource impact assessment (HRIA) and mitigation, if necessary, prior to the project's start.

As a result of the forgoing, the developer must contract a qualified archaeological consultant to conduct a Heritage Resources Impact Assessment ("HRIA") of the Planned Area, in order to identify and assess any heritage resources that may be negatively impacted by the development. If desirable, HRB will work with the developer/land owners and its consultant(s) to draw up terms of reference for the HRIA.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above noted particulars.

Christina Nesbitt

## **Dagdick, Elise (CWS)**

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**From:** Craig Elder  
**Sent:** February-09-15 3:03 PM  
**To:** Braun, Tracey (CWS); Dagdick, Elise (CWS)  
**Cc:** Dana Cornea; Keith Ferguson  
**Subject:** Manitoba to Minnesota TL coordination

Good afternoon Tracey and Elise,

Please see the attached recommendations for edits to the “Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project DRAFT Scoping Document”.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Thank you,

Craig Elder  
Economist  
National Energy Board

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Recommendations for edits to the “Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project DRAFT Scoping Document” dated November 21, 2014

Section 4: Scope of the Assessment

- Page 4.1 re: the EIS will be prepared in reference to a list of legislation, regulations and guidelines:
  - add a note to the fifth bullet acknowledging there are proposed changes to the *NEB Electricity Regulations* (available at <http://www.neb-one.gc.ca/bts/ctrg/gnnb/lctrct/index-eng.html>)
  - add a note to the fourth bullet that any forthcoming changes to the *NEB Electricity Filing Manual* will be considered
  - add to the list: *Species at Risk Act* (e.g. sections 77 and 79)
  - add to the list: *Memorandum of Understanding between the National Energy Board and Fisheries and Oceans Canada for Cooperation and Administration of the Fisheries Act and the Species at Risk Act Related to Regulating Energy Infrastructure* (December 16, 2013, available at <http://www.neb-one.gc.ca/bts/ctrg/mmrndm/2013fshrcnscnd-eng.html>)
  - add to the list: *Memorandum of Understanding between Transport Canada and the National Energy Board for Pipelines and Power Lines Subject to the National Energy Board Act and Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act* (2 July 2013, available at <http://www.neb-one.gc.ca/bts/ctrg/mmrndm/2013trnsprtcmd-eng.html>)
- Pages 4.1 to 4.2 re: list of factors that will be addressed:
  - add an extra bullet stating that the assessment will justify whether or not an assessment of the effects of upstream (e.g. generation and transmission) and/or downstream (e.g. transmission and end-use) facilities and activities are included in the EIS, including reference to the NEB’s past approaches to upstream and downstream effects (see, for example: the 9 Dec 2002 Ruling on the Environmental Effects Motion in Appendix III of the [NEB Reasons for Decision, Sumas Energy 2, Inc, EH-1-2000](#); and the 23 July 2014 [Ruling No. 25](#) on “Motions requesting that the Board include in the List of Issues the environmental and socio-economic effects associated with upstream activities and downstream use” in the Trans Mountain Expansion Project OH-001-2014 hearing).

Section 8: Environmental and Socio-economic Setting

- Pages 8.1 to 8.5: recommend checking the listed biophysical and socio-economic elements against the NEB’s *Filing Manual* and *Electricity Filing Manual* to ensure completeness. For example:
  - Section 8.1.5 Vegetation and Wetlands – consider invasive/weed species prevalence
  - Section 8.2.3 Agriculture – consider soil and soil contamination on all lands, not just agricultural lands
  - Section 8.2.8 – consider acoustic environment

Section 9.11: Accidents, Malfunctions and Unplanned Events

- include a risk assessment that includes analysis of both likelihood and consequences of accidents, malfunctions and unplanned events
- include a risk assessment of an appropriate number of representative credible worst case scenarios



**Infrastructure and Transportation**

Highway Planning and Design Branch  
Environmental Services Section  
1420 – 215 Garry St., Winnipeg, MB R3C 3P3  
T (204) 619-4359 F (204) 945-0593

February 9, 2015

Tracey Braun, M. Sc.  
Director, Environmental Approvals Branch  
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship  
123 Main St., Suite 160  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

RE: MB Hydro – Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project  
Client File No. 5750.00

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Dear Ms. Braun:

MIT has reviewed the scoping document noted above and we offer the following comments:

- MB Hydro should be aware of MIT plans to upgrade and widen PTH 100 as well as the St. Norbert By-Pass. For questions regarding this plan, please contact Murray Chornoboy, Regional Planning Technologist, at
- For highways under the PR 200 to 600 series: under *The Highways and Transportation Act*, permits are required from MIT to:
  - Construct a new access driveway;
  - Relocate or modify an existing access driveway;
  - Place any structures (including access driveways, advertising signs, dugouts, wells, etc.) on, under or above the ground within 38.1 metres (125 feet) of the edge of highway right of way;
  - Place any plantings within 15.2 metres (50 feet) of the edge of highway right of way; and/or
  - Discharge water or other liquid materials into the ditch on any of our rights-of-way.
- For PTH 1 to 190 and PR 230: under *The Highway Protection Act*, permit are required from the Highway Traffic Board to:
  - Construct a new access driveway;
  - Relocate, modify or change the use of any existing driveways;

- Place any structures (including advertising signs, wells, septic fields, etc.) on, under or above the ground within 38.1 metres (125 feet) of the edge of the highway right-of-way; and/or
- To change the use of land or buildings or to relocate, rebuild or make additions to a structure within the above noted control circle or controlled area.
- For question on permitting, please contact Karen Toews Therrien, Access Management Technologist, at [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for providing us the opportunity to review the scoping document.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Sc: Ryan Coulter, M. Sc., P. Eng.  
Manager of Environmental Services

**Dagdick, Elise (CWS)**

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**From:** Walsh, Katy (MMG)

**Sent:** February-06-15 4:38 PM

**To:** Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

**Subject:** RE: Review and comments request - MB Hydro - Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project File: 5750.00

Hi Elise,

Community and Regional Planning notes a small correction to Section 8.2.7.c) – Please add ‘designation’ to this line to read as follows:

**c) Development plan designation, zoning, subdivisions and development controls.**

No other comments. Best regards,

Katy

**Katy Walsh**

Steinbach Regional Planning Office

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## **Dagdick, Elise (CWS)**

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**From:** Wilson, Brian (MAFRD)

**Sent:** February-06-15 12:04 PM

**To:** Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

**Subject:** RE: Review and comments request - MB Hydro - Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project File: 5750.00

The spread of pathogens is becoming an increasing concern to the farming community and to MAFRD. Biosecurity measures should be included in the construction plans and the operational plans to prevent the spread of soil-borne pests (disease, weeds, nematodes).

Brian Wilson  
Soils Suitability Specialist  
Crops Branch  
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

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**Dagdick, Elise (CWS)**

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**From:** Stibbard, James (CWS)

**Sent:** February-06-15 9:20 AM

**To:** Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

**Subject:** RE: Review and comments request - MB Hydro - Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project File: 5750.00

Ms. Dagdick,

I reviewed the above noted submission for Office of Drinking Water. I could not find any cause for concern respecting drinking water safety or quality in the draft scoping document.

If you have any questions, please call.

Regards,

**James Stibbard P. Eng.**

Approvals Engineer

Office of Drinking Water

**Dagdick, Elise (CWS)**

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**From:** +WPG1212 - Conservation\_Circulars (CWS)

**Sent:** February-06-15 8:15 AM

**To:** Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

**Subject:** FW: Review and comments request - MB Hydro - Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project File: 5750.00

Hi Elise,

Good morning.

Lands branch has no comment at this time on the above noted scoping document.

Thank you for the opportunity to review

**Winifred Frias**

Crown Land Programs Administrator

Lands Branch

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

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## **Dagdick, Elise (CWS)**

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**From:** Kelly, Jason (CWS)

**Sent:** February-02-15 1:52 PM

**To:** Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

**Subject:** FW: Review and comments request - MB Hydro - Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project File: 5750.00

Parks and Protected Spaces Branch has reviewed the proposal submitted pursuant to *The Environment Act* for the Review and comments request - MB Hydro - Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project File: 5750.00. The Branch offers the following comments:

- Describing “Protected areas, including existing and proposed parks, ecological reserves, wildlife management areas, conservation agreement lands and habitat enhancement projects.” (Section 8.2.4(d)) is insufficient for conducting an environmental impact statement. The document should not only describe these areas but indicate what the potential effects of the project are on these areas and how these effects will be mitigated; including an understanding of how the project contributes to cumulative effects (past, present **and future** projects).

January 23, 2015

Elise Dagdick  
Environmental Licensing Branch  
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship  
Box 80 - 160 - 123 Main Street  
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5

Dear Ms. Dagdick,

Please find below comments from the Clean Environment Commission regarding the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project draft Scoping Document.

### **Section 2.0 Regulatory and Policy Framework**

There should be a requirement to include a list of all licenses and permits, federal and provincial that will be required to carry out this project.

### **Section 3.3.1 Project Description -- Planning**

Whether it is in this section or another, a description of the land acquisition/easement process must be included.

### **Section 3.3.3 Construction**

6<sup>th</sup> bullet - should be reworded

Location of waterbody crossings and description of crossing methods.

10<sup>th</sup> bullet

Change to Estimation of the construction workforce numbers, composition, **work schedule** and any accommodations required;

## **Section 4.0 Scope of Assessment**

page 4.2, second bullet –

Potential effects of the Project on First Nations and Métis and **their** traditional land uses;

## **Section 7.0 Route Selection**

Manitoba Hydro has selected a new (new to Manitoba Hydro) method of route selection, however it appears that the documents referenced are not easily accessible to the public. This document should be made available in order to objectively evaluate the applicability of the methodology.

If this methodology is to be used then, a detailed description of the GIS-based siting model must be provided and include a description of the data layers; steps undertaken to build the model; and, software used.

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### **Section 8.1.6 Wildlife**

b) Important **and** sensitive habitat types or areas **and corridors**;

### **Section 8.2.4 Land and Resource Use**

Whether in this section or another, the existing land use categories and any requested or required changes should be included.

### **Section 9.12 Effects of the Environment on the Project**

..... ice storms, flooding, **grass** and forest fires, .....

Sincerely,

Terry Sargeant  
Chair

## **Dagdick, Elise (CWS)**

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**From:** Roberts, Dan (CWS)  
**Sent:** January-08-15 1:04 PM  
**To:** Dagdick, Elise (CWS)  
**Subject:** RE: Review and comments request - MB Hydro - Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project File: 5750.00

Hi Elise,

If, Manitoba Hydro is conducting activities that fall within the criteria outlined below, then an acknowledgment of how they are going to address these concerns needs to be included. Also, should the project necessitate the construction of a water control work, then they will have to licence the works accordingly.

With respect to stream crossings, and works in and around waterways/water bodies, the *Water Control Works and Drainage Licensing Section* recommends the following:

- 1) All works be constructed in accordance with *Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Operational Statements*.
- 2) The construction schedule to avoid critical fisheries time periods of April 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 3) The timing of construction be aimed at eliminating, reducing, or preventing erosion.
- 4) Construction activities be suspended during wet conditions, and performed only during low or no-flow periods.

Please remind the proponent that all water control works (drains, culverts, dykes, dams, etc.) require licensing under the *Water Rights Act* - an application is attached for their 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](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/waterstewardship/licensing/pdf/areas_of_focus_jan_23_12.pdf)

Licensing of yard and field approaches (access points) are the responsibility of either the municipality, or *Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation*, whichever is applicable.

The drainage and/or alteration of permanent and semi-permanent wetlands is not permissible under the *Water Rights Act*.

Thank You,

**Dan Roberts**  
Water Resource Officer  
Water Control Works and Drainage Licensing Section  
Conservation and Water Stewardship