

### 6.5.9

Any tourism and recreation development or activity with a permit or license to operate must investigate, identify and mitigate impacts on licensed or permitted activities such as trapping, wild rice propagation, lodges and outfitters, and others. The Government of Manitoba shall work with the East Side First Nations Council to establish a process to ensure sufficient communications between license holders and provide a mechanism to resolve any conflict or disputes that may arise due to competing licensed interests. Conflict resolution by a third party mediator could be a consideration.

### 6.5.10

The East Side First Nations Council develop a clear consultation process regarding the allocation of non-resident big game licenses as the current process appears to be unfair to local entrepreneurs.

## 6.6 Hydro Transmission Corridor

### **Mandate**

*“As part of the planning process, Manitoba Hydro co-ordinate any future transmission line communications and public consultation activities with the east side round table. The east side round table provide regional guidance relative to Manitoba Hydro in regards to future electrical transmission facilities within the planning area. Manitoba Hydro work with the East Side Planning Initiative Secretariat and, directly, with the East Side Round Table to ensure the effective and efficient co-ordination of planning and communication activities in the planning area.”*

Consideration of the proposed Manitoba Hydro transmission corridor was initially defined as a “procedural” mandate to ensure co-operation and co-ordination between the East Side Planning Initiative and Manitoba Hydro in approaches to east side of Lake Winnipeg communities. Community information sharing and consultation sessions quickly refocused the issue to the potential location of the BiPole III transmission corridor proposed by Manitoba Hydro. This was due, in part, to a number of community visits undertaken by Manitoba Hydro, immediately prior to the first round of east side community visits organized by ESPI. The purpose of the east side community visits initiated by Manitoba Hydro was to gauge public interest and reaction to the possible location of a hydroelectric transmission corridor down the length of the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Manitoba Hydro had not completed its full round of community visits when, by mutual agreement between Manitoba Hydro and ESPI, the former agreed to suspend all community information sessions/consultations until ESPI had completed its first round of community visits.

A wide range of issues and concerns were broached in submissions to ESPI from east side communities and residents, numerous stakeholders and Manitoba citizens on the subject of hydroelectric transmission. They ranged

from what ESPI has termed “legacy issues” – expressions of distrust and resentment over past relationships between First Nations and Métis nation peoples and Manitoba Hydro to practical concerns about the absence, adequacy and cost of electrical energy in many communities, to more macro-level policy considerations of the vital importance of hydroelectricity in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the onslaught of climate change.

It is most interesting to note that these macro-level policy issues (e.g. the relatively clean energy of hydroelectric power generation, the onslaught of climate change and the questionable wisdom of our over-reliance on fossil fuels) rarely emerged in our public discussions, nor was any public consideration given to the economic impact and benefits of the sale and export of Manitoba energy to other jurisdictions. In light of the current government’s commitment to promoting “clean energy” alternatives to the unsustainable consumption of fossil fuels, and the economic advantages to be gained from the export of Manitoba energy, the Government of Manitoba would do well to substantially increase its public communications on this issue and engage its citizens in a broader debate than is currently evident. Wind power and solar energy production are fast becoming viable alternatives to traditional, high-impact energy sources and are deserving of public consideration, especially as they pertain to the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

East Side Round Table members were impressed with the breadth and depth of concerns expressed by residents of the east side of Lake Winnipeg respecting past relationships with Manitoba Hydro. Many compelling statements and arguments were put before the East Side Round Table and First Nations Council members asking for assurances that local communities would benefit economically from the installation of transmission lines on the east side. Equally, concerns were expressed about the impact that such installations might have on the natural environment – from the introduction and leaching of pesticides into water tables and courses, to the disruption of traditional activities such as hunting and trapping. There were few communities visited by the East Side Round Table and First Nations Council members that did not have strong opinions and concerns about the possible future location of a hydro transmission corridor on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

### Recommendations:

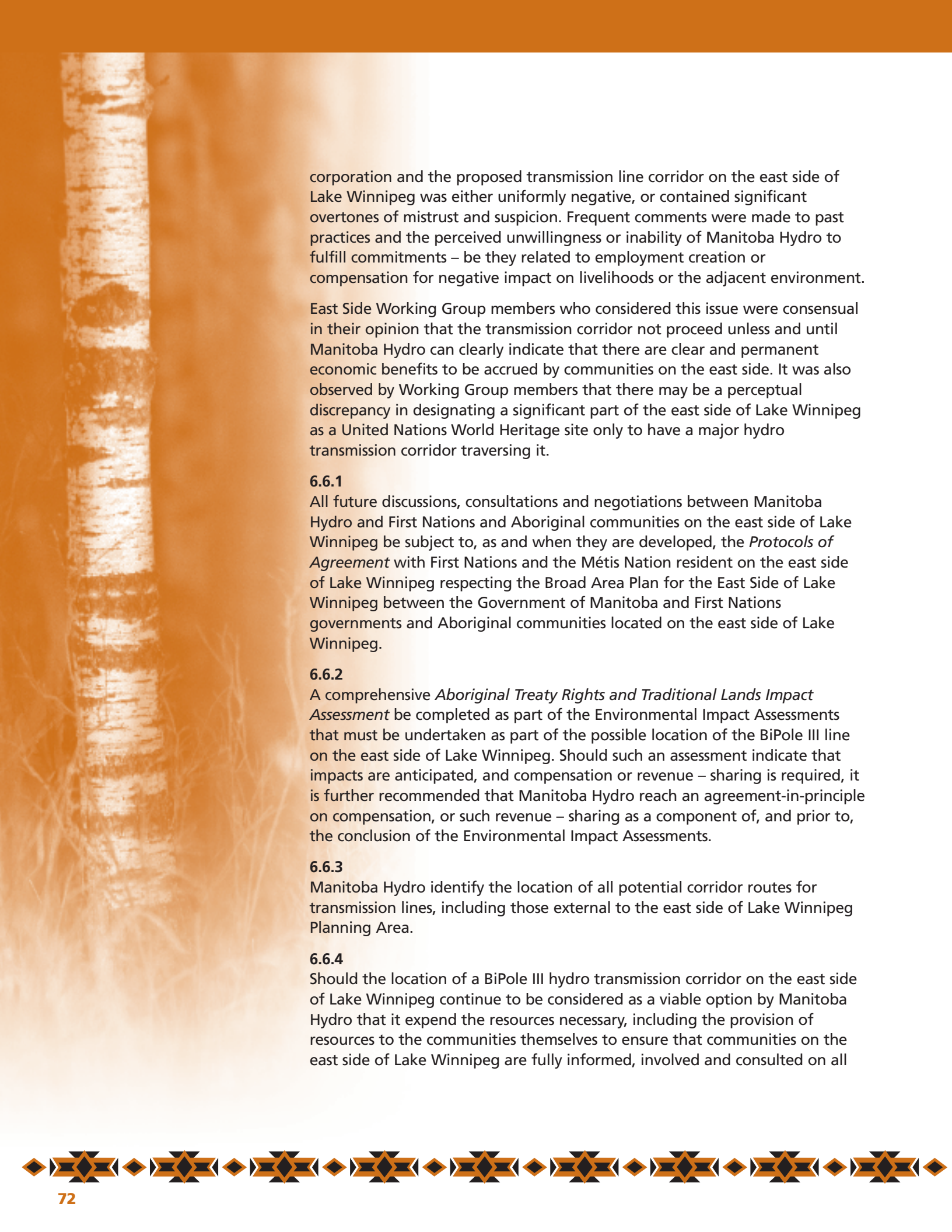
In considering all the arguments and interests placed before it on the issue of the possible location of a hydro transmission corridor, the East Side Round Table and First Nations Council offer the following preliminary observations and considerations.

Manitoba Hydro has a legacy issue with which it has to contend. When the topic of Manitoba Hydro or the issue of the possible east side location of BiPole III was raised in communities through the ESPI process, reaction to the

*“We have heard from Hydro before. They came to us, but did not give us enough time to respond. You have to give us more time. There is a lack of information provided by Hydro for the community to adequately respond or participate. We do not want a poor consultation process.”*

(East Side Resident)





corporation and the proposed transmission line corridor on the east side of Lake Winnipeg was either uniformly negative, or contained significant overtones of mistrust and suspicion. Frequent comments were made to past practices and the perceived unwillingness or inability of Manitoba Hydro to fulfill commitments – be they related to employment creation or compensation for negative impact on livelihoods or the adjacent environment.

East Side Working Group members who considered this issue were consensual in their opinion that the transmission corridor not proceed unless and until Manitoba Hydro can clearly indicate that there are clear and permanent economic benefits to be accrued by communities on the east side. It was also observed by Working Group members that there may be a perceptual discrepancy in designating a significant part of the east side of Lake Winnipeg as a United Nations World Heritage site only to have a major hydro transmission corridor traversing it.

#### **6.6.1**

All future discussions, consultations and negotiations between Manitoba Hydro and First Nations and Aboriginal communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg be subject to, as and when they are developed, the *Protocols of Agreement* with First Nations and the Métis Nation resident on the east side of Lake Winnipeg respecting the Broad Area Plan for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg between the Government of Manitoba and First Nations governments and Aboriginal communities located on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

#### **6.6.2**

A comprehensive *Aboriginal Treaty Rights and Traditional Lands Impact Assessment* be completed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessments that must be undertaken as part of the possible location of the BiPole III line on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Should such an assessment indicate that impacts are anticipated, and compensation or revenue – sharing is required, it is further recommended that Manitoba Hydro reach an agreement-in-principle on compensation, or such revenue – sharing as a component of, and prior to, the conclusion of the Environmental Impact Assessments.

#### **6.6.3**

Manitoba Hydro identify the location of all potential corridor routes for transmission lines, including those external to the east side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Area.

#### **6.6.4**

Should the location of a BiPole III hydro transmission corridor on the east side of Lake Winnipeg continue to be considered as a viable option by Manitoba Hydro that it expend the resources necessary, including the provision of resources to the communities themselves to ensure that communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg are fully informed, involved and consulted on all

components of the intended proposal, including the likely impact of the corridor on the nominated UNESCO World Heritage site.

#### **6.6.5**

With respect to the possible location of a BiPole III hydro transmission corridor on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, that should it proceed, Manitoba Hydro provide assurances that, wherever possible, the corridor be adjacent to other vehicle transportation corridors, unless an environment impact assessment determines this is not advisable. Where hydro and transportation corridors diverge, there will be no road access to the hydro transmission corridor.

#### **6.6.6**

With respect to the possible location of a BiPole III hydro transmission corridor on the east of Lake Winnipeg, that should it proceed, Manitoba Hydro provide assurances to local communities that employment opportunities will be provided and local resources utilized on a priority basis.

#### **6.6.7**

With respect to the possible location of a BiPole III hydro transmission corridor on the east of Lake Winnipeg, that should it proceed, Manitoba Hydro provide assurances that where the transmission lines cross recreation or navigable rivers that transmission line support pylons will be located so as to be hidden from normal sight lines on or adjacent to the river, and, should environmental assessments prove such is feasible, that the transmission lines corridors be buried at key river crossings.

#### **6.6.8**

As concerns have been expressed about the potential negative impact on human and animal health caused by the possible creation of magnetic fields in the area of transmission corridors with operating hydro transmission lines, any HVDC transmission lines must maintain a minimum five hundred metre distance from settlements and residences. Manitoba Hydro should make available to the public all current research on this issue. Should such research indicate that there are possible negative effects upon human health, Manitoba Hydro must inform residents potentially exposed to these corridors of what steps the agency plans to take to eliminate the possible health hazard.

#### **6.6.9**

Any hydro transmission development or activity with a permit or license to operate must investigate, identify and mitigate impacts on licensed or permitted activities such as trapping, wild rice propagation, lodges and outfitters, and others. The Government of Manitoba shall work with the East Side First Nations Council to establish a process to ensure sufficient communications between license holders and provide a mechanism to resolve any conflict or disputes that may arise due to competing licensed interests. Conflict resolution by a third party mediator could be a consideration.



#### 6.6.10

The Government of Manitoba encourage and mandate Manitoba Hydro to fully and publicly explore the viability of locating alternative energy source infrastructure (wind and solar) on the east side of Lake Winnipeg and create opportunities for east side residents and all Manitobans to benefit from these low-impact energy sources.

### 6.7 Mining Issues

#### **Mandate**

*“The east side Round Table consider the potential for mineral development and its acceptability within the various land use zones that may be designated in the planning area.*

*Mining exploration and development in the planning area continue as per existing established public consultation requirements, environmental review and licensing requirements and other required reviews and permitting processes and procedures.”*

Mineral exploration and development within the planning area is manageable within established procedures and approval mechanisms, but requires more attention to local communications and co-operation. Exploration is ongoing to a limited extent, and the mineralized belts are generally well identified. Exploration for diamonds is occurring in the northern part of the planning area, and extensively just north of the planning area boundary. Gold exploration is occurring just north of Red Sucker Lake. An existing mine near Bissett operates periodically. Information sources, maps and reports are available online through the Manitoba government website.

Although the mineral potential and the geology of the southern area are relatively well known and developed, this is not the case with the central and northern areas. Mineral exploration within these areas has been sporadic. This is due, in part, to the relative remoteness and poor access to these areas. It is also due to the fact that the geology of these areas has only been mapped on a reconnaissance level and therefore, it is not known in sufficient detail to prompt intensive exploration. Even though there are mineral occurrences in these areas, they remain among the least prospected in the province, and the mineral potential is poorly understood.

A process has been developed between the government and the minerals sector through which new protected area proposals are screened. This involves a group of mining industry members and other participants, who examine Areas of Special Interest (ASIs) from the perspective of the mineral sector, and determine if a protected area in that location withdraws mineral resources significant to the industry. Where no conflicts arise, there is a green light from the sector. Where conflicts arise, a resolution is negotiated, which sometimes

