

October 11, 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) – Licence Condition # 14

Licence clause 14 states:

The Licencee shall, prior to construction, retain a qualified archaeological consultant to conduct a Heritage Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA) to identify and assess any heritage resources that may be negatively impacted by Development. Plans for the identification of and mitigation for Aboriginal sacred or ceremonial sites shall be included in the report. The HRIA shall be submitted to the Director for approval prior to construction.

Many HRIAs have been completed in order to conduct the heritage assessment for the EIS. It is a legal requirement under *The Heritage Resources Act* (1986) that any proposed work, activity or development with the potential for resulting in an effect undertake a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA). As part of the Environmental Assessment process, Manitoba Hydro retained the services of a qualified archaeologist to assess the effects of Bipole III on heritage resources. Existing catalogued sites, sites with heritage potential identified through a predictive model and sites identified through Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) were field investigated in the vicinity of the preliminary and final preferred route.

Prior to undertaking any fieldwork, a heritage permit, issued by the Historic Resources Branch, is required to search for and collect heritage objects from any archaeological site on private or Crown land. The results of the investigations are documented in HRIAs that are submitted to the Historic Resources Branch. The attached table outlines the HRIAs for fieldwork conducted for the Bipole III project. These reports are also the source of information used for the assessment of the project on heritage resources contained in the Environmental Impact Statement (see Bipole III: Heritage Resources Technical Report). The

HRIAs document the process of investigation and findings, as well as identifies recommendations for specific sites of concern. These recommendations have been adopted in the form of mitigation identified in the Heritage Resources Technical Report, relevant sections of the Environmental Impact Statement, Construction Environmental Protection Plan and Culture and Heritage Resources Protection Plan (CHRPP).

The CHRPP (attached) is part of the Environmental Protection Program for the project. The role of the CHRPP in the Environmental Protection Program is to describe processes and protocols with communities to allow Manitoba Hydro to safeguard heritage resources and appropriately handle human remains or heritage resources discovered or disturbed during the construction of the project. If a heritage resource is discovered or disturbed the ongoing protection measures for the resources will be determined through processes outlined in the CHRPP and then the applicable Construction Environmental Protection Plan and maps will be updated with the site specific mitigation measures. The Operations and Maintenance Environmental Protection Plans will also include the site and protection measures to be used for ongoing protection of heritage resources during operations.

In summary MH has met the licence condition for conducting HRIAs in the course of conducting a heritage resource assessment for the Environmental Impact Statement. Dr. Virginia Petch is the qualified archeologist who conducted the work and submitted the HRIAs to Historic Resources Branch. Further, in fulfillment of the intent of Clause 14 we are submitting the CHRPP for the Bipole III project that outlines the procedures for dealing with undiscovered heritage or sites of Aboriginal cultural value. New discoveries during construction may require further investigation (HRIA) by the project archeologist.

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

Regards,

Original signed by Shannon Johnson

Shannon Johnson
Manager
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Attachments: 2