

August 18, 2015

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) – Route Adjustment

Pursuant to the Bipole III Transmission Project *Environment Act* licence 3055, this letter serves to request approval for a route adjustment of approximately 1.5 kilometres immediately north of the Assiniboine River crossing in construction segment S1. This route adjustment is requested due to concerns construction equipment in the area of the creek slope may cause bank instability and bank erosion. The local landowner supports this change.

The transmission line in its present configuration bisects a cultivated field at prairie elevation, traverses diagonally down a steep embankment adjacent to a creek for approximately 500m, follows the creek for approximately 300m, continues just north of the creek until it crosses the access road, and traverses another embankment until eventually crossing the Assiniboine River. The proposed route adjustment moves the line further away from the creek as shown on the attached map. Both the existing and proposed routes are on private land.

Also attached is a letter dated January 23, 2014 that indicated at that time Swan Lake First Nation wanted to ensure that the Final Preferred Route (FPR) was not altered due to licence clause 52 concerning a small creek just north of the Assiniboine River crossing. Having since been advised of this proposed route adjustment and visiting the site, Swan Lake First Nation is in support of this proposed route adjustment.

With the current route, construction and ongoing line maintenance requirements could exacerbate erosion of the embankments adjacent to the creek which could affect the stability of the creek bed and the embankment where the landowner's access road crosses the creek. Concerns of erosion are well founded as the area is composed of silty/sandy soil that is highly susceptible to wind/water erosion. Although there are costs to move the line, this route adjustment will minimize potential environment damage to the creek and minimize impact on the roadways during spring run-off or flooding events.

In the absence of approval of this route adjustment, Manitoba Hydro would incur additional costs to alter slopes of the river banks to accommodate equipment for tower foundations as well as significant costs related to haulage of materials to maintain the creek and roadway.

Your timely response to this route adjustment request is very much appreciated.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification of our comments 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

Attachments: 2

