

5.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

5.1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Public involvement is an integral part of Manitoba Hydro's Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) process described in Chapter 6. Manitoba Hydro developed a Public Involvement Program (PIP) to guide the approach to engagement for the proposed Keeyask Transmission Project ("the Project"). The engagement approach reflects Manitoba Hydro's current practice and principles for engagement in an environmental assessment context.

The overall purpose of the PIP is to provide the public, and particularly those who may potentially be affected by the Project, with meaningful opportunities to receive information on, and provide their input into, the SSEA for the Project. The PIP aimed to achieve the following:

- **Opportunities for early involvement:** This includes providing advanced notice and information about the Project and the PIP so that parties can assess their interests and provide early comment, as well as become involved in ongoing planning and environmental review activities.
- **Opportunities for ongoing involvement:** This includes providing ongoing opportunities to learn about the Project and key planning activities, to provide input with respect to any concerns or opinions, to resolve issues raised, to have views and inputs recorded, and to learn about actions or results that occur as a result of studies and planning activities.
- **Opportunities at various stages:** This includes opportunities to provide inputs: (a) when issues are being initially identified, (b) when alternative routes/sites are being considered and (c) when effects assessments are reviewed and mitigation or enhancement are considered.
- **Variety of mechanisms:** This includes using a variety of mechanisms (appropriate for different segments of the public) to communicate, to receive feedback, and to engage in ongoing meaningful dialogue.
- **Adaptive approach:** This includes adjusting the PIP, as required and feasible, throughout the course of the environmental review and planning process, in response to issues, concerns and challenges.

Early stage activities focused on elected officials in First Nations and municipalities in the Project Study Area. To recognize and address the rights and interests of Aboriginal Peoples, potentially affected publics in the Project Study Area were divided into Aboriginal and non-

Aboriginal groupings. The PIP for both were carried out separately, but coordinated over the same time frames, which allowed engagement activities to recognize the diversity and unique nature of various stakeholders from both a cultural and physical geographic perspective but the PIP does not contribute to the assessment of the effect on Aboriginal rights under the constitution of Canada⁴.

The Project Study Area is located in the Split Lake Resource Management Area (SLRMA) and includes the Town of Gillam and the Fox Lake Cree Nation (FLCN) A Kwis Ki Mahka reserve. The First Nations and the municipality in the Project Study Area are Tataskweyak Cree Nation (TCN), Fox Lake Cree Nation and Gillam.

Public involvement is an important part of the SSEA process for sharing information, particularly during the alternative and preferred route stages of a proposed project. Input was sought from municipal officials and First Nation leadership in the Project Study Area, resource users and other interested parties (refer to Appendix D for a list of other stakeholders). The PIP provided the public with a variety of opportunities to stay informed throughout the study process, to offer pertinent information, and to provide input into the Project.

The specific objectives of the PIP for the Project were to:

- Share project information as it became available.
- Obtain Aboriginal traditional knowledge (ATK) and local knowledge which might assist in project planning.
- Obtain input from stakeholders in the Project Study Area on the best way to involve the public and get their feedback into the decision-making process.
- Understand local issues pertinent to the proposed Project.
- Integrate issues and concerns identified by interested parties in the decision-making process.
- Discuss appropriate mitigation measures to reduce potential negative environmental effects and maximize potential benefits of the Project.

Government agencies were also notified about the Project in order to aid in the identification regulatory and policy factors and other issues relevant to the SSEA process.

⁴ It should be noted that the PIP does not replace the Crown's obligation to consult with Aboriginal Communities regarding the potential effect of the project on the exercise of Treaty and Aboriginal rights arising from Section 35 of the Constitution nor does the PIP contribute to the assessment of the impact on Aboriginal Rights.

5.2 METHODS

Two rounds of public engagement were held for the Project. Figure 5-1 and Table 5-1 outline the broad purpose and general timing of each.

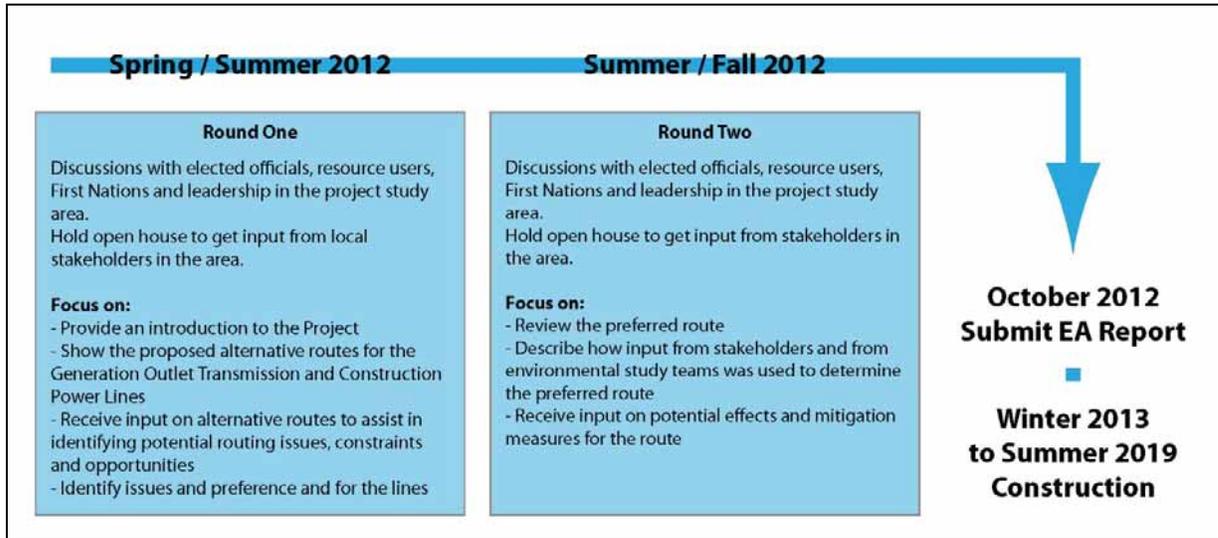


Figure 5-1: Two-Round Site Selection and Environmental Assessment Engagement Approach for the Keyask Transmission Project, 2012

Table 5-1: General Approach to Each Round of Engagement

<p>Round One Introduction to the Project Site Selection and Environmental Assessment Process and Alternative Routes</p>	<p>Purpose: Introduce the Project and described the SSEA process, present the alternative routes, provide information on how the alternatives were selected. Identify issues, concerns and get feedback on the alternatives to identify potential routing issues, constraints and opportunities.</p> <p>Approach: Meet with elected municipal officials and First Nation leadership, members and other stakeholders. Meetings included a presentation about the Project and the alternative routes followed by a question and answer period.</p>
<p>Round Two Present Preferred Route</p>	<p>Purpose: Present the Preferred Route for the Project, and obtain input on mitigation measures to minimize potential adverse effects and enhance positive effects.</p> <p>Approach: Meet with elected municipal officials and First Nation leadership and other stakeholders. Meetings included a presentation followed by a question and answer period.</p>

A variety of engagement activities were undertaken including meetings and open houses. Invitation letters sent to First Nations and other stakeholders, meeting notes and other communication materials used in the engagement process are included in Appendix D. Meetings and open house events are described in more detail in Sections 5.3 and 5.4. Results and feedback are described in Section 5.5.

Public Involvement Round One was undertaken in the spring and summer of 2012. Round One included discussions with elected officials, resource users and First Nations in the Project Study Area and an open house in Gillam.⁵ Round One focussed on:

- Providing an introduction to the Project.
- Providing information on the alternative routes being considered.
- Providing opportunities for stakeholders to identify potential issues, features or constraints that would affect the route selection process.

Public Involvement Round Two activities were completed in the fall of 2012. Round Two included discussions with elected officials, resource harvesters and First Nations in the Project Study Area and an open house in Gillam. Round Two focussed on:

- Providing an opportunity for stakeholders to review and comment on the Preliminary Preferred Route for the Generation Outlet Transmission (GOT) Lines, Construction Power Lines, Keeyask Switching Station and Construction Power Station.
- Providing an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input on potential effects and mitigation measures for the Project.

A variety of tools were used to carry out the PIP, including:

- Meetings with municipal and First Nations leadership.
- Public open houses.
- Notification letters sent to potentially interested stakeholders.

Copies of materials used in the PIP are provided in Appendix D.

⁵ Refer to Appendix D for a list of meetings and stakeholders.

5.3 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

5.3.1 Meetings

Meetings were held with leadership of TCN, FLCN and the town of Gillam. Meetings provided an opportunity for Manitoba Hydro to discuss with First Nations and municipal leadership the SSEA process and issues of concern. A list of meetings and copies of letters sent to request meetings is provided in Appendix D.

5.3.2 Open Houses

Open houses were held in the Town of Gillam in Round One and Round Two. At each open house, Manitoba Hydro representatives were available to discuss information presented on story boards and maps and to answer questions from attendees. Manitoba Hydro sought to understand stakeholder interests related to the Project, and offered perspectives on topics raised during the open houses.

Public involvement materials related to each open house are summarized in Table 5-2. Copies of materials are available in Appendix D.

Table 5-2: Open House Materials Summary

Round One Introduction to the Project SSEA process and presentation of alternative routes	Materials Used <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advertisement in the <i>Nickel Belt News</i>• Posters placed around the Town of Gillam and distributed to FLCN• Newsletter describing the Project and Round One activities• Trappers Notification / Compensation Policy brochure• Transmission Right of Way Tree Clearing brochure• Project Study Area maps• Round One open house story boards• Comment/feedback forms
Round Two Presentation of Preferred Route and discussion of potential effects and mitigation	Materials Used <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advertisement in Nickel Belt News• Posters placed around the Town of Gillam• Project Study Area and preferred route maps• Round Two open house story boards• Comment/feedback forms

5.3.3 Notification Letters

Notification letters were sent to other potentially interested stakeholders. Copies of these letters are available in Appendix D.

5.4 ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

Manitoba Hydro is committed to strengthening working relationships with Aboriginal peoples. From the outset of the Project planning process, Manitoba Hydro identified meaningful Aboriginal engagement and incorporation of Aboriginal perspectives, including Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK), as important components of the Project planning and SSEA process.

As outlined in Section 5.1, Manitoba Hydro's approach to engagement, including Aboriginal engagement, in the planning process was designed to be adaptive, involving the early and ongoing involvement of Aboriginal people and organizations through a variety of mechanisms.

Given the unique rights, interests and perspectives of Aboriginal peoples both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal stakeholders were engaged independently. The PIP for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal stakeholders were carried out separately, but activities were coordinated over the same timeframe and stakeholder engagement activities were tracked in the same way.

The Project Study Area is located in the SLRMA and includes the Fox Lake Cree Nation A Kwis Ki Mahka reserve. Aboriginal engagement focussed on these First Nations. Notifications and other information were also provided to York Factory First Nation, War Lake First Nation and the Manitoba Metis Federation. In addition, Manitoba Hydro is currently undertaking ATK studies with the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) and FLCN related to the project.

The MMF study includes coordinating and holding community meetings to provide information on the Project, reporting on Traditional Land Use and Knowledge Studies, developing and circulating communications to MMF members in the region, holding internal meetings with Metis community leadership, consultants, staff and advisors and the preparation of historical narrative and Metis perspective on their presence in the area.

The FLCN study includes describing the nature and extent of FLCN's historical and present use of the Keeyask Transmission Project footprint area; the impacts of the Project on current and future community activities; the impacts of the Project on plant and animal species that are culturally significant to Fox Lake, for example caribou, brook trout and medicinal plants; and the impacts of the Project on Fox Lake's potential treaty land entitlement selections.

5.4.1 Aboriginal Leadership Notification and Meetings

Manitoba Hydro undertook a two-round stakeholder PIP during 2012, as outlined in Section 5.2. Aboriginal leaders were notified and provided information about the Project by letter which requested a meeting so that Manitoba Hydro could share information, answer questions and discuss concerns regarding the proposed project. First Nations whose traditional territories overlap the Project Study Area, nearby First Nations and the Manitoba Metis Federation were invited to participate in the process. A list of meetings and copies of letters sent to Aboriginal leaders are included in Appendix D. Appendix D also includes a concordance table identifying concerns that arose during the PIP and where these concerns are addressed in the EA Report.

5.4.2 Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and Engagement Processes with Tataskweyak Cree Nation and Fox Lake Cree Nation

Tataskweyak Cree Nation and Fox Lake Cree Nation indicated a desire to conduct their own Traditional Knowledge studies. Manitoba Hydro provided funding to these First Nations to undertake their own self-directed studies given the location of the Project Study Area relative to the traditional use areas for these First Nations. As noted above, the MMF is currently in the process of conducting a study to prepare a historical narrative and Metis perspective on their presence in the area.

5.4.2.1 Tataskweyak Cree Nation

Tataskweyak Cree Nation (TCN) has a long history with Manitoba Hydro and today, the community and the Corporation have a unique relationship, and interact across a number of projects and processes. TCN's perspective is that it has been severely impacted by major Manitoba Hydro developments. The developments, which began in the 1950s and continue in operation today, include the Churchill River Diversion, the Lake Winnipeg Regulation project and the construction and operation of four generating stations and transmission facilities in the lower Nelson River area.

Along with four other First Nations, Manitoba, Canada, and Manitoba Hydro, TCN (Split Lake) is a signatory to the 1977 *Northern Flood Agreement*. In any given year the majority of the hydroelectric power produced in Manitoba is generated in the lower Nelson River region, within the Split Lake Resource Management Area.

Since the 1970s, Manitoba Hydro and TCN's relationship has continued to evolve. In 1992, TCN, Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba and Canada signed the 1992 *NFA Implementation Agreement* to guide the implementation of the *Northern Flood Agreement* with TCN; the

1992 Agreement was the first NFA Implementation Agreement, setting the template for the other three Implementation Agreements to follow. This agreement included a range of provisions, including compensation for adverse effects, joint TCN-Hydro processes to address adverse effects of future hydroelectric development, and led to the creation of the Split Lake Resource Management Area (SLRMA) and definition of the Split Lake Resource Area. The Keeyask Transmission Project is contained entirely within the Split Lake Resource Management Area.

Agreements in 1996 and 2008 further defined the relationship and included provisions related to certain described water events. In 2000, TCN and Manitoba Hydro signed an *Agreement in Principle* in relation to the potential development of the Keeyask Generating Station, located at Gull Rapids in the SLRMA. In 2009, Manitoba Hydro and TCN signed the *Tataskweyak Cree Nation Keeyask Adverse Effects Agreement*, which sets out a range of programs to offset adverse effects of Keeyask, and the *Joint Keeyask Development Agreement*, which outlines the arrangement for TCN to become an equity partner in the Keeyask Generating Station (along with three other First Nations in the area).

In September 2009, TCN and Manitoba Hydro entered into discussions regarding participation in Hydro transmission-related projects. A series of discussions led to the conclusion of a contribution agreement in March 2010. As part of the contribution agreement, Manitoba Hydro and TCN agreed to a joint process which would result in TCN commenting on the right-of-way for the Project and on the expected effects the Project would have on TCN Members arising from its construction and operation within the SLRMA. From Manitoba Hydro's perspective, the purpose of the TCN study was to engage their members in the hope that they could provide perspectives and a greater understanding of the study area and the potential effects of the Project.

The purposes of the work, as noted in TCN's report were to:

- Participate in the planning process.
- Make an independent determination of the potential effect of the Project on TCN.
- Assure the availability to TCN of training, business and employment opportunities related to the Project.
- Participate in a process with Manitoba Hydro to determine the ways and means of dealing with individual Members, including trappers, who may be affected by the construction and operation of the Project.

- Allow for meaningful participation by TCN in the Project's Environmental and Regulatory proceedings, in the preparation of Environmental Management Plans, and in the associated implementation activities.

As is TCN's preference, Manitoba Hydro provided the community with funding to consult with its own members regarding the Project. As the TCN/Manitoba Hydro working relationship has evolved over time, the community has developed its own approach to project discussions, where TCN representatives and leadership tend to consult directly with TCN members, without a strong Manitoba Hydro presence in the community. While this approach is somewhat different from that taken in other communities, it is TCN's preferred approach, and it is respected by Manitoba Hydro.

The Manitoba Hydro/TCN process in relation to the Keeyask Transmission project has led to the development of the Tataskweyak Cree Nation Report on Keeyask Transmission Project, October 2011 (TCN 2011).

The TCN (2011) report included a constraints map and descriptive report, and provided the results of TCN's consultations with members regarding the three original proposed Generation Outlet Transmission route alternatives and the route for the Construction Power Line through the SLRMA. The TCN report provides their view of the best possible location for the Generation Outlet Transmission Lines and a summary of their Members' views on the impacts of the Project on lands, waters and on their people. TCN's report also includes a number of maps which depict their community's areas of use within the Project Study Area. Consultations with members were conducted through community meetings and through interviews with Elders, youth and resource users.

TCN based its assessment of the expected impacts from the Project on their Cree worldview, which is described as reflecting a number of beliefs expressed in vital relationships with Mother Earth that recognize "the interconnectedness of all things, living and non-living, in our homeland ecosystem". This worldview was further explained through the use of the Mother Earth Ecosystem Model.

TCN used the Overview of Water and Land (OWL) process to gather information from their membership regarding the Keeyask Transmission Project. This process, which has been used for previous studies and described as reflective of TCN's worldview, relied primarily on interviews conducted with the use of a general interview guide to encourage open-ended discussions. A mapping component was included in the interview process. Thirty-five members participated in the interviews. Thirty-seven percent of the interviewees were resource users who were believed to be the ones most likely affected by the Keeyask Transmission Project. The interviews were translated and analyzed with a view to developing a list of identified issues.

The analysis of these issues indicated that “the most overwhelming effects of Keeyask Transmission Project will be its impact on our culture – especially those that interfere with our right to practice our traditions, customs, and beliefs.” Eight possible interferences were noted including the potential impact on hunting, trapping, access to traditional foods, opportunities for sharing, as well as the experience of traditional learning and living. Concerns were also raised regarding the Project’s possible interference with TCN’s historical, spiritual, emotional relationship with the land including members’ respect and care for Mother Earth.

TCN members consider the Project in the context of past and future Manitoba Hydro developments. TCN has experienced various impacts from previous Manitoba Hydro projects. There are ongoing concerns regarding further loss of natural habitat, displacement of animal populations, and loss of access trails within the region and the consequent negative effects on TCN’s cultural practices and identity.

The report concluded by identifying the following conditions associated with TCN’s continued support of the Project:

- Conducting negotiations with Manitoba Hydro and reaching agreement regarding compensation for the impact on the collective rights and interests of TCN arising from the construction and operation of the Keeyask Transmission Project within our traditional territory.
- Conducting negotiations with Manitoba Hydro and reaching agreement regarding business, training and employment opportunities associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of the Keeyask Transmission Project.

Manitoba Hydro continues to meet with TCN in the context of the Project. The parties are currently in discussions regarding TCN’s concerns about the Project, as well as the potential Project -related business, training, and employment opportunities. These discussions are intended to lead to a jointly developed set of principles which will address training, employment, business opportunities and project impacts.

It is anticipated that Project-related discussions with TCN will continue past the filing of the EA Report.

5.4.2.2 Fox Lake Cree Nation

The Project Study Area includes the A Kwis Ki Mahka Reserve and the Town of Gillam, where many FLCN Members reside. Fox Lake Cree Nation and Manitoba Hydro have an agreement in place to fund the collection and reporting of ATK from FLCN Members regarding traditional activities in the Project Study Area and potential effects of the Project.

Manitoba Hydro and FLCN completed an agreement in the summer of 2012 and FLCN began their ATK work in the fall of 2012.

In addition, workshops were held with Manitoba Hydro and the Fox Lake Kitayatisuk and Harvester Core Group in June 2012 and September 2012.

Topics discussed at the workshops included:

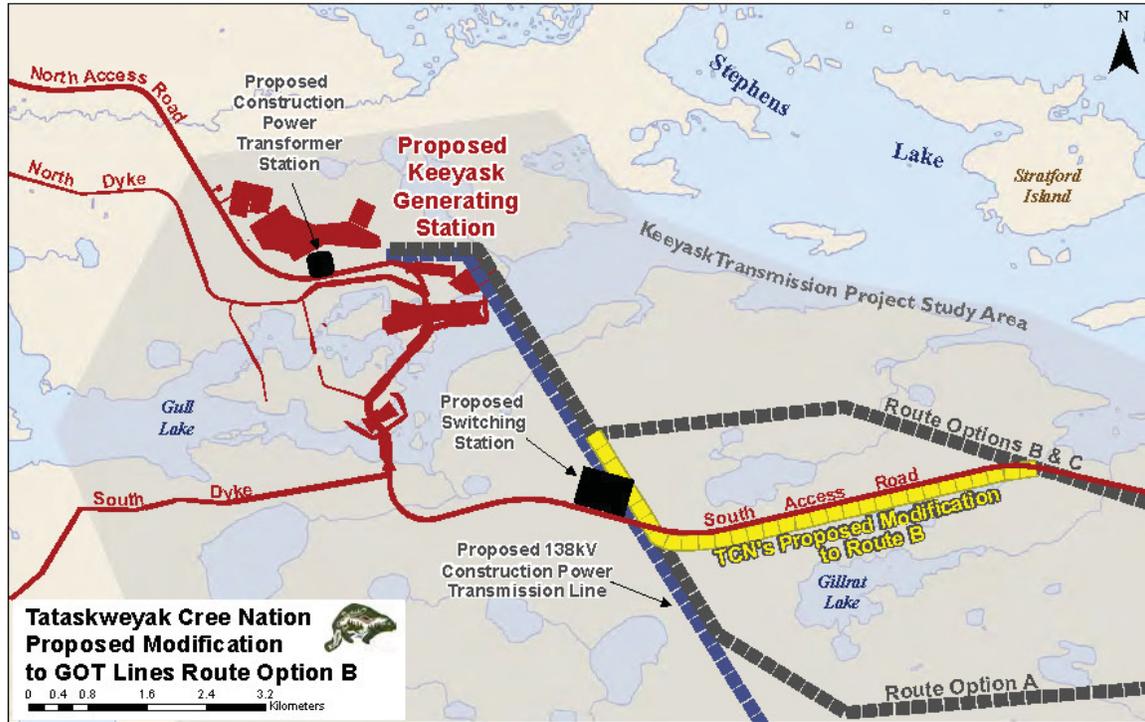
- The alternative routes for the Construction Power and Generation Outlet Transmission lines and the location of the switching station.
- Decommissioning of the second Construction Power line once construction of the Keeyask Generation Station is complete.
- Effects that a linear feature would have on hunters, trappers, snowmobilers and other resource users.
- Potential employment and business opportunities for FLCN Members.

5.4.3 Summary of Feedback from First Nations

TCN's report indicated that in their view Route B was the best compromise of the three alternative Generation Outlet Transmission routes that were initially presented. TCN states Route B is the route closest in proximity to the existing KN36 and R26K transmission lines and the future Keeyask Generation Project south access road and that this route is preferred so as to limit further fragmentation in the area. TCN also made the recommendation that Route Alternative B should be modified so that it remains on the south side of the access road until it intersects with the Construction Power Line as shown in Figure 5-2 (TCN 2011).

TCN's report stated the view that the Project will have effects on TCN's traditional lifestyle, traditional lands, culture and TCN Members (TCN 2011)⁶. TCN's report also notes the need to use sound environmental practices during the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project to minimize the effects the Project will have on the land, on wildlife and on the people who use these areas. TCN's report concluded that its support for the Project was conditional on reaching agreement with Hydro regarding training, employment, business opportunities and compensation.

⁶ TCN's report is attached as Technical Report 9 to the Environmental Assessment Report.



Source: TCN 2011

Figure 5-2: Tataskweyak Cree Nation Proposed Change to GOT Alternative Route B

During workshops with the Fox Lake Kitayatisuk and Harvester Core Group, participants stated that a route that follows existing transmission line corridors would be preferable over an option that would require a new area to be cleared. FLCN proposed a GOT route alternative that would follow the KN36 right-of-way to the junction with the proposed Construction Power line and then follow the proposed Construction Power right-of-way. This GOT route alternative was added as an alternative considered in the SSEA process, labeled GOT alternative Route D. During workshops, FLCN Members also noted an interest in understanding potential effects of the Project on wildlife, particularly caribou.

5.5 ENGAGEMENT PROCESS FEEDBACK

5.5.1 Overview of Feedback and Responses

The feedback received through the PIP was used in both the site selection process and in the environmental assessment. The following summary describes the main issues identified as well as Manitoba Hydro's response to these issues.

5.5.1.1 Route Options (Routing the Line)

Questions were raised pertaining to the routing of the line and the route selection process. Manitoba Hydro has indicated the location of the line would be determined through the SSEA process. Participants were advised that the SSEA process (as described in Chapters 3 and 6) is a phased approach, involving the systematic refinement of the study area in order to identify and assess the best balanced choice for the route, the process involves:

- Identifying biophysical and socio-economic features/constraints.
- Documenting and understanding preferences of local leadership and residents.
- Technical (engineering) and cost considerations.

This approach includes identifying regional and site-specific features/constraints, and opportunities for routing; and identifying and evaluating alternative routes based on public input, local and Aboriginal traditional knowledge, socio-economic, biophysical, technical and cost considerations. Questions and preferences for route alternatives for the GOT lines received through the PIP included:

- In their evaluation report, TCN identified a modified Route B as their preferred route.
- At the Keeyask Transmission Project workshop held for the Fox Lake Cree Nation Core Elder and Resource User Group, FLCN Members requested an additional route (Route D) be considered.
- Members of Gillam town council generally preferred GOT Route D with GOT Route Option C and B as their second choices.
- Attendees of the open houses generally expressed a preference for routes that minimized the need for additional clearing.

During the Round One open house, some participants noted that constructing the GOT line along the existing KN36 transmission line and the Construction Power line (Route Alternative D) or along the proposed south access road (Route Alternatives B or C) were the most practical alternatives since the land has already been cleared or will be cleared for the south access road or the Construction Power line. It was noted by some participants that the GOT line Route Alternative A appeared to require the most additional clearing. It was indicated this should be a reason to avoid using this route option.

5.5.1.2 Public Involvement Processes

Stakeholders generally indicated that they appreciated the opportunity to be provided with project information and to share ideas early in the Project planning process, and throughout the environmental assessment.

During the Round One open house held in Gillam, some participants inquired how much weight Manitoba Hydro places on the preferences of local residents when making decisions on preferred routes. Manitoba Hydro stated an interest in understanding and gathering perspectives from local residents and leaders and that this information is considered, along with other factors, in the SSEA process.

During the Round Two open house, some participants noted Manitoba Hydro should have Cree names put on their maps.

5.5.1.3 Potential Effects on Wildlife and Resource Use Activities

Potential effects on local water, land, wildlife (including caribou and moose), migratory birds, plants, and soil were noted as particular concerns during the PIP⁷. During the engagement process, participants expressed concerns that the Project would inhibit the ability to practice land use activities (hunting, trapping, fishing, harvesting) that were identified as being important to local culture, learning and well-being. Some participants expressed concerns that a very large right-of-way might affect animal movements as the wider right-of-way might leave animals more susceptible to predation.

Some participants expressed concerns that Project construction activities, as well as the existence of the line (noise, etc.), may displace animals from the area. It was noted that moose are more tolerant of activity than caribou and that they generally locate themselves in good habitat. The importance of berries, medicinal plants and birds was also emphasized.

At the Round Two open house, a concern was noted with respect to sight lines on the Construction Power line route and the effect this would have on hunting and wildlife. Manitoba Hydro noted that some vegetation can be maintained to a certain height in the right-of-way and this can minimize sight-line effects.

5.5.1.4 Potential Effects on Heritage Resources

Both TCN and FLCN expressed concerns about the potential for the Project to disturb or damage sacred sites and burial sites. Manitoba Hydro will undertake work related to the

⁷ The environmental effects of the Project, methods to mitigate effects, and the significance of residual effects are described in detail in Chapter 7.

Project in accordance with the *Heritage Resources Act* and will develop and implement Environmental Protection Plans ensure known sensitive sites are protected.

5.5.1.5 Potential Effects on Access

Some participants felt that transmission lines would provide opportunities for increased access for recreation and hunting. This was viewed both positively and negatively by participants.

Some participants shared their concern that snowmobilers would use the right-of-way, which might affect local trappers. Others noted concerns about the potential for increased access that could result in negative effects on the environment. Participants were concerned about overharvesting of wildlife and vandalism (i.e., damage to trapping equipment, disruption of cultural sites).

5.5.1.6 Potential Effects on Public Safety

Some participants stated that local residents would be affected by construction workers in the area. They noted that problems had arisen during previous hydroelectric projects from interactions between local residents and construction workers. Manitoba Hydro noted that mitigation includes preventative measures at the camp, as well as overall coordination and discussion across all projects involving Manitoba Hydro in the vicinity in Gillam to address worker interaction issues. Mitigation is geared not only toward First Nation Members, but also to construction workers on site and the broader community in Gillam.

Concerns were noted with respect to transmission line guy wires and snowmobiler safety. Manitoba Hydro noted that guy wires would have yellow cable protectors so that they would be more clearly visible to snowmobilers.

Some participants noted Manitoba Hydro should provide safety education to youth to help prevent accidents around electricity infrastructure.

5.5.2 Route Feedback Adjustments in Response to Feedback

Feedback was received from TCN via their report (TCN 2011), from FLCN at two workshops held in Gillam (summer 2012), from Gillam town council during meetings and from other stakeholders at open houses held in Gillam.

After reviewing the initial three GOT line alternative routes, TCN indicated that Route B was their preferred route with the recommendation that Route B should be modified so that it remain south of the Keeyask Generation Project south access road until it intersects with the Construction Power line as shown in Figure 5-2. The preferred route follows Route Alternative B for most of the approximately 14 km of line extending eastward from the

Keeyask Switching Station, including the adjustment recommended by TCN. The remainder of the preferred route follows Route Alternative C.

FLCN requested that Manitoba Hydro consider an additional route option for the GOT lines that follows the KN36 right-of-way to the junction with the proposed Construction Power line and then follows the proposed Construction Power right-of-way. This route option (Route Alternative D) was subsequently added to the list of route alternatives for the GOT lines considered in the SSEA. Ultimately, Route Alternative D was not selected as it is the longest of the GOT line route alternatives (47 km) and as a result would increase the linear disturbance and potential effects on habitat and wildlife.

These suggestions were documented and considered in selecting the preferred route, as discussed in Chapter 6. Feedback and suggestions received during the PIP were also documented and considered in the effects assessment. Chapter 7 describes potential effects and mitigation measures included in the evaluation of the environmental effects of the Project.