

SUBJECT AREA: Fish, Fish Habitat

REFERENCE: MWL-IR-004

QUESTION:

Specify, with direct references, which method(s), guidelines, or other sources were used for MMTP EIS and other Manitoba Hydro transmission projects to categorize watercourses.

In reference to Manitoba Hydro's response to MWL-IR-004, specify what expert(s) provided the expertise and experience from across Canada as referenced in lines 19-21 of that response. Provide name, affiliation, and qualifications of these experts.

Indicate the name of the aquatic consultant(s) referenced in line 19 of the Manitoba Hydro response to MWL-IR-004, as well as what methods that "they were able to use" that were "properly suited" to the scope of the project.

RESPONSE:

- 1 It is important to note that gathering detailed information on fish habitat for every crossing site
2 is not critical in assessing the effects of the MMTP project because, as described in MWL-IR-
3 002, MWL-IR-003, MWL-IR-065 and MWL-IR-066, Manitoba Hydro used a precautionary
4 approach in assessing effects to fish and fish habitat, and:
- 5 - no transmission towers will be placed closer than 30 m to any watercourse;
 - 6 - wire stringing across watercourses will be done either during frozen conditions or by
7 helicopter; and
 - 8 - Manitoba Hydro has developed an environmental protection plan that prescribes
9 effective measures to reduce levels of any deleterious substances to levels that are not
10 expected to result in any measurable adverse effects.

11 While there is a low likelihood of pathways of effect from project activities and robust
12 mitigation measures being proposed, Manitoba Hydro's precautionary approach included a
13 process to assess and characterize the habitat available in watercourses traversed by the MMTP
14 FPR. The methods, guidelines, or other sources used to categorize the habitat available in
15 watercourses traversed by the MMTP FPR are provided in Section 2.0 of the Fish and Fish
16 Habitat Technical Data Report. In general, Manitoba Hydro reviews and references any
17 guidance material that it becomes aware of and may assist in this process. Two included here
18 and used in the MMTP Fish and Fish Habitat analysis:

19 Alberta Transportation. 2009. Fish Habitat Manual: Guidelines and Procedures for Watercourse
20 Crossings in Alberta. Edmonton, Alberta.

21
22 Milani, D.W. 2013. Fish community and fish habitat inventory of streams and constructed drains
23 throughout agricultural areas of Manitoba (2002-2006). Can. Data Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci.
24 1247: xvi + 6,153 p.

25 The methods, guidelines, and other sources used in categorizing watercourses were more than
26 sufficient to meet the requirements based on the scale, scope and location of the project.
27 Bipole III is the only recent Class III Development project and therefore the only comparable
28 project. DFO (2008) and DFO+BCMOE (1989) were used to classify streams for Bipole III:

29 DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS (DFO) and British Columbia Ministry of the
30 Environment (BCMOE). 1989. Fish Habitat Inventory and Information Program. Stream Survey
31 Field Guide. Department of Fisheries and Oceans and British Columbia Ministry of the
32 Environment.

33 FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA (DFO). 2008. Fish Habitat Classification for Manitoba
34 Agricultural Watersheds Version 1.0.

35 Qualified professionals from Manitoba Hydro worked in collaboration with qualified
36 professional consultants (Stantec) to prepare the environmental impact statement to meet the
37 guidelines put forth by the regulators.

38 As stated in the Fish and Fish Habitat technical data report (prepared by Stantec Consulting
39 Ltd.), the report was prepared by Lisa Peters, Ph.D. and reviewed by Vince Palace, Ph.D.

40 In addition, Dave Block and Sarah Coughlin from Manitoba Hydro were involved in preparation
41 and final review of the associated EIS Fish and Fish Habitat chapter.