



Environmental Stewardship Division
Environmental Approvals Branch
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December 4, 2017

Ms. Sheri Young
Secretary of the Board
National Energy Board
Suite 210, 517 Tenth Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2R 0A8

Dear Ms. Young:

Re: Manitoba Hydro – Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Province of Manitoba as part of the subject regulatory review. On November 6, 2013, in accordance with section 58.17 of the National Energy Board (NEB) Act, Manitoba Order In Council No.: 00386 / 2013 designated the Minister of Sustainable Development (formerly Conservation and Water Stewardship) as the provincial regulatory agency for the Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project (Project).

Manitoba Hydro submitted an application to Manitoba Sustainable Development for a licence pursuant to The Environment Act for the Project on November 21, 2014. Manitoba Sustainable Development subsequently carried out an environmental assessment process for the Project in accordance with The Environment Act and initiated Crown consultations with Indigenous communities.

The environmental assessment process consisted of an environmental assessment coordinated by the Environmental Approvals Branch and public hearings conducted by the Clean Environment Commission, which were held in the spring of 2017. This process involved over 750 information requests from the commission and funded participants (seven) and associated responses that were completed prior to the start of the oral hearing. The oral portion of the process was an 18 day public hearing which involved numerous presentations and cross examination with funded participants. There were also 2 public sessions where the public could bring their concerns forward to the Clean Environment Commission. This could also be done in writing should people be unable to attend the sessions.

The result of the Clean Environment Commission hearings for the project is a summary report which was submitted to the Minister in August of 2017. The Minister of Sustainable Development will consider the results of the Environmental Approvals Branch's environmental assessment process, the Clean Environment Commission public hearings and summary report, and Crown consultation of Indigenous communities prior to making a licensing decision for the Project.

Crown consultation with Indigenous communities for the Project took place in parallel with the environmental assessment and Clean Environment Commission processes and is ongoing. Once completed, a summary of the consultation process will be provided to the Minister and at that point in time, she will have the information needed to make a licensing decision. We anticipate the final consultation report in February 2018.

On December 16, 2016, Manitoba Hydro applied to the National Energy Board (NEB) for a permit pursuant to section 58.11 of the NEB Act for the Project. In accordance with subsection 58.14(2) of the NEB Act, the NEB has indicated it will seek to avoid the duplication of measures taken in relation to the Project by the provincial government. For the NEB's consideration in respect to the avoidance of duplication, I refer you to information on the environmental assessment process pursuant to The Environment Act and the Crown consultation process undertaken for the Project by Manitoba Sustainable Development.

Documents related to the environmental assessment process are available on our website at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/5750mbhydrombminnesota/index.html>. To aid the NEB in their review of Manitoba's process, a list of pertinent documents located on this webpage is provided in the attached Appendix.

In Manitoba, Crown consultation with Indigenous communities is carried out independent of the environmental assessment process. Information on Manitoba's Crown consultations for the Project will be shared with the NEB in accordance with the terms of reference for the coordination of Crown consultations between the Province of Manitoba and Natural Resources Canada Major Projects Management Office (MPMO).

If you have any questions regarding this information, Manitoba is pleased to communicate with the NEB regarding the Project consistent with section 18 of CEAA, 2012. I trust this will assist the NEB in fulfilling its obligations to avoid duplication in the regulatory process.

Yours sincerely,



Tracey Braun, M. Sc.
Director

Att.

cc: Shannon Johnson, Manitoba Hydro
Public Registries

APPENDIX

Documents available on the Manitoba Sustainable Development, Environmental Approvals Branch Website related to Manitoba's environmental assessment process for the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project (<http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/5750mbhydrombminnesota/index.html>)

Date	Document Name	Document Issued By
January 8, 2015	Proposal Advertisement	Sustainable Development
April 24, 2015	Public Comments on Draft Scoping Document	Sustainable Development
April 24, 2015	Technical Advisory Committee Comments on Draft Scoping Document	Sustainable Development
May 5, 2015	Letter from the Environmental Approvals Branch to Manitoba Hydro Regarding Draft Scoping Document	Sustainable Development
October 1, 2015	Environmental Impact Statement Advertisement	Manitoba Hydro
December 29, 2015	Public Comments on the Environmental Impact Statement	Sustainable Development
February 10, 2016	Technical Advisory Committee Comments on the Environmental Impact Statement	Sustainable Development
March 9, 2016	Information Request No.1	Sustainable Development
February 9, 2016	Information Request No. 2	Sustainable Development
April 29, 2016	Manitoba Hydro's Responses to Information Requests No. 1 and No. 2	Manitoba Hydro
September 30, 2016	Additional Comment from the Technical Advisory Committee (comment from the Manitoba Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Fisheries Branch on the a revised draft Environmental Monitoring Plan)	Sustainable Development
October 19, 2016	Project Summary	Sustainable Development
December 31, 2015	Terms of Reference for Manitoba Clean Environment Commission Public Hearing	Sustainable Development
October 3, 2016	Letter from the Manitoba Sustainable Development, Environmental Approvals Branch to the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission	Sustainable Development
January 19, 2017	Clean Environment Commission Routing Workshop Presentation and Transcript	Manitoba Hydro
February 8, 2017	Additional Traditional Knowledge Studies (Dakota Plains Final Report and Sagkeeng Final Report Addendum)	Manitoba Hydro
March 13, 2017	Responses to Clean Environment Commission Information Requests Round 1	Manitoba Hydro
March 17, 2017	Errata Submission	Manitoba Hydro
April 13, 2017	Responses Clean Environment Commission Information Requests Round 2	Manitoba Hydro
April 21, 2017	Draft Cultural and Heritage Resources Protection Plan (CHRPP)	Manitoba Hydro
April 21, 2017	Community Benefit Summary	Manitoba Hydro
April 24, 2017	Additional References	Manitoba Hydro
December 2016	Manitoba Metis Federation - Metis Land Use and Occupancy Study	Manitoba Hydro
September 2017	Manitoba Clean Environment Commission Report on Public Hearing	Clean Environment Commission