

4.0 Indigenous engagement process

4.1 Purpose, goals and objectives

This section provides an overview of the Indigenous engagement process (IEP), including principles and goals of the process, the scope and adaptable nature of the process, key concerns, and outcomes resulting from engagement. Follow-up and ongoing communication is also planned throughout the regulatory, construction and operation phases of the Project.

The following principles guided Manitoba Hydro's approach to Indigenous engagement for this Project:

- The diversity of First Nation and Metis cultures and worldviews should be understood and appreciated;
- Manitoba Hydro should work with First Nations and Metis to better understand perspectives and determine mutual approaches to address concerns and build relationships; and
- First Nation and Metis should be provided opportunities to communicate on an ongoing basis and early on in the process.

In addition to the shared Engagement Process goals provided in the PEP section, the IEP had the following specific goals:

- Continue to build and strengthen working relationships with First Nations and Metis in Manitoba; and
- Provide opportunities for First Nation and Metis to have meaningful input and contributions to the Project.

4.2 Process methods

4.2.1 Overview

Manitoba Hydro designed the IEP for the Project to engage First Nations and Metis early in the process and at every stage. The IEP was adaptive and flexible, with opportunities for input provided at every stage to meet the specific context of each group. This engagement process is separate from any Crown–Indigenous consultation process that could be initiated by the government with First Nations, Metis and other Indigenous communities.

4.2.2 Identification of First Nations, Metis and Indigenous Organizations

Manitoba Hydro endeavoured to engage the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) as well as First Nations who are located near the Project, or those who have indicated an interest in the Project. The Project is located in Treaty 1, traditional territory of Anishinabe, Cree, and Dakota people and the homeland of the Metis Nation. The Project is located in an area of the province that is of historical and current day interest to the MMF and its members. It is important to note that many of the First Nations, notified of the Project, are of the view that their traditional land use extends far beyond their reserves.

Manitoba Hydro considered a number of factors in determining whom to contact regarding participation in the IEP, including interest in the Project and proximity to the Regional Study Area. Based on these factors, Manitoba Hydro made initial contact with the MMF and the following First Nations (Table 4-1):

Table 4-1 Engagement list

First Nations and Metis	Rationale for engaging in the Project
First Nations	
Long Plain First Nation	Interest in the Project and proximity to the study area
Peguis First Nation	Interest in the Project
Dakota Plains Wahpeton Oyate	Potential interest in Project
Dakota Tipi First Nation	Potential interest in Project
Swan Lake First Nation	Potential interest in Project
Metis	
MMF	Interest in the Project

4.2.3 Notification methods

On March 15, 2017 Manitoba Hydro sent information packages to the five First Nations and the MMF. Each package included:

- A letter outlining the Project including Project timelines, the environmental assessment and regulatory process and inviting the community to contact Manitoba Hydro if there are any questions or concerns;
- A Project newsletter outlining the Project and the regulatory process that included a Project map with the location of the proposed and an alternative route and a link to the Project website (described in section 3.2); and
- Manitoba Hydro contact information to share concerns or ask questions regarding the Project.

Information packages can be found in Appendix B.

4.2.4 Engagement activities

The level and methods of engagement depended on the response from the MMF and each First Nation. Manitoba Hydro offered engagement methods and tools as a way to provide more direct opportunities for input. In addition to the information package and an email, meetings provided opportunities for early and ongoing engagement regarding the Project. These meetings were held with Long Plain First Nation and the MMF to communicate Project activities, receive feedback, and discuss engagement plans and concerns. Manitoba Hydro staff also routinely telephoned First Nations and the MMF to confirm receipt of letters, schedule meetings and discuss questions or concerns.

4.2.4.1 Meetings

Manitoba Hydro met with Long Plain First Nation representatives informally on February 7 2017, and also met with Long Plain representatives on April 24 and April 25, 2017 to discuss the Project, share concerns, and tour potential routes. A copy of the draft notes from the April 24 meeting was sent by email to Long Plain First Nation representatives for their review on May 2, 2017. Manitoba Hydro followed up by email to questions from the April 25 meeting on May 2, and received confirmation that the email was received.

Manitoba Hydro and the MMF representatives met to discuss the MMF's concerns on April 25, 2017. A copy of the draft meeting notes was sent by email to the MMF for their review on May 3, 2017. The email indicated that if the MMF has any questions or wants to discuss further, to please contact the Manitoba Hydro representative; there has been no response provided to-date.

Manitoba Hydro representatives briefly introduced the Project to community representatives from Dakota Plains Wahpeton Oyate, Dakota Tipi First Nation, Long Plain First Nation and Swan Lake First Nation in conjunction with a Bipole III meeting on May 18, 2017. None of the representatives present requested a meeting to further discuss the Project. Peguis First Nation representatives acknowledged receipt of the project materials and to date, have not requested a meeting to discuss the Project.

4.3 Indigenous engagement feedback

4.3.1 Overview

Feedback was received from Long Plain First Nation and the MMF. No feedback was received from the other First Nations.

4.3.2 Long Plain First Nation

Long Plain First Nation representatives shared concerns over past effects created by a recent tornado, and shared sites where damage was particularly severe to local homes, shelterbelts and natural areas. This understanding was brought into the assessment process (Section 6.0).

Representatives noted that their land use planning process was nearing completion and would involve the conversion of private lands north of the Reserve to reserve status by 2018. The plans may include relocating Pow Wow grounds to this area.

Representatives raised concerns with new housing development and existing transmission towers that would be addressed outside of the Project process. The representatives indicated that the community has outstanding concerns regarding the existing transmission line (P81C) and that Long Plain First Nation reserve land was expropriated for the transmission line. Manitoba Hydro understands that the land was Federal Crown land but was not reserve land at the time of the land purchase.

In terms of routing, Long Plain representatives recommended routing along the abandoned rail bed to minimize effects. One Long Plain representative also suggested an alternative route could follow the Yellowquill Trail, located beside the Assiniboine River, as this is no longer used for travel. Manitoba Hydro is using the rail bed in several areas, but slope stability and risks of flooding preclude the use of routes near the Assiniboine River.

Community representatives indicated an interest in employment opportunities and bidding on the Project. Manitoba Hydro will be publicly posting the tender. The successful bidder will be required to have Indigenous content.

4.3.3 Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF)

Manitoba Hydro received a letter from the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) on April 6, 2017 that indicated use of the Project area and concerns about the Project impacting collectively held rights. Manitoba Hydro and the MMF representatives met to discuss the MMF's concerns on April 25, 2017.

The MMF representatives asked some questions regarding the names of existing transmission lines in the area, whether the Project was located all on private land, and the source of funding for the project. They also expressed concerns about multiple uses of the line, and the possibility of linking this project to the Energy East Project.

Manitoba Hydro confirmed that the Project is all on private land, and the purpose of the Project is to provide electrical service to the Roquette Pea Processing facility. In terms of funding, as indicated in Section 1.4, Manitoba Hydro is assuming full responsibility for the design, construction and commissioning of the Project and the capital cost will be

recovered by the Corporation through the sale of electric energy to Roquette once the facility is completed and operational in 2019.

4.4 Ongoing engagement

Following a decision regarding the Project, Manitoba Hydro will notify the five First Nations and the MMF, including active construction schedules, to the extent possible, so that they can inform their members. The telephone line and email address will remain operational throughout the regulatory review, construction and operation phases for the Project.