

September 2, 2017

File No. 5901.00

Ms. Elise Dagdick
Environmental Approvals
Manitoba Conservation
Suite 160, 123 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

Dear Ms. Dagdick:

RE: Poplar Bluff Transmission Project - Information Request

This letter is in response to your letter dated, September 1, 2017, requesting additional information on the above project.

Required Additional Information:

Based on the statement in the Proposal: “*The largest concentration of birds was found in a large wetland complex east of PTH 305, south of road 62N. A large wetland complex at this site was supporting tundra swans, Canada geese, and other waterfowl.*”,

1. Has Manitoba Hydro considered deploying bird strike diverters along the line northwest of this site to lessen the potential impacts to waterfowl and other birds? and;
2. Has Manitoba Hydro established a minimum distance to staging wetlands where diverters are installed as a standard mitigation tactic for other recent transmission projects (e.g. Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project, Bipole III Transmission Project)?

Response:

1. The wetland described in 5.1.6.2 is a minimum 650 meters from the proposed Project footprint. At this distance the risk to staging waterfowl and other birds is already very low, and the installation of bird diverters will not lessen the risks any further.
2. Manitoba Hydro utilizes industry guidelines and regulatory guidance in limiting risks to birds when developing new transmission projects. The principles and best practices outlined in “Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines – The State of the Art in 2012. Avian Power Line Interaction Committee” was considered in the development of this and other recent Manitoba Hydro transmission projects. An initial step in this process is to identify and, if possible, avoid sensitive areas, including wetlands.

As part of the project routing process, Manitoba Hydro carefully considered Project proximity to natural areas, including wetlands (Chapter 2 - Section 2.3, Appendix A). As a result of the routing process, and as shown in Table 5.2, no water or wetland cover types are proposed to be traversed as part of the project.

Manitoba Hydro also relies on field surveys and expertise of wildlife biologists in helping to determine where to deploy bird strike diverters for new projects. Depending on tree heights, prevailing winds, and surrounding land cover, bird diverters are typically only deployed to spans directly over and adjacent to watercourses and wetlands. In most cases the application of bird diverters extends no more than 100 -200 meters from the water's edge.

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