

# De Salaberry East Station Environmental Assessment Report

Prepared by Manitoba Hydro

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Transmission Planning & Design Division  
Licensing & Environmental Assessment  
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Prepared for:  
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## Executive summary

Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct a new 230-66 kV station northwest of Kleefeld to address reliability, voltage and loading issues resulting from above average load growth in southeast Manitoba. Area loading in the southeast has grown at over twice the Manitoba average over the past ten years. The proposed project will address reliability, voltage and loading issues by converting 230-kV electrical transmission from the new St. Vital Transmission Complex to 66-kV distribution for delivery in nearby municipalities, thereby reducing the load at St. Vital, Hanover, Richer South, and Letellier stations.

The proposed De Salaberry East Station requires a license for a Class 2 development under *The Environment Act* (Manitoba). The environmental assessment was completed in accordance with the requirements of The Act, the guidelines set out in 'Information Bulletin - Environment Act Proposal Report Guidelines' describing contents to include in an environmental assessment report, and Manitoba Hydro's corporate and environmental policies.

After a robust site selection process that considered interests of the public, Indigenous communities and organizations, agriculture, wildlife, heritage as well as concerns related to system planning, future load growth and station design, a site was selected in the Rural Municipality of De Salaberry. Three workshops were held over a six month period to consider and weight 10 possible site alternatives. The station will be located in NE-35-6-4E. The total area purchased in the quarter section is 73.3 acres.

The new station will measure approximately 150m x 170m and be surrounded by a station fence with a vehicle gate, access road improvements and a control building approximately 18 x 18 m in size. The station also includes an area for future growth.

Manitoba Hydro developed public and Indigenous engagement processes to understand issues and concerns regarding the Project. Council meetings were held with the Rural Municipalities of Hanover and De Salaberry. A drop-in information session was held at the Recreation Centre in Kleefeld on July 12, 2017, from noon to 7:00 p.m. Concerns shared during the open house included the name of the station, with a preference to rename the station for the municipality in which it will be located. Manitoba Hydro made this

change. Manitoba Metis Federation, Peguis First Nation and Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation were invited to participate in the process, including receiving timely and pertinent information and invited to voice any concerns and share input into the environmental assessment processes. No concerns were shared regarding this station. Both the public and Indigenous engagement processes will continue throughout the regulatory review and construction processes as project information becomes available.

The environmental assessment for the Project included an investigation of the existing environment and then considered how the Project may interact with different components of the environment. Components of the environment that might interact with the Project and met valued component criteria were selected for further analysis. The valued components assessed for the Project include the physical/meteorological environment, fish and fish habitat, wildlife and wildlife habitat, employment and economy, infrastructure and services, heritage resources, human health, and land use and ownership.

Low residual effects are anticipated for the physical/meteorological environment, fish and fish habitat, wildlife and wildlife habitat, land use and ownership, infrastructure and services, heritage resources and human health. Positive effects are anticipated for employment and economy. These low residual effects are due primarily to the small size of the Project, the short duration for Project construction and the distance from adjacent residences.

A cumulative effects assessment was completed for the Project. With other Manitoba Hydro projects in close proximity to the Project, effects to local aesthetics were considered moderate. Additional measures were contemplated and proposed to manage cumulative aesthetic effects, including addition of a vegetation screen around the station.

Manitoba Hydro has provided details on the environmental protection program for the station within this document. Environmental protection measures are organized by construction component and activity, environmental component and issue to assist project personnel in implementing measures for specific work sites and activities. A project specific construction environmental protection plan will be developed after receipt of the Environment Act License.