

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Hydro
PROPOSAL NAME: Dorsey-St. Vital 230 kV Transmission Line
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transmission
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4426.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was dated April 6, 1999 and was received on April 15, 1999. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by Manitoba Hydro to construct and operate the Dorsey – St. Vital 230 kV Transmission Line Project. The proposed line is required to enhance the electrical supply and reliability of the transmission line system serving eastern Winnipeg and south eastern Manitoba. The project involves extensive re-use and redevelopment of existing transmission facilities using existing Manitoba Hydro rights-of-way for the entire length of the project extending from Dorsey to St. Vital stations, a distance of 52 kms. The transmission line is scheduled to be placed in-service by March 2002 with construction beginning in the late summer of 2001. Manitoba Hydro has filed an Environmental Impact Statement entitled “*Dorsey – St. Vital 230 kV Transmission Line Project – Environmental Impact Statement, March 1999*” in support of their application.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Winnipeg Free Press on April 24, 1999, the Stonewall Argus on April 26, 1999 and in Winnipeg (N.E.) Herald on April 27, 1999. It was made available for public review at registries located at the Main Registry, 123 Main Street, Winnipeg, the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Centennial Public Library, and the municipal offices of the R. M. offices of East St. Paul and West St. Paul. It was also distributed to the "Transmission" TAC members for comment. All comments were requested by May 25, 1999.

PUBLIC RESPONSE

The following letters were received from the public in response to the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal. Comments are summarized below.

Frank Miller
150 Spatuck Rd.
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0J7 - letter dated April 30, 1999

Dave Leonhardt
11 Glenfinnan Place
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0G7 - E-Mail sent May 10, 1999

Pat Betcher
30 Dacombe Place R4A 1A6 - letter dated May 18, 1999

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Bill and Tela Karabin
100 Diane Drive
West St. Paul, MB R4A 1A6 - letter dated May 16, 1999

K.J. Maciejko
15 Cromarty Place
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0G6 - letter dated May 17, 1999

Doris and Gordon Palick
888 Applecross
East St. Paul, MB - Fax sent May 18, 1999

R.G. MacDonald
60 Keedian Drive
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0K3 - letter dated May 7, 1999

Lloyd and Anna Kowalyshyn
26 Dacombe
West St. Paul, MB - letter dated May 17, 1999

Mr. And Mrs. P. Urciuoli
23 Kiltartan Place
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0G8 - letter received May 13, 1999

Laura Simmons
91 Spattuck Road
East St. Paul, MB R3E 0J7 - letter dated May 9, 1999

Mr. and Mrs. D. Keir
15 Glenfinnan Place
Winnipeg, MB R2E 0G7 - letter dated May 11, 1999

Dieter Moser
130 Spatuck Road
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0J7 - letter received May 12, 1999

Sharon Johnston

150 Spatuck Road
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0J7 -letter dated May 10, 1999

Mrs. Dorothy Beacon
3 Armytage Place
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0G5 - letter dated May 12, 1999

Gerald N. Rattai
35 Orkney Place
East St. Paul, MB - letter dated May 9, 1999

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Robert and Irene Leperre
21 Clydesdale Place
East St. Paul, MB - letter received May 11, 1999

R.D. Standring
27 Glenfinnan Place
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0G7 - letter dated May 4, 1999

Chris Kohli
59 Orkney Place
East St. Paul, MB R2E 1H3 - faxed letter sent May 7, 1999

Harvey A. Dueck
33 Cromarty Place.
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0G7 - letter dated May 7, 1999

Dianna and Barclay Oliphant
35 Kiltartan Place
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0G8 -fax sent May 9, 1999

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morris
210 Terrace Place
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0H8 - fax sent May 22, 1999

The M. Tarapaski Family
873 Applecross Drive
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0H1 - fax sent May 25, 1999
(cc G. Findley)

Michael M. Wasylin

Bellan Wasylin and Associates
Box 520
527 Park Avenue
Beausejour, MB R0E 0C0

- letter dated May 6, 1999
(cc Glen Findlay, Hon. David Newman)

Don Kraichy
38 Dacombe Place
West St. Paul, MB R4A 1A6

- letter dated May 18, 1999

Phyllis E. Arnold
140 Spatuck Road
East St. Paul, MB R2E 1A5

- letter dated May 16, 1999

R. & K. Ezinicki
816 Applecross Drive
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0G5

- letter dated May 16, 1999

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Carol and Glen Bailey
11 Gairloch Place
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0G7

- letter dated May 19, 1999

Anne-Marie Glesmann
22 Dacombe Place
West St. Paul, MB R4A 1A6

- letter dated May 17, 1999

George H. Glesmann
130 Diane Drive
West St. Paul, MB R4A 1A6

- letter dated May 18, 1999

Gord Glesmann
22 Dacombe Place
West St. Paul, MB R4A 1A6

- letter dated May 17, 1999

Steve and Cathie Marie & family
168 Terrance Place
East St. Paul, MB

- fax sent May 25, 1999

D. and V. Lobert
872 Applecross Drive
East St. Paul, MB

- letter dated May 19, 1999

James A. Cornwall
200 Terrance Place
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0H8

- fax sent May 25, 1999
(cc Gary Filmon, R.M. of East St. Paul)

Sheryl McCartney
865 Applecross Drive
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0H1

- letter dated May 25, 1999

Allan and Paula Loewen
27 Kiltartan Place
East St. Paul, MB R0E 1G0

- fax sent May 25, 1999

Thor Fjeldsted
33 Armytage Place
East. St. Paul, MB R2E 0G6

- letter dated May 19, 1999

The Vigni Family
18 Dacombe Place
West St. Paul, MB R4A 1A6

-letter dated May 18, 1999

Mr.and Mrs. Richard Winkler
120 Ridgeway Road
East St. Paul, MB R2E 0K3

- letter received by fax on June 1, 1999

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L. Deonarine, M.D.
A.R. Bertsch, M.D.
No return address provided

- letter dated May 21, 1999

Summary of the above comments :

All of the above responses oppose the construction of the proposed transmission line on the north side of the Manitoba Hydro's existing right-of-way through the West and East St. Paul area. No responses request that a public hearing be held. The preferred route is opposed for the following reasons:

- Depreciation of property values where residential development backs the transmission line right-of-way due to aesthetics and unknown health risks of the transmission line.

- Existing transmission lines create audible noise, particularly during foul weather conditions. The additional line will add to the noise.
- The proposed towers may present a hazard to residential property in the event of a natural disaster such high winds or freezing rain.
- Hydro has not seriously considered alternatives and has dismissed any alternatives to their proposal without providing comparative costs.
- Numerous studies have reported a positive association between EMF and cancer while others have not. Given the inconclusive evidence on the unknown health effects from EMF, Hydro should take a precautionary position by installing the lines underground or on the south side of the R.O.W.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Natural Resources - Recommend that appropriate native species be used to re-establish vegetation in disturbed areas. Request that Hydro consult with DNR regional and Parks and natural areas staff regarding minimizing disruption of the ongoing use of the recreational facilities in Hyland Provincial Park. DNR compliments Hydro on the excellent EIS, particularly with respect to consideration of native habitats, riparian zones and endangered species.

Disposition:

Comments can be accommodated as licencing conditions.

Mines Branch - No concerns. Advise that portions of the area may be affected by mineral dispositions that are currently in good standing under The Mines and Minerals Act.

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Historic Resources - No concerns

Environment - Water Quality Management Section - WQM concerns have been addressed in the Proposal.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) - Application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* with respect to the project will not be required. Environment Canada provided the following comments:

1. The Proposal has not referenced literature which supports the potential for bird strikes on the lines at the river crossing nor has the Proposal discussed the potential for bird strikes along the remainder of the line that is not over the river.
2. The Proposal does not give any indication of what the cumulative impact of the line will have on migratory birds in the vicinity of Winnipeg including the Deacon water reservoir cells.
3. The Proposal does not adequately discuss the visual impact of the cumulative effects of the transmission line to the landscape and any proposed mitigation to lessen the visual impact through consolidation of the lines.

Disposition:

On May 25, 1999 Manitoba Hydro provided a letter to Approvals Branch in response to questions raised by Environment Canada. A copy of the letter was sent directly to Environment Canada and the CEAA office.

FOLLOW-UP

In response to the significant amount of public comment submitted in response to the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal, on July 2, 1999, the Director of Approvals requested that Manitoba Hydro provide the Approvals Branch with additional information which details Manitoba Hydro's response to resident concerns and suggestions on routing options including additional information on the costs associated with installing the line underground through the residential areas West and East St. Paul.

On September 14, 1999, Manitoba Hydro submitted additional information which details the residents concerns expressed to Manitoba Hydro and describes how their concerns had been addressed during the course of the environmental assessment of the project.

The additional information also stated Hydro's position in the following areas:

Routing Options

With respect to routing options, Hydro maintains its initial position that routing the 230 kV line on the south side of the existing right-of-way entails technical and cost penalties, which are undesirable from a system security and reliability perspective, and accordingly, are not considered to be an acceptable risk. Similarly, the acquisition and development of a new right-of-way entails new impacts in new areas, and significant cost penalties. (approx. \$10 million more than the north route).

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Underground Installation

The information also provided a more specific analysis of the underground alternative in terms of cost, technical feasibility and predicted EMF levels associated with the underground alternative. The supplementary research confirms Hydro's previous position that the marginal reduction of impacts (aesthetics, noise, radio interference and EMF levels) does not warrant the very substantial cost premium of construction, operation and maintenance associated with an underground line.(estimates are in the range of 8 to 12 times the corresponding cost of the proposed overhead installation).

EMF

Recent EMF reports were also cited which support Manitoba Hydro's position on EMF as outlined in their Environmental Impact Statement on the proposal.

Manitoba Hydro's Conclusion

On the basis of the supplementary information, Manitoba Hydro concludes that the incremental impacts associated with the proposed additional development within their existing right-of-way as originally proposed remains the preferable solution.

RECOMMENDATION

Following consideration of all of the information and comment provided on this Proposal, Approvals Branch concurs with Manitoba Hydro's conclusion that the incremental impacts associated with the additional development within Manitoba Hydro's existing right-of-way as originally proposed remains the preferable option.

It is recommended that a licence be issued to Manitoba Hydro to construct the transmission line within their existing right-of-way as proposed. It is also recommended that that Director of Approvals notify the public respondents in writing of the decision to licence the Development and that the licencing decision is appealable to the Minister of Environment within 30 days of the date of the licence.

PREPARED BY:

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Environmental Land Use Approvals
November 1, 1999

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