



SLAVE FALLS TRAMWAY CONVERSION PROJECT

ENVIRONMENT ACT NOTIFICATION DOCUMENT

Submitted by:



Environment Act Proposal Form



This form prescribes the nature and sequence of the information required to file a proposal for a development pursuant to subsections 10(3), 11(7), and 12(3) of *The Environment Act*.

Name of the development: Slave Falls Tramway Conversion Project		
Legal name of the proponent of the development: Manitoba Hydro		
Location of the development Street address: N/A	Municipality: Province of Manitoba	Legal description: Whiteshell Provincial Park
City or Town: Pointe du Bois to Slave Falls, Manitoba		
Name of proponent contact person for purposes of the environmental assessment: Gary Swanson, Environmental Licensing and Protection, Manitoba Hydro		
Mailing address: 820 Taylor Avenue, P.O. Box 815 Winnipeg MB		
Postal code: R3C 2P4	Telephone: (204) 474-3396	Fax: (204) 474-4974
Date: <i>July 25, 2007</i>	Signature of the proponent, or corporate principal of the corporate proponent: <i>[Signature]</i> Printed name: Gary M. Swanson	

1) NOTE: **APPLICATION FEE** - Refer to Schedule "A" on reverse side.

2) NOTE: The proponent should reproduce the underlined portions of each section as noted below, adding the required information following each section as it applies to the development. A response to all the sections is required.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT:

- i) Certificate of Title showing the owner(s) and legal description of the land upon which the development will be constructed; or (in the case of highways, rail lines, electrical transmission lines, or pipelines) a map or maps at a scale no less than 1:50,000 showing the location of the proposed development;
- ii) Name of the owner of mineral rights beneath the land, if not the same as that of the surface owner;
- iii) Description of the existing land use on the site and on land adjoining it, as well as changes that will be made thereto for the purposes of the development;
- iv) Land use designation for the site and adjoining land as identified in a development plan adopted pursuant to *The Planning Act* or *The City of Winnipeg Act*, and the zoning designation as identified in a Zoning By-Law, if applicable;
- v) A description of all previous studies and activities relating to feasibility, exploration, or project siting and prior authorization received from other government agencies;
- vi) A description of the proposed development (including site plans), and the method of operation and hours of operation;
- vii) An identification of any storage of gasoline or associated products (e.g. diesel fuel, used oil, heating oil, AV gas, solvents, isopropanol, methanol, acetone, etc.);
- viii) A description of the potential impacts of the development on the environment, including, but not necessarily limited to:
 - type, quantity and concentration of pollutants to be released into the air, water or on land;
 - impact on wildlife;
 - impact on fisheries;
 - impact on surface water and groundwater;

- forestry related impacts;
- impact on heritage resources;
- socio-economic implications resulting from the environmental impacts.

ix) A description of the proposed environmental management practices to be employed to prevent or mitigate adverse implications from the impacts identified in viii) which will have regard to, where applicable: containment, handling, monitoring, storage, treatment, and final disposal of pollutants; conservation and protection of natural or heritage resources; environmental restoration and rehabilitation of the site upon decommissioning; and protection of environmental health.

SCHEDULE:

The proposed date of commencement of construction, commencement of operation, including staging of the development and termination of operation, if known.

FUNDING:

Name and address of any Government Agency (Federal, Provincial or otherwise) from which a grant or loan of capital funds have been requested, where applicable.

NOTE: *The Environment Act* requires that subject to the Confidential Information clause, Section 47, a proposal shall be filed in the public registry.

Proprietary information provided in this form should be clearly noted. A separate summary of the proposal excluding the proprietary information should accompany the proposal for the public registry file.

27 copies of any bound report or blueprints supporting the Proposal are required.

The completed Proposal form should be sent together with a covering letter to:

Director, Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch
Manitoba Conservation
Suite 160, 123 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1A5

ENVIRONMENT ACT PROPOSAL FORM

SLAVE FALLS TRAMWAY CONVERSION PROJECT

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT:

i) Certificate of Title

Certificate of title not available. Use of lands has been granted to Manitoba Hydro pursuant to the Licence under the Water Power Act.

ii) Mineral Rights

The Province of Manitoba is the owner of the mineral rights.

iii) Description of Existing Land Use

The Slave Falls Generating Station was constructed from 1928 to 1948, with the first unit entering service in 1931. The Station has a total capacity of 67 MW. In 2002, Manitoba Hydro acquired the generating station as part of its purchase of Winnipeg Hydro. Slave Falls Generating Station is located on the Winnipeg River, approximately 160 km northeast of Winnipeg. The Station is accessed via an approximately 11 kilometre long private rail line running in a southerly direction from Pointe du Bois. The rail line (tramway) is located to the west of the north/south section of the Winnipeg River between Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls Generating Stations..

In accordance with the Provincial Park Lands Act (now The Parks Act) Whiteshell Provincial Park was established in 1961 and is classified as a Provincial Natural Park. Provincial Natural Parks are relatively spacious land and water areas that are capable of providing a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities and which are generally adaptable to multiple-use management. Under the 1998 System Plan for Manitoba's Provincial Parks, the Pointe du Bois/Slave Falls Area is categorized as *Recreational Development* which provides for a range of intensive recreational facilities including campgrounds, cottage subdivisions, horseback riding, day use areas, hiking and cross-country ski trails, canoe routes, sport fishing, and snowmobile trails. The *Recreational Development Category* also permits commercial resource use while recognizing the recreational values of the Park. The Pointe du Bois/Slave Falls area is also used for traditional activities by Aboriginal peoples.

iv) Land Use Designation

Whiteshell Provincial Park, which includes the Pointe du Bois/Slave Falls area, is classified as a Provincial Natural Park. Manitoba Hydro has been granted a Licence under the *Water Power Act* that includes use of designated lands for the Slave Falls hydroelectric generating facilities and tramway.

v) Previous Studies and Activities

A number of previous investigative and feasibility studies leading to the decision to replace the tramway with a private, all-weather roadway will be referenced in the EIS.

Current and ongoing studies/activities in support of the environmental assessment for the Project are outlined in the attached Notification Document. These studies will be finalized and used as technical appendices to the EIS.

vi) Description of the Proposed Development

The attached Notification Document provides a description of the proposed development. The Project has undergone a Functional Design in 2007 and will be proceeding to Detailed Design in 2007. The existing tramway facilities will operate during the construction of the new private, all-weather roadway.

An aerial view of the existing and proposed facilities is enclosed as Figure 1 in the attached Notification Document.

vii) Storage of Gasoline or Associated Products

Storage of gasoline or associated products may occur during construction activities. The EIS will contain the details of gasoline or associated products storage and handling, if required.

viii) Description of the Potential Impacts

Manitoba Hydro is conducting an environmental assessment for the Project. The attached Notification Document provides an outline of the subject areas that the environmental assessment will address.

ix) Description of Proposed Environmental Management Practices

As part of the environmental assessment of the Project, Manitoba Hydro will provide a description of the proposed environmental managements practices. The attached Notification Document provides an outline of the subject areas

that the environmental assessment will address and includes areas on mitigation of Project effects and monitoring and follow-up actions.

SCHEDULE:

Manitoba Hydro is planning to initiate construction activities for the new roadway in the winter of 2008/2009 with a completion date prior to the conclusion of 2009. To meet this date, the environmental assessment is scheduled for completion with submission of an Environmental Impact Statement to regulatory authorities by the end of 2007.

FUNDING:

Manitoba Hydro will fund the Project.

SLAVE FALLS TRAMWAY CONVERSION PROJECT

ENVIRONMENT ACT NOTIFICATION DOCUMENT

Submitted by:



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	PURPOSE OF NOTIFICATION DOCUMENT.....	1
1.2	REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.....	2
1.3	BACKGROUND.....	3
2.0	PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	3
2.1	ALTERNATIVES.....	4
2.2	ROADWAY DESIGN.....	4
2.3	ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION.....	8
3.0	EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING.....	10
3.1	BIOPHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.....	10
3.2	SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT.....	12
3.3	CURRENT FIELD STUDIES.....	13
4.0	CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES.....	14
5.0	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT OUTLINE.....	14
APPENDIX A – SITE PLAN		

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF NOTIFICATION DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Environment Act Notification Document is to provide information related to the project description and environmental assessment for the Slave Falls Tramway Conversion Project (the Project). The Project will consist of the conversion of the tramway between Slave Falls and Pointe du Bois Generating Stations to a private, all-weather road.

The EA Notification Document is provided for the purpose of assisting Manitoba and Canada regulatory authorities in the administration and management of the regulatory process for the Project and to set the date of project initiation.

The EA Notification Document for the Project has been developed with consideration of recent approval, licensing, and guidance matters related to the following:

- The scope of environmental assessments for similar road construction projects in Manitoba
- Preliminary guidance provided by Manitoba Conservation and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA)
- The importance and need to include the use of Aboriginal¹ and local knowledge, public and stakeholder views in the assessment process
- Initial issues identified during public consultations in early 2007
- Preliminary discussion with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Manitoba Conservation Parks Department, Manitoba Water Stewardship as well as Manitoba Conservation Environmental Approvals Branch and CEAA

¹ Aboriginal refers to First Nation and Métis

1.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

It is Manitoba Hydro's understanding that the Project constitutes a Class 2 development as a two-lane road in a new location as defined by the *Manitoba Environment Act* (MEA). Further, it is Manitoba Hydro's understanding that the filing of an Environment Act Proposal Form (EAPF) under the MEA initiates the formal regulatory review process for Manitoba and Canada as per the provisions of the *March 2007 Canada/Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation*, and Manitoba Hydro would welcome such a cooperative process.

The EIS will outline other regulatory and legislative approvals required for Project implementation, notably the revision to the Water Power Licence. The Slave Falls Tramway is authorized under a provincial Water Power Act Licence. Manitoba Hydro will be seeking approval from Manitoba Water Stewardship for all necessary amendments to the licence, including changes to the licence document, licence area and associated drawings.



Tramway Bus



1.3 BACKGROUND

The Slave Falls Generating Station was constructed from 1928 to 1948, with the first unit entering service in 1931. The Station has a total capacity of 67 MW. In 2002, Manitoba Hydro acquired the generating station as part of its purchase of Winnipeg Hydro. Slave Falls Generating Station is located on the Winnipeg River, approximately 160 km northeast of Winnipeg. The Station is accessed via an approximately 11 kilometre long private rail line running in a southerly direction from Pointe du Bois. The rail line (tramway) is located to the west of the north/south section of the Winnipeg River between Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls Generating Stations. The general area is shown on the location plan provided in Appendix A.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Earth Tech (Canada) Inc. prepared a functional design study for the Project in 2007. The consultant was asked to produce a functional design for a private, all-weather access road in accordance with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation design criteria for Collector Class B under the Highway Classification System.

The design parameters for the private, all-weather road are:

- Designed to current geometric and loading standards
- Economical to construct
- Make the best use of the existing tramway right-of-way (RoW)
- Consider the 1982 Whiteshell Master Plan of the Park's Main Thoroughfares and Park Entrances in the design

A gravel surface roadway was considered sufficient to meet the needs of Manitoba Hydro. The road will start at the location of the current loading dock and will terminate at the powerhouse building at the Slave Falls Generating Station. Structures to control access at either end of the private, all-weather road will be installed. A site plan is provided in Appendix A.

Existing tramway alignment

