

# Community Engagement Summary

## Swan Lake First Nation

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### *Licensing and Environmental Assessment*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Methods of Engagement</b>
February 21, 2008	Letter from Manitoba Hydro informing that Hydro is conducting introductory meetings with community leadership
August 15, 2008	Letter from Manitoba Hydro providing information about regional introductory public open houses and suggesting that a community open house be planned
May 26, 2009	Letter from Manitoba Hydro requesting participation in the ATK process
August 24, 2009	Letter from Manitoba Hydro indicating that Manitoba Hydro had selected a series of alternative route options and would like to hold a community open house
March 2, 2010	Round 3 Community Open House
May 20, 2010	Letter from Manitoba Hydro including responses to questions asked during Round 3 Open House
July 27, 2010	Letter from Manitoba Hydro indicating that Manitoba Hydro had selected a preliminary preferred route for Bipole III
August 30, 2010	Letter from Manitoba Hydro to coordinate a leadership meeting and an open house so that we can share information regarding the preliminary preferred route
October 19, 2010	Round Four Community Open House with Swan Lake First Nation
November 17, 2010	Letter from Manitoba Hydro arranging a meeting to share information and answer questions concerning the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) process for the Bipole III project
November 22, 2010	Letter from Manitoba Hydro thanking the community for the interest in participating in the ATK process
November 22, 2010	Meeting with Swan Lake First Nation to discuss the Project

December 15, 2010	Round Four Meeting with Swan Lake First Nation Leadership
January 5, 2011	Meeting with Swan Lake First Nation
November 22, 2012	Letter regarding Swan Lake First Nation's concern with the Bipole III Transmission Project routing in the area known as Indian Gardens
February 19, 2013	Letter from Manitoba Hydro in response to Swan Lake's November 22, 2012 letter
March 22, 2013	Meeting with Dave Scott to talk about moving forward
November 29, 2013	Letter including two CDs including Transmission Access Management Plan, Culture and Heritage Resource Protection Plan and Bipole III Project Environmental Protection Plan
January 23, 2014	Letter from the Crown indicating approval for the Assiniboine River crossing indicating that the line will not have to be relocated given that all of the prescribed mitigation measures are applied
November 20, 2014	MH sent an email and letter to Swan Lake First Nation requesting to meet with the community to review the EPP. The letter was accompanied with a link to the following documents: the Transmission Access Management Plan, the Bipole III Environmental Protection Plan, the Bipole III Transmission Line Construction Environmental Protection Plan (CEnvPP) for Segments S1 and S2, and the Culture and Heritage Resource Protection Plan (CHRPP). A copy of the sample questionnaire that MH uses to assist with developing a community appropriate protocol for the CHRPP was also enclosed. A copy of the Access Management brochure was also sent. Swan Lake First Nation acknowledged receipt of the email.
January 30, 2015	Representatives from Swan Lake First Nation requested that the EPP be held in March 2015

Category	Summary of Information	Response and/or Mitigation	EPP Component
Aquifer	Concerns about potential impacts to local groundwater and aquifers in SLFN's area of	The preferred route for the Bipole III transmission line will go over the eastern edge of the unconfined Assiniboine Delta Aquifer (ADA) – an aquifer which is relied	Construction Environmental Protection Plan

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	interest.	<p>upon for drinking water. This aquifer is recharged by precipitation (i.e., is already connected to surface water). Another aquifer will be crossed by the transmission line in the area of Dakota Plain First Nation. This aquifer is overlain by a clay layer (confined) and unconnected to surface water or precipitation. Mitigation measures that will be in place to minimize or preclude any groundwater effects associated with contingency events are discussed in the EIS and can be summarized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuel, lubricants, pesticides and other potentially hazardous materials will be stored and handled within dedicated areas at work sites and marshalling yards in full compliance with regulatory requirements.</li> <li>• An Emergency Preparedness and Spill Response Plan is developed and an emergency response spill kit will be kept on-site at all times in case of fluid leaks or spills from machinery.</li> </ul>	
Assiniboine River	Concerns about the sensitivity and importance of the Assiniboine River Crossing to the	Manitoba Hydro acknowledges the importance and sensitivity of the lands adjacent to the Assiniboine River Crossing.	

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Crossing	community	<p>The Assiniboine River crossing was identified as a sensitive site by Swan Lake First Nation as well as through an archeological inventory, developed by Manitoba Hydro's archaeological consultants. As a result, this area has been identified as a sensitive site in the Bipole III EIS. Manitoba Hydro has also agreed to support an Environmental Monitor from Swan Lake First Nation to be on site during clearing and construction activities.</p>	
Burial sites	<p>Recommendation: no disturbance to known burial sites</p>	<p>Manitoba Hydro acknowledges the need for careful protection and respect for all culture and heritage resources. The EPP includes a Culture and Heritage Resource Protection Plan to safeguard and appropriately handle culture and heritage resources discovered during the construction of the Project. Manitoba Hydro anticipates working with the community to develop a protocol for in the event of a discovery of a previously unrecorded heritage or culture resource.</p>	<p>Cultural and Heritage Resource Protection Plan</p>

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EMFs	Concerns regarding EMFs	<p>Based on reviews by national and international scientific agencies there are no known adverse health effects associated with EMF from AC or DC transmission lines.</p> <p>Manitoba Hydro continues to monitor studies on this subject and makes information available to the public.</p>	
Fishing	<p>Concerns regarding potential impact of the Project on the watershed and local fish populations, in turn impacting Aboriginal fishing rights. Specifically, concerns are related to river crossings and the use of chemicals</p>	<p>No in-stream works are planned, however, if required, in-stream activities should be conducted during a timing window of at least risk to fish and fish habitat. Timing works to avoid sensitive life history periods or life stages is an effective means of mitigating adverse effects.</p> <p>Surface and groundwater quality will not be degraded whether or not they contain fish. Buffers and setbacks, erosion and sedimentation control measures and stream crossing measures will be utilized.</p>	Construction Environmental Monitoring Plan

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Land Claim	Concerns regarding the impact on SLFN's land claim in the Portage La Prairie area. It was questioned as to how Bipole III could impact the land claim.	Manitoba Hydro intends to continue discussions with Swan Lake First Nation in an effort to address the community's concerns related to the Bipole III Transmission Project.	
Monitoring	Recommendation: a community representative be onsite during construction to monitor activity in their defined area of interest (NW 3599W to SW2699W, diagonally to NE 898W was to SE 1598W)	Manitoba Hydro has also agreed to support an Environmental Monitor from Swan Lake First Nation to be on site during clearing and construction activities.	Construction Environmental Protection Plan
Poplar trees	Concerns about a stand of towering poplar plants and green ash that are of importance to the community	Typically, Manitoba Hydro's vegetation clearance requirement requires the complete removal of tree species within its rights-of-way for the safe operation of the line. However, Manitoba Hydro will attempt to discuss with the community to determine if any mitigation measures are feasible that could allow some of the trees to remain while ensuring the safe operation of the line.  When vegetation comes in contact with or	Construction Environmental Protection Plan

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		<p>grows close enough to the conductors there is risk of electrical arcing or flashover. This can cause wide-spread power outages and/or fires. Vegetation control ensures the safety of the public, of private property, as well as reliable electrical service. Vegetation control is also necessary to maintain access to the right-of-way for both emergency and routine maintenance of the lines.</p>	
Protocol	<p>Recommendation: to develop a protocol which outlines the process of dealing with burial sites, should they be uncovered during construction.</p>	<p>Manitoba Hydro and Swan Lake First Nation have been working on the development of a protocol.</p>	<p>Cultural and Heritage Resource Protection Plan</p>
Sensitive site	<p>Concerns regarding sensitive sites. Identified sensitive sites in the area between Indian Gardens and Dakota Plain/Long Plain reserve lands</p>	<p>Manitoba Hydro has committed to meeting with the community to better understand the community's use of the Project area and incorporate any sensitive sites into the Environmental Protection Program. Manitoba Hydro will also notify the community of Project schedule and construction activities.</p>	<p>Cultural and Heritage Resource Protection Plan</p>

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Soils and terrain	Concerns about impacts on soils and terrains	<p>Selective clearing will be carried out in erosion prone areas. Hand clearing or other low disturbance methods may be employed to minimize soil disturbance.</p> <p>Environmentally sensitive areas located adjacent to watercourses or located on rugged terrain will be cleared by low ground disturbance methods (i.e hand clearing on steep slopes). Specified clearing methods will be carried out in a manner that minimizes disturbance to existing organic soil layer.</p>	Construction Environmental Protection Plan
Vegetation management	Concerns regarding potential impacts arising from the maintenance of the line, particularly in the case where there is weather related damage and the line has to be repaired within a short timeline. The community would like to ensure there are mitigation measures in place to protect local vegetation, particularly for sites where sensitive botanical populations have been identified	In the event of an accident or the collapse of the Bipole III Transmission Line at the Area either during construction or thereafter during operation, Manitoba Hydro will promptly notify Swan Lake First Nation so that they can send persons to the site and assess whether there has been any loss, or is a risk of loss, to artifacts, sites or vegetation of concern to Swan Lake First Nation.	Access Management Plan

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Vegetation management	The community would like to ensure there are mitigation measures in place to protect local vegetation, particularly for sites where sensitive botanical populations have been identified.	Manitoba Hydro plans to meet with Swan Lake First Nation First Nation to identify sensitive sites including those that contain plants that are of importance to the community and will consider non-chemical vegetation management in those sites. During construction and maintenance of the Bipole III Transmission Project, Manitoba Hydro will maintain a minimum 30 meter riparian buffer zone immediately adjacent to the shoreline of rivers, creeks, and streams. Within the riparian buffer zone, the application of herbicides shall be prohibited.	Construction Environmental Protection Plan
Wildlife	Concerns about potential effects on moose	The Bipole III ROW is not expected to have an effect on moose movement or habitat utilization on or near the ROW. General mitigation measures include undertaking preconstruction surveys and the development of site-specific prescriptions such as the establishment of buffers to break up line of sight, timing of construction, reducing public access, paralleling existing linear features as much as possible and restricting hunting by project personnel.	Construction Environmental Protection Plan