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September 20, 2012

Ms. Elise Dagdick
Environment Officer
Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
123 Main Street, Suite 160
Winnipeg, MB. R3C 1A5

Dear Ms. Dagdick,

Re: Bipole III Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for your letter of August 29, 2012, requesting additional information for the above project.

Regarding Item 1 requesting the relocation of the preferred route of the transmission line at various locations, we offer the following response. Manitoba Hydro has reviewed the items 1.a) and 1. b) (GHAs 14, 14A, and 19) with staff from Manitoba Wildlife Branch, and has agreed to conduct a review for potential relocation of the line to address the concerns for moose in these areas. We have also met with Conservation staff in North-east region to discuss item 1. c) regarding the Wabowden boreal caribou herd. For Item 1. d), PR 10 near Red Deer River and Steeprock WMA, we have requested clarification of the issue and have as yet not received a response to that request from your department.

Manitoba Hydro recognizes the issues in the GHAs and Wabowden caribou range (Items 1. a – 1. c) and is agreeable to working with provincial authorities on reviewing routing in these areas. In order to provide new alternatives we will need to conduct a comprehensive review of the areas and also conduct stakeholder consultation on a preferred alternative. This is a necessary and lengthy process. We will continue to meet with staff from Wildlife Branch as the work progresses. It is not expected that a new preferred alternative could be put forward until early 2013. We would expect that Manitoba Conservation could address routing in the specified areas as a licence condition, and not delay the current licensing process for the project as discussed with you on September 11, 2012. Manitoba Hydro believes that these routing changes can be managed through said licensing conditions while maintaining the integrity of the process.

Regarding Item 2, the August 17 letter from Aboriginal Relations, Manitoba Hydro continues to work on responding to the questions and will be arranging a meeting with that

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department to review the issues and challenges in addressing all the questions.

Manitoba Hydro appreciates the opportunity to work with Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship on this project. If you require additional information or wish to discuss further, please contact me at 204 360-3016.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. McGarry', written in a cursive style.

P.McGarry
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Licensing & Environmental Assessment Dept.

PM/tk