



LANDOWNER CONSULTATION

Bipole III Route Adjustment

May 12, 2014

Prepared for:

Manitoba Hydro

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1.0 Introduction

Bipole III Transmission Project *Environment Act* License 3055, Clause # 8 states the following:

The Licencee shall follow the recommended routing changes cited in recommendation 9.3 in the Clean Environment Commission's report unless there is compelling reasons not to do so. Any proposed deviations from the route changes recommended by the Clean Environment Commission's recommendation 9.3 shall be provided to the Director, for approval prior to construction in those areas, providing compelling rationale for the final route preferred.

The Clean Environment Commission Report on Public Hearing Bipole III Transmission Project section 9.3 notes the following:

Given the Commission's view that Manitoba Hydro may not have consulted with all affected farmers along the route, it is recommended that, prior to making the specific changes recommended above, Manitoba Hydro consult with all affected farmers to seek consensus or majority support for moving the line from roadsides to the half-mile line. The Commission is cognizant that there may be differences of opinion among farmers. We expect Manitoba Hydro to consult directly with all involved farmers. If no consensus can be reached, majority will rule. Straight stretches are to remain straight.

These proposed adjustments occur on agricultural lands where the current placement is not located on the half mile line. The affected acres of land are in southern Manitoba between the towns of Langruth and Ste. Anne. The Clean Environment Commission (CEC) specified that the half-mile line should be used, unless the consultation with landowners demonstrates that there are compelling reasons not to.

This document provides the result of the consultation with landowners who are affected by the recommended route adjustment.

1.1 Methodology

In October 2013, Manitoba Hydro notified all affected landowners of this licensing condition and informed them future contact would be made to provide information and solicit their preferences (see Appendix A).

Manitoba Hydro engaged PRA (Prairie Research Associates) Inc. to conduct the consultation process with landowners. In December 2013, a letter from Manitoba Hydro was distributed to affected landowners. The letter informed them that PRA had been engaged to oversee the consultation regarding the route adjustments recommended by the CEC and that PRA would be in contact with them (See Appendix B).

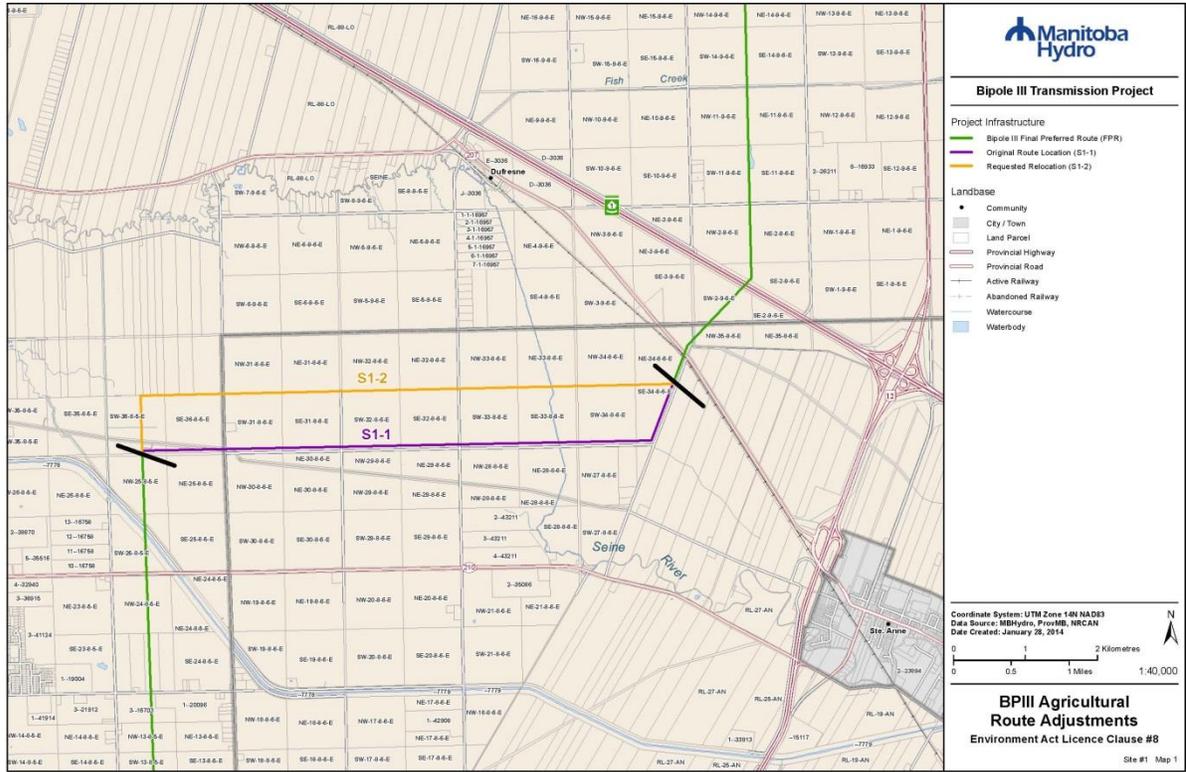
The main goal of this consultation was to ensure that affected landowners were informed and given the opportunity to provide their preference on route locations. Several steps were taken to ensure this was the case. In consultation with Manitoba Hydro, PRA developed a series of materials to be included in a package that would be sent to all affected landowners.

- ▶ **A cover letter.** The cover letter explained the reason why they are being contacted, the importance of their participation, the other material that is included, and how they can register their preference. The cover letter included a toll free telephone number for PRA, which landowners can call to have their questions about the process answered. Questions about the decision, Manitoba Hydro's intentions, or other issues that extend beyond the scope of the consultation will be referred to Manitoba Hydro.
- ▶ **Instructions.** The instruction sheet provided more detail on to how the process would work, how the material should be reviewed before submitting their response, the method of responding, and the choices available. The instruction sheet also provided the option of registering their preference online and provided the website location and a unique passcode.
- ▶ **A ballot.** The ballot included a choice of the routing options. The ballot was linked by name and colour to the routes on an accompanying map. For all sites but one, the choice was between the original route and the requested relocation (that is, the CEC suggested half-mile route). In the case of Site 2, there were two relocation route options to choose from, as well as the original route.
- ▶ **Key Information.** This document provided additional information about the process. It was in a question-and-answer format designed to provide important information, including the answer to such questions as "Why are we contacting you?" "Who is PRA Inc.?" "How will the process work?" and "How will my vote be counted?"
- ▶ **A map.** A map showing the affected land and the routing options.
- ▶ **Postage paid return envelope.** An envelope addressed to PRA and with the postage paid was provided to return the ballot.

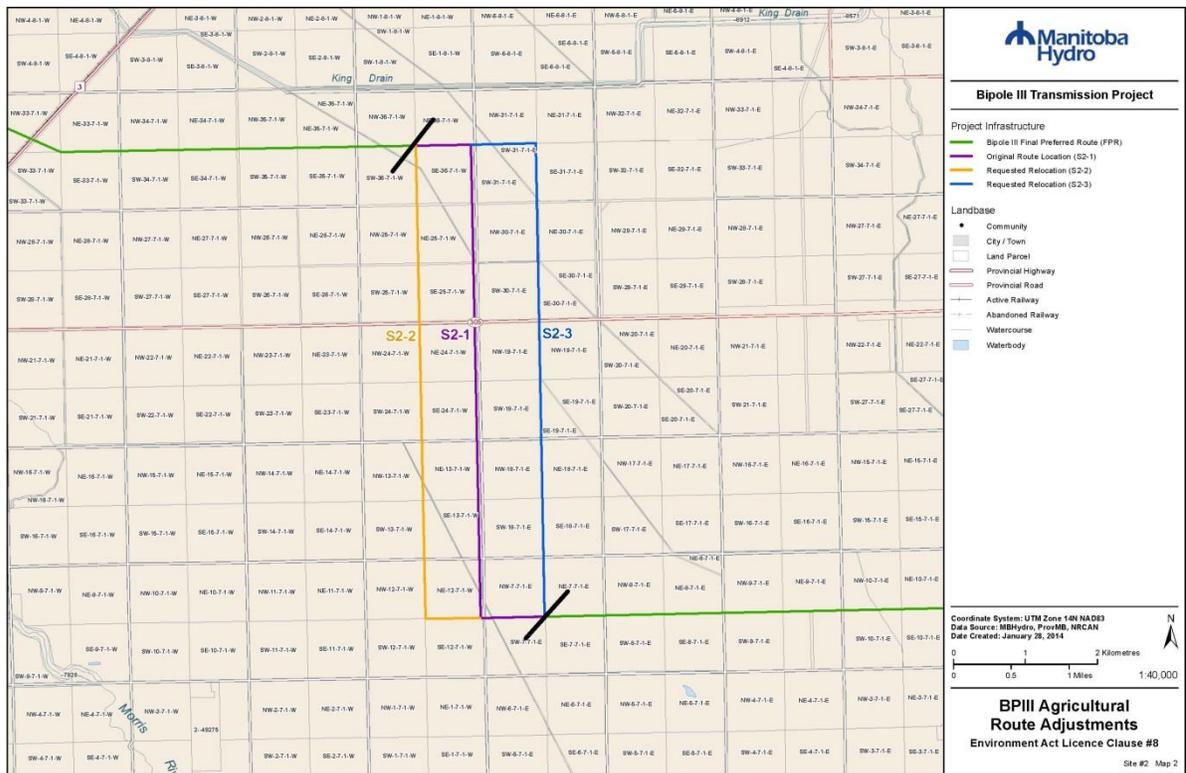
The material also included the following information:

- ▶ participation in this process would not affect any appeals or other legal rights
- ▶ not participating in the vote is actually a choice for the move to the CEC relocation route, that is, the half mile, as that will be the default

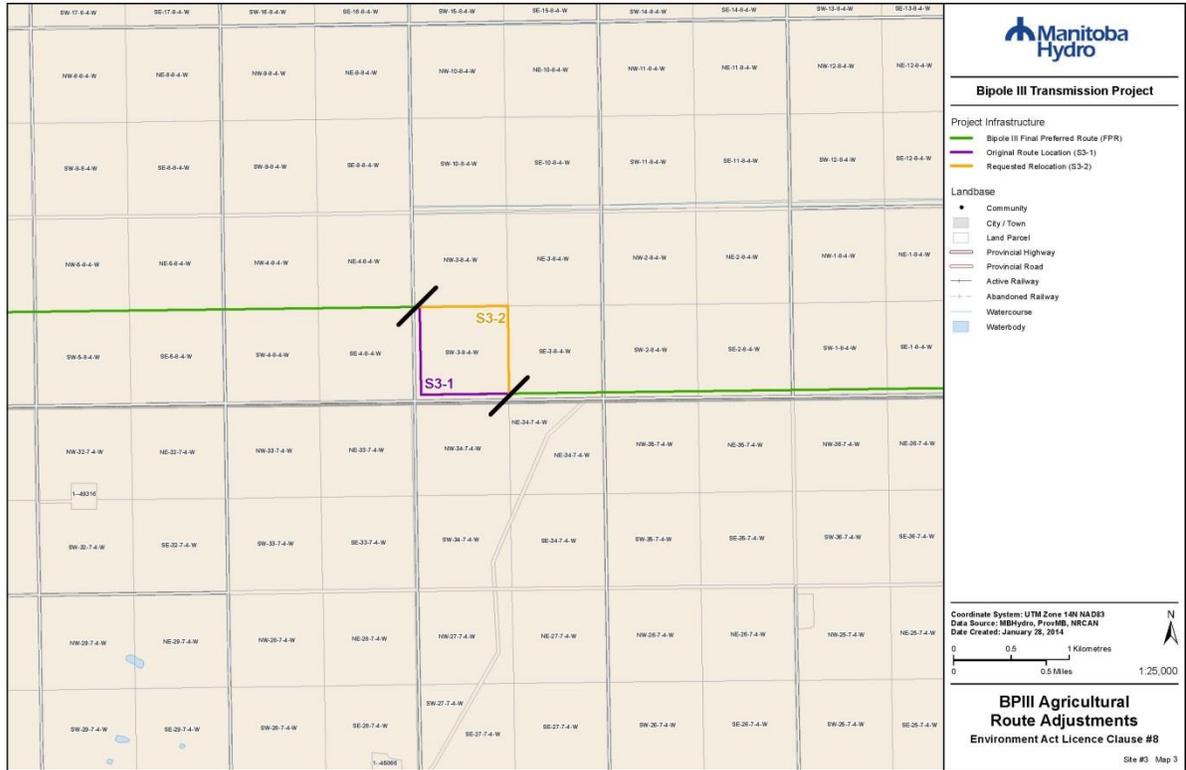
Appendix C contains examples of the material included in the package distributed to landowners affected by the relocation. The maps provided to landowners in each site are shown below. For Site 1 to 6, each landowner received the one map relevant to their affected land. In the case of Site 7, two maps were supplied to landowners. In the case of Site 2, in addition to the original route, there were two relocation routes for landowners to consider.



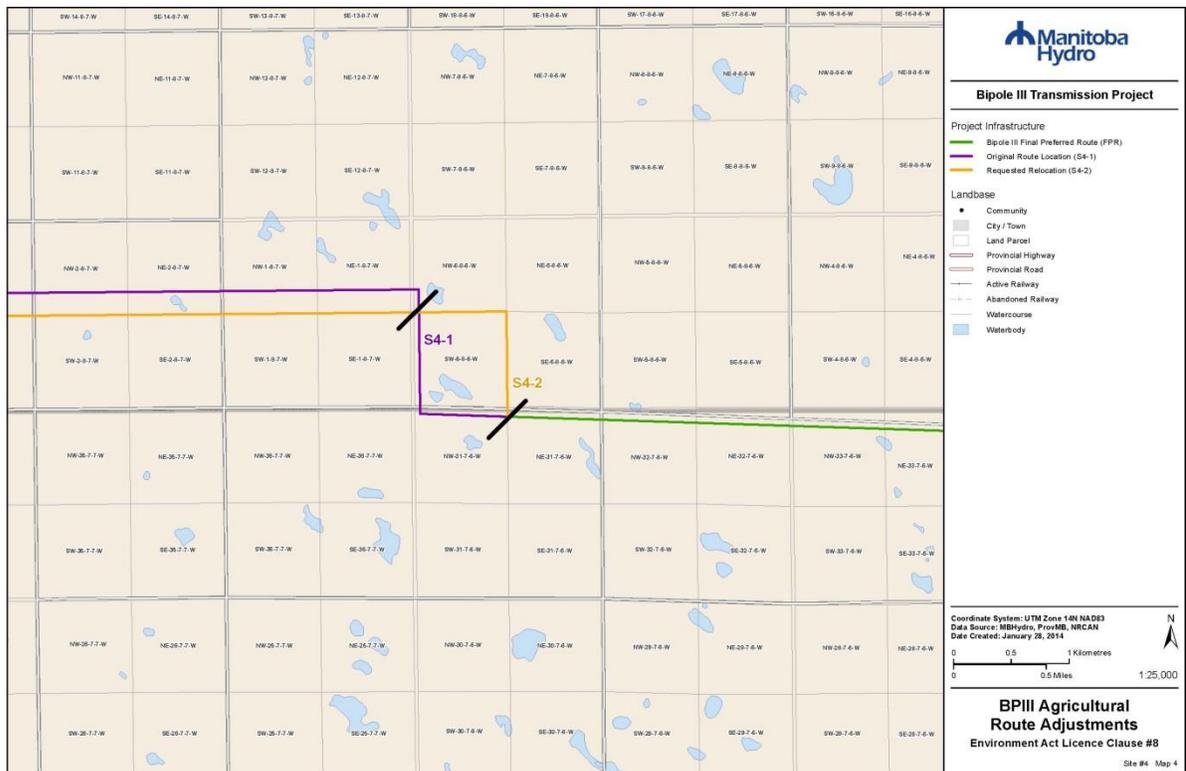
Site 1



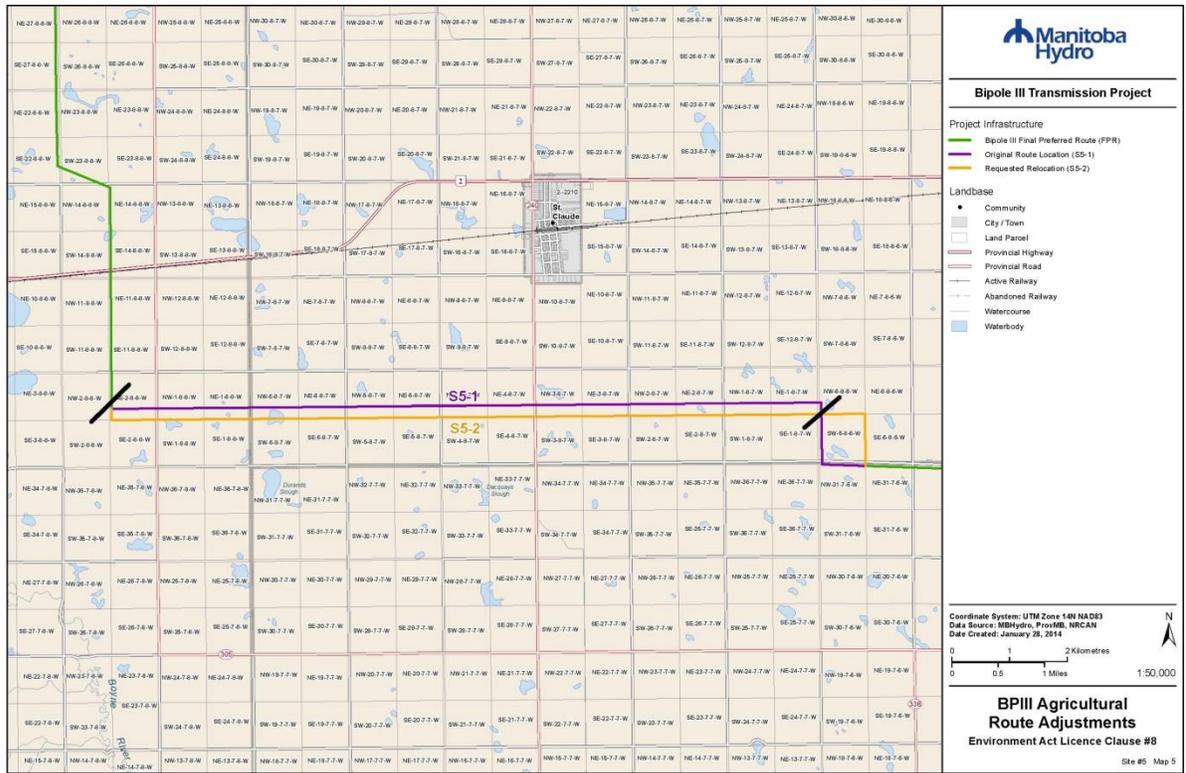
Site 2



Site 3



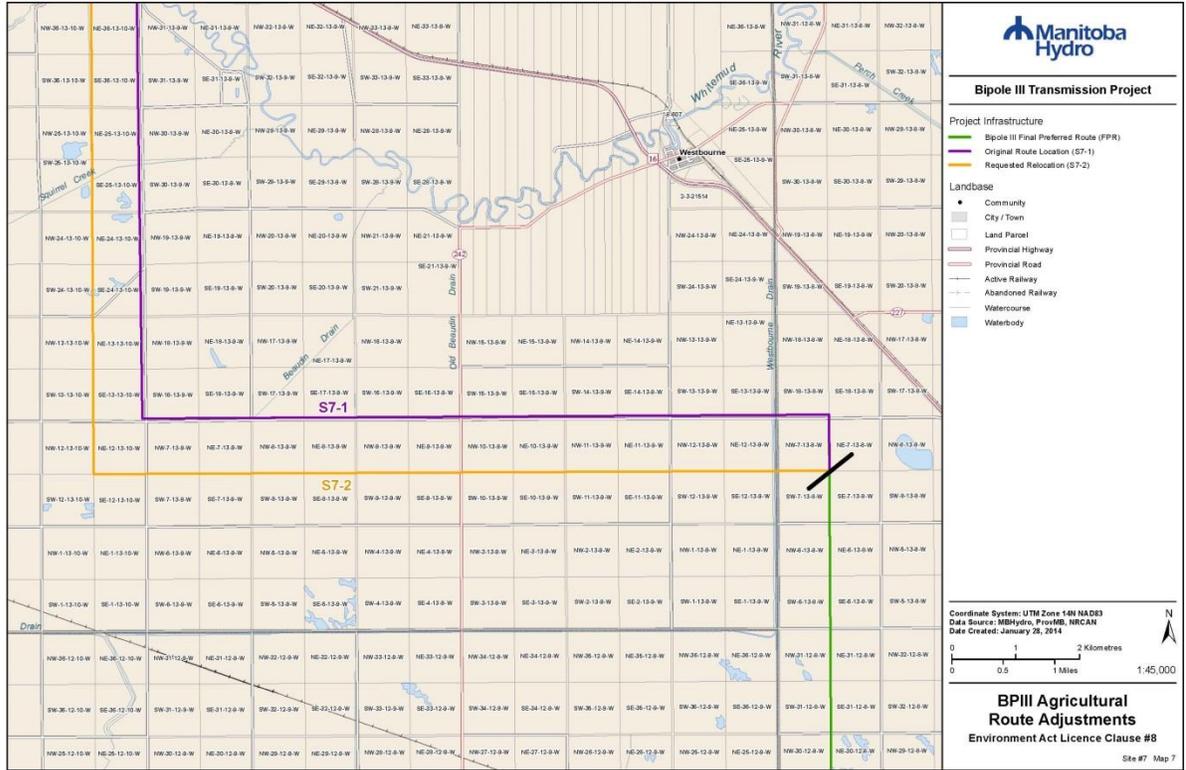
Site 4



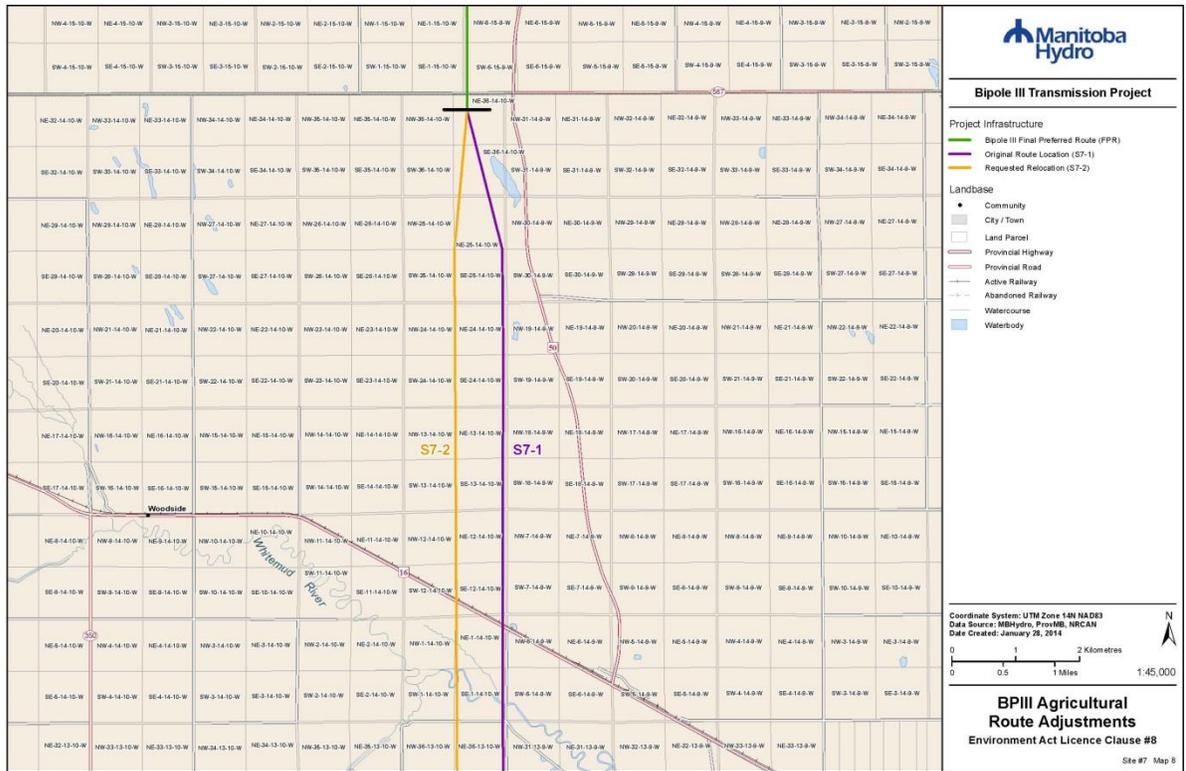
Site 5



Site 6



Site 7a



Site 7b

PRA distributed the information packages to affected landowners via registered mail on February 21, 2014. The table below shows the number of landowners that were contacted and the number of acres involved in each site.

Table 1: Number of landowners by site		
Site	Number of landowners	Number of acres
Site 1	21	271.3
Site 2	21	291.6
Site 3	4	57.2
Site 4	3	59.1
Site 5	20	301.6
Site 6	13	180.8
Site 7	20	936.6
Total	102	2,098.2

While 102 different landowners were affected by the relocation, in one case three individuals at three different addresses own the same piece of land. All three landowners were contacted, which meant that 104 pieces of mail were distributed.

1.1.1 Follow-up

As mentioned, the information package was distributed using registered mail. Registered mail requires a signature on delivery. Canada Post provides a method to monitor the state of delivery of registered mail, including whether the mail has been delivered (that is, signed for), the number of attempts made to deliver it, and other possible outcomes (for example, if someone refuses to accept the mail). Monitoring is through a secure online site. Thus, throughout the process, PRA knew when a package was delivered and when attempts were made to deliver it.

Of the 104 pieces of mail distributed, 101 landowners signed for their packages. While most packages were available within days of being mailed, the date of receipt ranged from between February 24 and April 12, 2014. Table 2 shows the week in which the packages were signed for. Ninety-three landowners (89%) signed for their package within two weeks of mailing.

Table 2: Date package delivered	
Week of...	Number of landowners
February 23, 2014	83
March 2	10
March 9	4
March 16	0
March 23	1
March 30	1
April 7	1
Refused/not signed for	4
Total	104

While packages were in the hands of most landowners in a timely fashion, returns came back

much more slowly. While the first ballot was returned on February 25, 2014, the last two were received on April 7, 2014.

To encourage participation among those who had not indicated their preference either by returning their ballot or going online, PRA:

- ▶ sent out a follow-up letter (not registered) to all non-respondents on March 13, 2014; and
- ▶ called those with telephone numbers to encourage participation.

Ballots were distributed to 104 landowners representing 102 different pieces of land. One piece of land was owned by three different individuals at different addresses. While three information packages were distributed, they had one vote among them.

As mentioned all but four packages were delivered to affected landowners. Of the four packages that were not delivered:

- ▶ two landowners refused to accept the package;
- ▶ in one case, the package was signed for then returned indicating the landowner was not at that address; and
- ▶ for one, the package was not accepted as the landowner was not at that address.

There were several other cases where addresses were inaccurate, and in all cases efforts were made to identify a correct address (including a search of Land Titles). In the two cases where the packages were not delivered, no accurate address information could be found.

PRA called all non-responders for which we had a telephone number. As a result, many of those called returned the ballot. Some of the landowners we spoke to said they would return the ballot but never did (n=5); others said they would not return it (n=4); and still others said they were still deciding what to do, but again did not return the ballot (n=3). In one case where the landowner reported that they had since sold their land, it was to another landowner who was being contacted as part of this process. In some cases (n=9), we were unable to contact the individual landowner and left a message reminding them to return their ballot.

There were 13 landowners for whom we had no telephone number (n=9), or the numbers provided were not in service (n=2), or the individual was not at the number provided (n=2). In all cases, efforts were made to find a phone number for these individuals, including using Canada 411.

These and other outcomes are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Outcomes		
	n	%
Distributed	104	100%
Received (signed for registered mail)	100	96%
Refused package	2	2%
Package accepted and then returned	1	1%
Never delivered / address incorrect	1	1%
Returned ballots	62	60%
Did not return ballots	42	40%
Left a message reminding them to return	9	9%
Spoke to – would return, but did not	5	5%
Spoke to – would not return	4	4%
No answer / no answering machine	4	4%
Spoke to – still deciding	3	3%
Refused package	2	2%
Not in service	2	2%
Wrong number	2	2%
Sold land	1	1%
Not available during process	1	1%
No telephone number	9	9%

1.2 Response rate

Sixty percent of landowners responded to our request to return the ballot. Most of those who did not return their ballot made that choice with the knowledge that a decision would be made without their input. All but four received the package, all non-responders but two received a follow-up letter, and all but 17 non-responders were contacted by telephone (see Table 3 above). Most had six weeks in which to respond to the request for a return of their ballot. In terms of those who did not vote, in conversation with landowners:

- ▶ some explicitly told us that they would not return the ballot because they had issues with Bipole III that had little to do with the issue of the proposed relocation of the route on their land; and
- ▶ others said they would likely return the ballot or were still thinking about the options, but in the end did not return their ballot.

2.0 Results

The materials sent to landowners outlined the following:

- ▶ Landowners were given the opportunity to provide their preference only on the route that affects their land, not on an overall approach to address all alternatives.
- ▶ While each landowner had one vote, each vote was weighted based on the number of acres of land affected by all options on their land.
- ▶ The selection of a route is based on the weighted preference of the landowners affected and who provided a response.

In reviewing the results, the following should be kept in mind:

- ▶ Landowners with more acres have a greater say in the outcome. The vote of a landowner with 20 acres has twice the weight in the decision as a landowner with 10 acres for that specific site. “Voting acres” was used to determine majority.
- ▶ More than 50% of the “voting acres” must indicate their preference for their preference to be considered.
- ▶ If a minority of affected acres vote, the route recommended by the CEC will be accepted (regardless of how this minority voted), since a majority do not oppose it, and therefore there is no compelling reason to avoid routing on the half mile line. For example, if there are ten voting acres in an area and ballots for only four voting acres are returned requesting the line remain the same, because six voting acre ballots (the majority) were not returned, the CEC recommendation was adopted.
- ▶ If none of the landowners vote in a specific site, then the CEC’s recommended route was accepted.

This approach was adopted to address the CEC direction that the recommended relocation be adopted “*unless there is compelling reasons not to do so.*”

2.1 Number of participating landowners

As noted above, 60% of landowners returned their ballots, either by mail or by completing a ballot online. Two of those who returned ballots indicated that they were abstaining from the vote. Table 4 shows the method used to return the ballot.

	n	%
Returned ballot		
By mail, chose a route	45	43%
By mail, but abstained	2	2%
By going online	15	14%
Total returned	62	60%
Did not return ballot/vote online	42	40%
Total	104	100%

All three ballots sent to the three owners of one piece of land were returned and are counted in the response table above. However, the responses from these three were counted only once towards the selection of a route.

2.2 Number of participants by site

Table 5 shows the number and percentage of landowners returning ballots who also made a choice. The number of landowners representing different pieces of land ranged from 3 to 21 per site. Percentage of landowners returning ballots is the number of returned ballots divided by the total number of unique landowners in that site. For example, 14 of the 21 landowners in Site 1 returned their ballot, representing 67% of landowners in Site 1.

	Returned ballots	
	Number of landowners	% of landowners
Site 1	14	67%
Site 2	13	62%
Site 3	1	25%
Site 4	2	67%
Site 5	9	45%
Site 6	6	46%
Site 7	15	75%
Total	60	59%

2.3 Number of acres by site

Table 6 shows the number and percentage of acres represents returning ballots. For example, for Site 1 landowners holding 81% of the affected acres ((219.1/271.3 acres) returned ballots. For Site 5, landowners representing 38% of the affected acres returned their ballot (113.3/301.6 acres).

Table 6: Acres response by site		
	Returned ballots	
	Number of acres	% of acres voting
Site 1	219.1	81%
Site 2	211.6	73%
Site 3	3.9	7%
Site 4	32.8	55%
Site 5	113.3	38%
Site 6	87.2	48%
Site 7	793.7	85%

As mentioned, landowners holding more than 50% of acres need to respond to have their preference be considered. Since ballots of landowners representing over 50% of the acres were not returned for Sites 3, 5, and 6, the route recommended by the CEC will be accepted for these sites.

2.4 Preference

In the consultation materials it was explained that the recommended relocated route was the default and that landowners representing over 50% of the affected acres had to indicate a preference by returning a ballot in order for a vote to be considered. As mentioned, for three sites (3, 5, 6), landowners representing the majority of the acres did not return ballots, therefore, the results are not applicable and the requested relocation route will be selected by default.

For Sites 1, 2, 4, and 7, the landowners representing more than 50% of the acres did cast a ballot and the majority of these acres voted as follows:

- ▶ Site 1 for the requested relocation route. Among those who returned a ballot and made their preference known, 58% of the acres (126.8 acres) owned by seven landowners preferred the requested relocation route (at the half mile).
- ▶ Site 2 for the original route. Among those who made their preference known, 75% of the acres (159.4 acres) owned by 77% (n=10) of the landowners who returned a ballot selected the original route.
- ▶ Site 4 for the original route. Among those who made their preference known, all preferred the original route.
- ▶ Site 7 for the original route. Among those who made their preference known, 77% of the acres (613 acres) owned by 67% (n=10) of landowners who returned a ballot selected the original route.

See Table 7 for these results.

Table 7: Preference by site					
Site	Preference by number of landowners		Preference by number of acres		Route Selected
	Original	Relocation	Original	Relocation	
Site 1					
Number	7	7	92.3	126.8	Relocation
Percentage	50%	50%	42%	58%	
Site 2					
Number	10	3	159.4	52.3	Original
Percentage	77%	23%	75%	25%	
Site 3					
Not applicable					Relocation
Site 4					
Number	2	0	32.8	0	Original
Percentage	100%	0	100%	0	
Site 5					
Not applicable					Relocation
Site 6					
Not applicable					Relocation
Site 7					
Number	10	5	613.0	180.8	Original
Percentage	67%	33%	77%	23%	

Table 8 shows in more detail the numbers used to get these results¹. For example:

- Site 1 involved a total of 271.3 affected acres. Those who responded had a total of 219.1 (or 81% — 219.1/271.3) of the voting acres. The 219.1 voting acres were distributed by preference with 42% (92.3/219.1 acres) choosing the original route and 58% (126.8/219.1 acres) choosing the relocation route. Thus, the relocation route was chosen, since a majority of the voting acres indicated this preference.

Table 8: Preference by site: details of calculation									
Site	Affected acres		Responding acres		Outcome				Route chosen
	N (A)	%	n (B)	% (B/A)	Selected original route		Selected relocation		
					n (C)	% (C/B)	n (D)	% (D/B)	
Site 1	271.3	100%	219.1	81%	92.3	42%	126.8	58%	Relocation
Site 2	291.6	100%	211.6	73%	159.4	75%	52.3	25%	Original
Site 3	57.2	100%	3.9	7%					Relocation
Site 4	59.1	100%	32.8	55%	32.8	100%	0	0	Original
Site 5	301.6	100%	113.3	38%					Relocation
Site 6	180.8	100%	87.2	48%					Relocation
Site 7	936.6	100%	793.7	85%	613.0	77%	180.8	23%	Original

¹ For three of the sites where a majority of the voting acres returned a ballot, the results would be the same even if all landowners responded. For Site 2, 55% of all acres (159.4/291.6) voted for the original route. Similarly, in Site 4, 55% (32.8/59.1) and in Site 7, 65% (613.0/936.6) voted for the original route. For Site 1, if the “voting acres” were calculated out of all affected acres, neither route get over 50% of the votes. This would mean the route would default to the relocation route, which is the same as the outcome for this site as that shown in the tables.

3.0 Conclusion

Table 9 summarizes the route to be selected for each site, based on the consultation with landowners. The table includes the route identifiers, which can be linked to the maps presented in Section 1.1 above.

Table 9: Outcome of consultation		
Site	Route Selection	Site indicator
Site 1	Relocation	S1-2
Site 2	Original	S2-1
Site 3	Relocation	S3-2
Site 4	Original	S4-1
Site 5	Relocation	S5-2
Site 6	Relocation	S6-2
Site 7	Original	S7-1

In the case of Sites 3, 5, and 6, the default location, the CEC recommended relocation at the half-mile, will be adopted since landowners with a majority of acres did not participate in the consultation.

In the case of Sites 1, 2, 4, and 7, landowners representing more than 50% of the affected acres participated and in each case, the preferred route was selected by landowners representing a majority of the “voting acres.”

The results of this process will be shared with the Province as per the associated license condition described in this document. The Province will then determine if the licence condition has been met.

Appendix A – Manitoba Hydro Letter October 2013



P.O. Box 7950 Stn Main, 820 Taylor Avenue • Winnipeg Manitoba Canada • R3C 0J1
Telephone / N° de téléphone : 1-877-343-1631 • Fax / N° de télécopieur : (204) 360-6176

October 8, 2013

1025197 ONTARIO INC.
PO BOX 69
MACGREGOR, MB R0H 0R0

Dear 1025197 ONTARIO INC.:

Bipole III Transmission Project – Potential Route Adjustments in Agricultural Areas

Manitoba Hydro would like to inform you that we have obtained an *Environment Act* licence for the Bipole III Transmission Project from Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship in August of 2013. This licence outlines conditions that must be adhered to in order to complete the construction and operation of the Project.

Licence Clause #8 indicates that route adjustments specified by the Clean Environment Commission must be reviewed with landowners prior to finalization and construction. These potential adjustments occur on agricultural lands where the current placement is not located on the ½ mile line.

Upon initial review it appears that you are affected by this licence clause. The following outlines the process which Manitoba Hydro will be undertaking to meet this licensing clause.

- Notify all landowners on the current route and the proposed adjustments.
- Provide landowners mapping of the proposed route adjustments.
- Provide time for landowners to review the material.
- Provide opportunities for affected landowners to discuss the route adjustments and the decision making process.
- Provide landowners an opportunity to select their preference for the final route in their area (**anticipated closing date December 15 2013**).
- Inform landowners of the route adjustment decision (January 2014).

Manitoba Hydro will be sending more information by registered mail to local landowners in the beginning of November of this year. This will include a map of the proposed adjustments in your area and will outline the process in which you can become involved in the determination of the preferred route in your area.

The Project website will be maintained and updated with Project information as it becomes available. The website can still be accessed at <http://www.hydro.mb.ca/bipole3>

If you wish to view the licence and the associated conditions, it can be found at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eal/registries/5433bipole/3055.pdf>

If you have any questions about the Project or wish to discuss these adjustments prior to November, please contact us by email at bipole3@hydro.mb.ca or call us toll free at 1-877-343-1631.

Sincerely,



Shannon Johnson
Department Manager
Licensing & Environmental Assessment Department

Appendix B – Manitoba Hydro Letter January 2014



P.O. Box 7950 Stn Main, 820 Taylor Avenue • Winnipeg Manitoba Canada • R3C 0J1
Telephone / No de téléphone : 1-877-343-1631 or in Winnipeg: (204) 360-7888 • Fax / No de télécopieur : (204) 360-6176
bipole3@hydro.mb.ca

December 20, 2013

< address >

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Bipole III Transmission Project — Potential Route Adjustments in Agricultural Areas

As part of its *Environment Act* licence for the Bipole III Transmission Project, issued by the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship, Manitoba Hydro has a number of conditions it must adhere to in order to complete the construction and operation of the project.

One of these conditions is to provide affected landowners with a chance to review route adjustments and seek consensus or majority support as specified by the Clean Environment Commission's final report (Section 9.3). These potential adjustments occur on agricultural land where the current placement is not located on the half mile line.

You are one of those affected by this licence clause. Manitoba Hydro wishes to engage with affected landowners to ensure it gets a clear understanding of their routing preference. Manitoba Hydro will provide the results of this engagement to Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship for final route approval in your area.

Manitoba Hydro has engaged **PRA Inc.** (Prairie Research Associates), an independent research firm, to oversee the engagement with landowners. PRA will be in contact with you early in 2014. PRA will be providing you with material via registered mail, for your review and a method to indicate your preference to the routing of the line as it affects your land.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact us by email at bipole3@hydro.mb.ca or call us toll free at 1-877-343-1631. If you wish to view the licence and the associated conditions, please visit <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eal/registries/5433bipole/3055.pdf>.

Yours truly,

Shannon Johnson
Manager Licensing and Environmental Assessment



Appendix C – Information package

February x, 2014

<Name>

<Address>

<City,> <Prov> <Postal Code>

Dear <name>,

RE: Bipole III Transmission Project — Potential Route Adjustments in Agricultural Areas

Several weeks ago, Manitoba Hydro sent a letter indicating that PRA Inc. would be contacting you, on behalf of Manitoba Hydro, regarding the route of the Bipole III Transmission line on your land. With this letter, PRA is contacting you to provide information on the route options being considered with respect to your land and a method of indicating your preference.

As indicated in previous correspondence, one of the conditions of the licence set by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship is to provide affected landowners with an opportunity to declare their preference regarding route adjustments recommended by the Clean Environment Commission (CEC). The potential adjustments occur on agricultural land where the current placement is not located on the half-mile line.

While we understand that you may not wish the line to be on your land, **this is your opportunity to review the route options and to indicate which route you would prefer.**

Enclosed in this package are several pieces of information that will explain the process and assist you in indicating your route preference. Enclosed with this letter are the following:

- ▶ **Map:** A map of showing the original and CEC requested line placement affecting your land.
- ▶ **Instructions:** An instruction sheet that explains the process and how to make your preference known.
- ▶ **Information:** An information sheet providing more details to answer any questions you might have.
- ▶ **Ballot:** A ballot for you to declare your preferred choice with an alternative option to register your vote online.
- ▶ **Envelope:** A postage-paid envelope in which to return your ballot.

If you have any questions on the process, please contact Kerry Dangerfield, Partner, at PRA Inc. at 1-888-877-6744. If you have any questions about the licensing decision or Bipole III in general, please contact Trevor Joyal of Manitoba Hydro at 1-877-343-1631.

Our goal is to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to provide their input about the placement of the line on their land. Without that input, a routing choice will still have to be made and you will not have had any say in the matter. We hope you will take this opportunity to let us know your preference.

Yours truly,

Kerry Dangerfield
Partner



Instructions for Registered Landowner(s)

Please review the material enclosed. If you have any questions about the process, please call Kerry Dangerfield, Partner, at PRA Inc. at 1-888-877-6744.

1. Please review the *Key Information* sheet, which provides information on the route adjustment process.
2. Review the enclosed map that shows the land affected and the two routes under consideration in your area. The two routes are as follows:
 - a. **<Sx-1> – Original route location.** This is the route originally proposed by Manitoba Hydro running along the road allowance (**purple line**).
 - b. **<Sx-2> – Requested relocation.** This is the half-mile route recommended by the Clean Environment Commission (**orange line**).
3. Register your preference. You can register your ballot in one of the two following ways.

BY MAIL

1. Complete the provided ballot indicating your preference.
2. Place the ballot in the postage-paid envelope and mail it to:

PRA Inc.
500-363 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3N9

ONLINE

1. Using your computer, go online and type the following into the address bar of your browser: www.pra.ca/en/lineroutingballot.
2. It will prompt you for a PIN, and you should enter:

<123123>
3. Mark your choice and click on the Next button to submit your preference.

NOTE: If you complete the ballot online, there is no need to return the ballot by mail. If PRA receives both a ballot in the mail and one completed online from the same landowner, the one received first will be counted. Thank you.



Ballot

Name of Registered Landowner(s): «Tract_Name»

Please examine the map provided for details and then check your preferred route in the space below:

«Original» — Original route location	<input type="checkbox"/>
«Requested» — Requested relocation	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have gone online to complete the ballot, it is not necessary to return this ballot in the mail. If you mail in the paper ballot in addition to completing the online ballot, PRA will only accept the ballot it receives first.

Please return the completed ballot in the **postage-paid envelope** enclosed to:

PRA Inc.
500-363 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3N9

«Idnum»



Key Information

Below, we provide key information that you should be aware of about the Bipole III potential route adjustment process.

Why are we contacting you?

Manitoba Hydro obtained an *Environment Act* licence for the Bipole III Transmission Project from Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship in August of 2013. This licence outlines conditions that must be adhered to in order to complete the construction and operation of the Project. Licence Clause #8 indicates that route adjustments recommended by the Clean Environment Commission (CEC) must be reviewed with landowners prior to finalization and construction. These potential adjustments occur on agricultural lands where the current placement is not located on the half-mile line. In some intensive agricultural areas, the Clean Environment Commission has recommended that the half-mile line placement should be used, unless affected landowners indicate compelling reason not to adjust the current route.

To address Licence Clause #8, Manitoba Hydro has engaged PRA Inc. It is intended that PRA contact all affected landowners to determine their routing preference between the original proposed route and the CEC's half-mile route alignment.

Who is PRA Inc.?

PRA Inc. is a Winnipeg-based research firm. Manitoba Hydro wants to ensure the process is independent and fair, and has engaged PRA to oversee this process with landowners.

How will the process work?

PRA will distribute the ballots (one was included in this package) to all affected landowners. Using the information provided in this package, you have the opportunity to indicate your preferred route on your land, using either the paper ballot provided or by voting online. Return the marked paper ballot with your preference to PRA in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Only PRA will know who participated and the route the landowner preferred. Manitoba Hydro and Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship will only be informed of the outcome by area. Votes will be counted based on acres affected; in other words, a vote by a landowner with more affected acres will have greater weight than the vote of a landowner with fewer acres. While each landowner has one vote, each vote will be weighted based on the number of acres of land affected by all options on their land. For example, the vote of a landowner with 20 acres will have twice the weight in the decision as a landowner with 10 acres for that specific site. "Voting acres" will be used to determine majority.

What are you being asked to consider?

The Clean Environment Commission's final report specified route adjustments that affect specific areas of the province. Records show that you own land affected by the Commission's proposed route adjustment. The change recommended by the Commission is to route the Bipole III line on the half-mile in some areas. The Commission instructed Manitoba Hydro to consult with those affected to gather their preferences as to the original route or the route recommended by the Commission. You are being asked to consider which of the alternatives — presented on the enclosed map — you favour for your land.

Will my preferred route be used on my land?

Each area involves three or more affected landowners. You are being asked only to vote on the route that affects your land. However, the final routing will be the same for all affected land in your area. While all votes will be considered, the Commission made it clear that straight stretches are to remain straight. Thus, while you can indicate your preferred route from the options presented, the final route must be straight for the entire stretch of the affected land shown on the map.

What will happen if I do not indicate my preference?

If you do not return your ballot, you will not have a say in the final decision for the route of the line. If none of the landowners for the area shown on the enclosed map indicate a preference, the Commission's recommended move to the half-mile will be adopted.

How will my vote be counted?

The Clean Environment Commission has recommended that the half-mile line placement should be used. As such, this is now the default route, and unless affected landowners indicate otherwise, this placement will be accepted.

While all landowners have only one vote, the value of a vote will be weighted based on the total acres of affected land that is owned by each landowner. For example, the vote of a landowner with 20 affected acres will be given twice the weight as that of a landowner with 10 affected acres.

If only a minority of affected acres vote, the route recommended by the CEC will be accepted. This is the case regardless of how this minority voted, since a majority do not oppose it, there is no compelling reason to avoid routing on the half-mile line. For example, if there are 10 voting acres in an area and ballots for only four voting acres are returned requesting the original route, because six voting acre ballots (the majority) were not returned, the CEC recommendation will be adopted.

As mentioned, if none of the landowners for the area shown on the enclosed map indicate a preference, the Commission's recommended move to the half-mile will be adopted. For the original route to be adopted, landowners representing a majority of the voting acres for the whole route adjustment in your area must vote for the original route.

We encourage all affected landowners to return the enclosed ballot in the postage-paid envelop provided or, using the URL and password provided, go online to register their preference.



How will I know the outcome?

Upon receipt of the votes, PRA will compile the results and provide a report to Manitoba Hydro outlining the outcome. Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship will be the final decision maker based on the results provided to them by Manitoba Hydro.

Manitoba Hydro will send affected landowners a letter explaining the decisions made and the final route of the line on their land.

How will this impact my rights?

By participating in this process, it does not affect any appeals or other legal rights of the landowners.

Have more questions?

If you have any other questions about the process, please contact Kerry Dangerfield, Partner, at PRA at 1-888-877-6744. If you have any questions about the licensing decision or Bipole III in general, please contact Trevor Joyal at Manitoba Hydro at 1-877-343-1631.

Appendix D – Follow-up Letter

March 14, 2014

<Name>
<Address>
<City,> <Prov> <Postal Code>

Dear <name>,

RE: Bipole III Transmission Project — Potential Route Adjustments in Agricultural Areas

Several weeks ago, PRA sent you a package asking you to consider Bipole III routing adjustments on your land.

As part of the Bipole III Licence issued by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Manitoba Hydro is to provide affected landowners with an opportunity to declare their preference regarding route adjustments recommended by the Clean Environment Commission (CEC). The potential adjustments occur on agricultural land where the current placement is not located on the half-mile line. Manitoba Hydro has engaged PRA Inc., an independent research firm, to oversee this process with landowners.

Included in the package sent to you were a map showing the original and CEC-requested line placement affecting your land, a ballot allowing you to declare your preferred choice and instructions, an information sheet, and an envelope in which to return the ballot. This package would have been delivered to you by registered mail on <DATE>.

If you have returned your ballot or gone online to vote, thank you. If you have not, please do so by **March 31, 2014**. While we understand that you may not wish the line to be on your land, this is your opportunity to review the route options and to indicate which route you would prefer. Participating in this process does not affect any appeals or other legal rights of landowners.

If you did not receive the package, have misplaced your ballot, or have questions about the process, please contact Kerry Dangerfield, Partner, at PRA Inc. at 1-888-877-6744.

If you have any questions about the licensing decision or Bipole III in general, please contact Trevor Joyal of Manitoba Hydro at 1-877-343-1631.

It is important that everyone affected by this process has an opportunity to provide their input about the placement of the line on their land. However, even without that input, a routing choice will still have to be made. We hope you will take the opportunity to let us know your preference.

Yours truly,

Kerry Dangerfield
Partner

