

2013

BI-POLE III - KEEWATINOOW  
CONVERTER STATION PROJECT  
Construction Access Management Plan



Manitoba Hydro

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## **PREFACE**

### **BI-POLE III KEEWATINOOW CONVERTER STATION PROJECT**

The Bipole III Transmission Project involves construction of a new 500-kV high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line to link power generation in the lower Nelson River area with the distribution system in southern Manitoba. The project is required to improve system reliability; decrease dependency on one southern converter facility. The new transmission line will originate at a new northern converter facility, the Keewatinoow Converter Station, located some 79 km north-east of Gillam, and terminate at a new southern converter facility, the Riel Converter Station, just east of Winnipeg. In addition to the new transmission line and the new converter stations, the project will also include new collector lines linking the Keewatinoow Converter Station to the northern collector system at the existing switchyards at Henday Converter Station and Long Spruce Generating Stations. Each of the new converter stations will also require the development of a separate ground electrode, connected to the station by a low voltage feeder line.

Manitoba Hydro with input from Fox Lake Cree Nation have developed this Construction Access Management Plan (AMP) jointly in recognition of the need to ensure safety for the general public, regulators, government personnel, emergency personnel, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship staff, Manitoba Hydro staff/agents, and Project workers during the construction phase of the Project.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Keewatinoow Converter Station Project is part of the larger Bipole III Transmission Project. The purpose of the proposed Bipole III Transmission Project is to provide enhanced reliability to Manitoba Hydro's system and to reduce the severity of the consequences of major HVdc outages.

The Keewatinoow Converter Station (the Project) is to be located near the work area zone of the potential, Conawapa Generating Station on the Nelson River northwest of Gillam, Manitoba. Access to the Project work area zone will utilize the existing provincial highways (PR 280 & PR 290) and the existing Conawapa access road.

The Project includes:

- The Construction of a new converter station;
- A ground electrode site connected by a low voltage feeder line to the Keewatinoow Converter Station; and,
- Temporary infrastructure to develop the converter station including construction camps, and construction power station.

Manitoba Hydro, as the Project Manager, is committed to implementing an Access Management Plan (AMP) for the Keewatinoow Converter Station. The general public and all employees, contractors (direct contractors or sub-contractors), consultants, and others who work on the Project in any capacity will be required to follow the terms of the AMP and all other applicable Project plans. A separate Access Management Plan, which is dedicated to the Transmission lines right of way including the Keewatinoow area, has been prepared and forms part of the Environmental Impact Statement filed on December 1, 2011.

## 2.0 CONSTRUCTION ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Manitoba Hydro has the responsibility to implement an AMP that will meet the objectives set out below. The Resident Site Manager will oversee the implementation of the plan and make the necessary arrangements to have the required processes, procedures, equipment and personnel in place to meet these commitments.

All individuals working on the Project will be familiarized with the contents of this AMP. This AMP will be reviewed with contractors at post-contract award pre-job meetings and copies will be made available for members of the contractors' staff.

The purpose of this AMP is to document commitments to taking specific measures to manage access during construction of the Project.

The objectives of this AMP are to:

- Provide safe passage through the Project work area zone for the general public;
- Provide safe, coordinated access to the Project for workers;
- Support sustainable use through the protection of the area's natural resources; and
- Minimize Project impacts and provide worker orientation regarding respect for surrounding area, fisheries and wildlife resources, heritage resources and local communities.

### **3.0 COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Manitoba Hydro is committed to protect and preserve natural environments and heritage resources affected by its projects and facilities. This commitment and a commitment to continually improve environmental performance is demonstrated through the company's Environmental Management System, which is ISO 14001 certified.

Mitigation measures, monitoring and other follow-up actions identified in the Environmental Effects Assessment of the Project Environment Impact Statement (EIS), will be implemented through an Environmental Protection Program. Manitoba Hydro's Environmental Protection Program provides the framework for implementing, managing, monitoring and evaluating environmental protection measures consistent with regulatory requirements, corporate commitments, best practices and public expectations. Environmental protection, management and monitoring plans will be prepared and implemented under the environmental protection framework to address environmental protection requirements in a responsible manner. Socio-economic elements will be encompassed within environmental protection programs.

Manitoba Hydro will implement, manage and report on environmental protection measures, monitoring and other follow-up actions as well as regulatory and policy requirements and other commitments identified in the project EIS.

Environmental protection can only be achieved with the full engagement of Manitoba Hydro employees, consultants and contractors at all stages of Project from planning and design through construction and operational phases.

As stated in the Corporate Environmental Management Policy:

*“Manitoba Hydro is committed to protecting the environment by:*

- *preventing or minimizing any adverse impacts, on the environment, and enhancing positive impacts;*
- *continually improving our Environmental Management System;*
- *meeting or surpassing regulatory, contractual and voluntary requirements;*
- *considering the interests and utilizing the knowledge of our customers, employees, communities, and stakeholders who may be affected by our actions;*
- *reviewing our environment objectives and targets annually to ensure improvement in our environmental performance; and*
- *documenting and reporting our activities and environmental performance.”*

Manitoba Hydro’s Environmental Management Policy has been used to guide the development of the environmental protection program for the Project and implementation of the program is practical application of the policy and demonstrates Manitoba Hydro’s dedication to environmental stewardship.

## **4.0 ACCESS MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

### **4.1 ACCESS ROAD OWNERSHIP**

Safety for the general public and Project workers is a key consideration during the construction phase of the Project. To ensure the safety of the general public and Project workers, the existing Conawapa access road will be operated as a private road for the duration of the Project in accordance with this AMP.

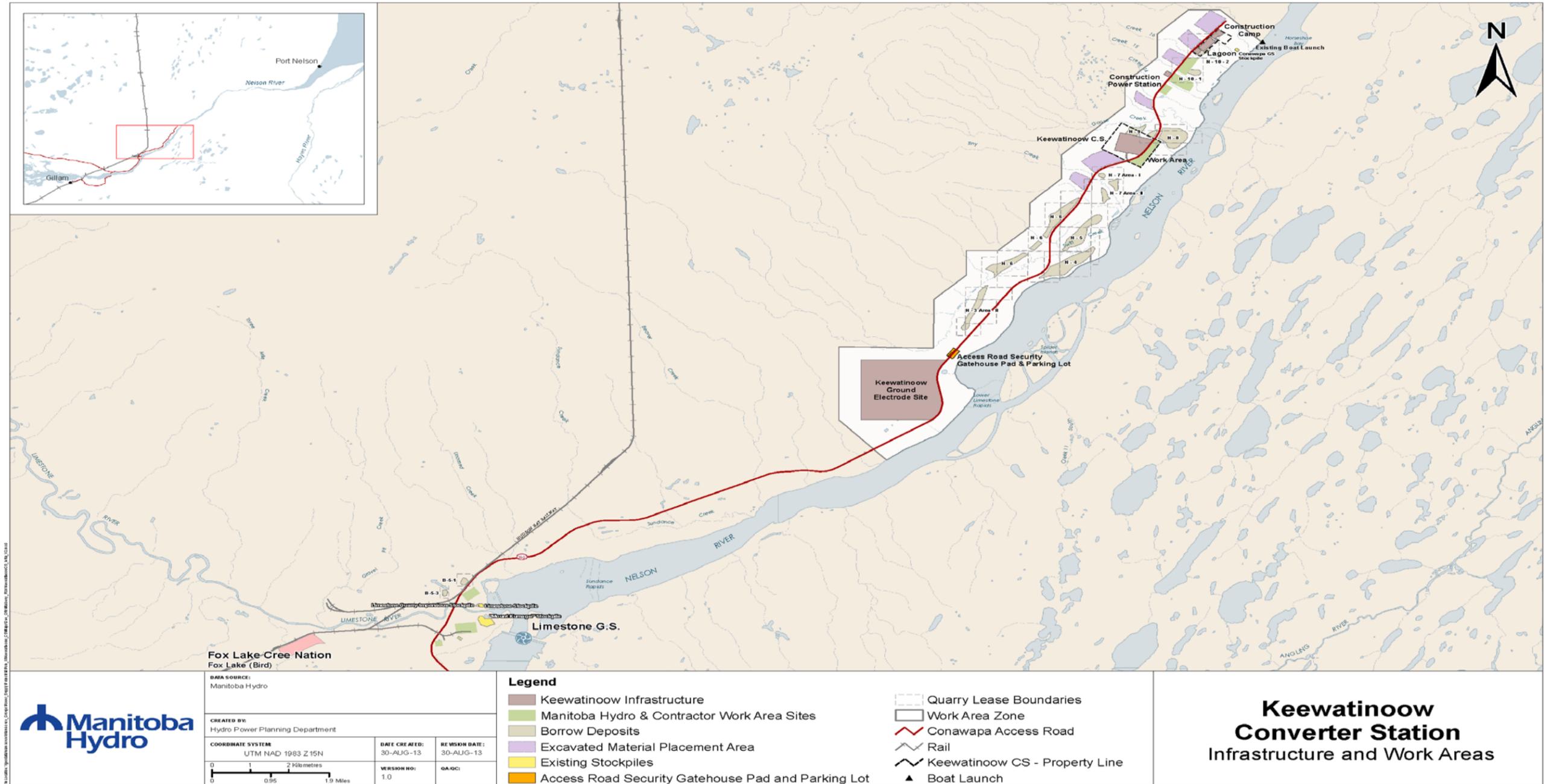
When the construction of the Keewatinoow converter station Project is complete, the measures under this AMP will be removed and the existing Conawapa access road will return to normal operation.

### **4.2 SECURITY GATE**

The entrance to the Project, located on the existing Conawapa access road north east of the Keewatinoow Converter Station ground electrode site (see Figure 4.2-1), will be gated and the Project work area zone will be deemed an active construction zone. Access to the work area zone will be controlled for the duration of the Project.

A security gate and gatehouse will be installed on the existing Conawapa access road to control access to the Project. The security gatehouse will be staffed by a security contractor, on a full-time basis. At the entrance of the security gate, Manitoba Hydro will provide a worker parking lot, to accommodate workers communicating on a daily basis from the surrounding communities. A turnaround apron, for larger vehicles to exit back onto the existing Conawapa access road if declined entry, will also be provided.

Figure 4.2-1 Security Gate Location



### **4.3 SECURITY PATROLS**

The security gate will be staffed on a full-time basis: 24 hours per day and seven days per week for the duration of the Project. Signage will be posted requiring all vehicles to report to the security office located at the main security gate.

Security patrols, monitoring personnel and/or authorized users of the road will observe and report unauthorized use of the road. Unauthorized users will be intercepted and escorted to the main security gate, off the Project work area zone.

### **4.4 ACCESS ROAD USERS AND CONDITIONS**

Manitoba Hydro will regulate travel on the access road for the duration of the Project to ensure safe passage for the general public and Project workers. Manitoba Hydro may decide to use various means, including signal lights and escort vehicles to regulate access and traffic passing through the Project work area zone. To minimize the frequency and number of personal vehicles accessing the Project, transportation will be provided for Project workers not from the local communities.

Regulators, government personnel, emergency personnel, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship staff, Manitoba Hydro staff/agents, construction contractors, their employees and authorized subcontractors will be required to follow pre-defined access procedures to gain access to the Project. The general public will also be required to follow pre-defined access procedures to pass through the Project work area zone to gain access to the boat launch that currently exists at the northern end of the Conawapa Access Road (see Figure 4.2-1).

If blasting is required during construction, access will be restricted and a flying restriction, such as a NOTice To AirMen (NOTAM), will be discussed with Nav Canada. This is necessary to ensure safety of the general public, Project workers, and aircraft during blasting operations (if any) at the construction site.

Manitoba Hydro recognizes that those who access Crown lands on either side of the access road via means other than the access road (e.g., existing trails in the area) may be legally entitled to do so. Manitoba Hydro can only implement restrictions within the area of the access road, access road right-of-way, camp sites, and work area zone areas.

#### **4.4.1 FIREARMS**

For reasons both of safety of Project workers while at the Project work area zone and for the purpose of limiting new hunting pressure, restrictions will be in place regarding firearms (e.g.,

high-powered rifles, long guns, handguns, shotguns, long bows and cross bows) on the Project work area zone (the access road is considered to be part of the Project work area zone).

#### *4.4.1.1 Project Workers*

Project workers will not be permitted to transport, use or store personal firearms (including long bows and cross bows) on the Project work area zone. All Project-related workers will be made aware of this restriction at the time of hire. If a Project worker is found to have a personal firearm within the Project work area zone, they will be disciplined up to and including dismissal.

#### *4.4.1.2 General Public*

Members of the general public who are passing through the Project work area zone may require firearms for protection (e.g., bears) or for carrying out commercial and/or domestic harvesting and spiritual/ceremonial activities. Firearms (including long guns, long bows or cross bows) will be permitted on the access road under the following conditions:

- A “no shooting” buffer zone of 300 m will be established on either side of the access road and around the Project work area within which firearms (including long guns, long bows and cross bows) cannot be unlocked/uncased. The purpose of this buffer zone is a safety mechanism for the protection of Project workers.
- Firearms (including long guns, long bows and cross bows) must be unloaded, locked and cased while on the Project work area zone, including the access road ROW, and within a safe distance from the access road/site.

In addition, full and frequent safety information bulletins (including rules established for the “no shooting” zone) will be provided to all surrounding communities. An update notification protocol will be implemented to advise the general public of the location and timing of monitoring activities and will include a general advisory of construction activities within the Project work area zone.

#### ***4.4.2 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES***

Restrictions will be in place regarding general public and Project worker personal use of snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles (ATVs) and boats at the Project work area zone (including the access roads).

It is recognized that the general public may gain access to the Project work area zone using ATVs or snow machines via existing trails located in the vicinity of the access road. If unauthorized access is observed users will be intercepted and escorted to the main security gate, off the Project work area zone.

##### ***4.4.2.1 Project Workers***

Project workers will not be permitted to transport, use or store personal snowmobiles, ATVs or boats on the Project work area zone (including the access road). All Project-related workers will be made aware of this restriction at the time of hire. If a worker is found to have a snowmobile, ATV or boat within the Project work area zone, they will be disciplined up to and including dismissal. Manitoba Hydro and contractor off road vehicle equipment shall be used exclusively for Project work related purposes and not for recreational purposes.

##### ***4.4.2.2 General Public***

Use of the access road and traveling along the access road ROW, or in the Project work area zone, for travel by snowmobile or ATV, will not be permitted for safety reasons – both for the snowmobile/ATV user and for construction traffic.

## 4.5 ENFORCEMENT

A number of measures will be used to enforce the AMP:

- Security staff, under the direction of The Resident Site Manager, will be based at the security gate on the Conawapa access road (24 hours per day, 7 days per week) and will be responsible for:
  - Ensuring that users access the Project work area zone when it is safe to do so and after having followed the appropriate pre-notification procedures;
  - Asking whether the general public users have firearms (including long guns, long bows or cross bows) and ensuring they unload, lock and case the firearm while passing through the Project (Project workers will not be permitted to bring personal firearms (including long guns, long bows and cross bows) on the Project work area zone);
  - Distributing appropriate information to those entering the Project work area; and
  - Operating the traffic signaling device at the security gate.
- Security staff will be responsible for patrolling the roadway and enforcement of Project Site Rules and operating escort vehicles when required;
- Security staff will report to the Resident Site Manager who will liaise with RCMP with respect to trespass on the access road and right of way or other security issues (e.g., firearms related).
- Firearms rules and the “no shooting” buffer zone will be made known through:
  - Posted signage along access roads, ROW, east side of the Nelson River and around the Project work area as set out under the establish 300m buffer zone;
  - Orientation of Project workers; and
  - Neighbouring community media such as the Keewatinoow Field Activities Report.
- Snowmobile and ATV rules will be made known through:
  - Posted signage along access road, ROW and at designated snowmobile/ATV crossings;
  - Orientation of Project workers; and
  - Neighbouring community media such as the Keewatinoow Field Activities Report.

Clear communication (as defined in Section 7.0 below) of measures included in this AMP, particularly the rationale for same, with Project workers and the general public will assist with the prevention of conflicts.

## **5.0 PROJECT SITE RULES**

The objective of this section is to provide a broad overview of the Project site rules that will be developed (Project Site Rules Handbook) and will govern the conduct of all individuals working on the Project, in any capacity, regardless of whether they are working for Manitoba Hydro, its agents, representatives or contractors.

The Project Site Rules will apply to any area where work is performed and any neighbouring areas; it includes the work and service areas, access roads, any facilities and accessory buildings located thereon, as well as the camp housing for the workers performing the work.

The objective of the rules will be to maintain safe working conditions, to protect the health, life and well being of each and every individual on the Project work area and to ensure the best possible quality of life, as well as to protect personal and company property. Manitoba Hydro employees, its agents, representatives or contractors will not be allowed to:

- Engage in resource harvesting while on the Project, including: hunting; fishing; and picking berries or herbs.
- Perform work on the Project, or access to the Project Camp site, without proper photo identification. The photo identification must be visible at all times while on the Project.
- Work on the Project without participating in an Aboriginal Awareness Training session as provided under the Employee Retention and Support Services Contract with Fox Lake Cree Nation.

## **6.0 MONITORING AND FOLLOWUP**

It is important that the access road, Project work area zone (including the main camp areas) and activities that occur on and within the Project are monitored to achieve the objectives of the AMP. Monitoring will also serve to assess the effectiveness of the AMP and provide a mechanism to adapt and improve measures in response to actual experience (adaptive management).

Sources of monitoring information include the following:

- Gate records;
- Security reports from patrols;

- Summarized general public requests for access to the Project work area; and,
- Voluntary harvest and sighting information (e.g., animal sightings (location, when); harvested flora and fauna (location, when, amount harvested); animal sighting are included in the terrestrial monitoring plan).

Monitoring relevant to the AMP will include the following list of parameters:

- Non-construction use of the access road – summarize gate records regarding who is using the access road, for what purpose and when;
- Summarize reporting from security patrols;
- Incidents or problems with non-construction use of the road (circumstances, timing); and
- Any problems related to users of the road (e.g., parking along roadway).

Monitoring reports will be developed each month by Manitoba Hydro. Monitoring information will be acted upon, as necessary, by the Project Manager.

## **7.0 EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION**

Effective communication and education is important to enable the successful attainment of the objectives of this AMP. A comprehensive Project Communications Plan, which includes information on the measures covered under the AMP, will be developed. The Project communication plan will ensure successful implementation of the AMP. Early, effective and frequent communication with Project workers and the general public is key:

- To create an understanding among specific relevant groups and the public-at-large regarding what access management measures are being used and why.
- To gain the cooperation and support of parties (particularly leaders in neighbouring communities) in encouraging citizens to respect the intent of the Plan and abide by its measures.
- To provide clear information about the mechanisms by which access management will be implemented.

Site Project Liaison staff, acting for the Project Manager, will develop and implement the Project communications plan, including overseeing the development and distribution of communication materials. Communication materials may include Keewatinoow Filed Activities report, newsletters, Project brochure that details access procedures (purpose and process), tracking forms and ongoing meetings with leaders in the neighbouring communities.

The Project security gate staff will provide written and verbal communication pertinent to Project access procedures covered in the AMP, Project Site Rules, and monitoring procedures. Security personnel will be available to communicate Project conditions, current restrictions for access (high periods of activity for heavy rock truck traffic) and procedures for the general public wishing to pass through the Project area zone.

Site Project Liaison staff, acting for the Project Manager, will monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of the communication strategy and initiate corrective actions, including providing additional education and communication materials, as required.