

# **Public Engagement Program**

## **Round 1 & 2 Newsletters**

## Project timeline

### Round 1 - May/June

- Introduce the project.
- Describe the route selection process.
- Outline the regulatory process and timelines.
- Receive input to be utilized in the selection of the route.
- Document what was heard.

### Round 2 - July/August

- Present preliminary route.
- Identify and document any concerns with the route and/or the project.
- Consider potential project-based effects.
- Identify mitigation measures.
- Document what was heard.

### Next Steps

- Confirmation of the preferred route.
- Submission of the Environmental Assessment Report.
- Regulatory authorities review report.
- Construction.
- In service spring/summer 2016.

We are here.

## Attend an Open House

You are invited to attend a drop in open house to gather project information and to share your knowledge of the local environment to assist Manitoba Hydro in determining a preferred route for the project. Refreshments will be served.

### Lac du Bonnet

June 18  
3 to 8 p.m.  
Lac du Bonnet Community Centre, 25 McArthur Ave.

### Pointe du Bois

June 19  
3 to 8 p.m.  
John Glassco School (gymnasium), Pointe du Bois Townsite

### Seven Sisters Falls

June 20  
3 to 8 p.m.  
Whiteshell Baptist Church, PR #307

## We would like to hear from you

There are a number of ways that you can participate in the review of this project and provide your input:

- Attend an open house.
- Submit a comment sheet – available at open houses or on our website. (See address below.)
- Contact us directly:
  - 1-877-343-1631
  - LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca
  - www.hydro.mb.ca/pdbtransmission



## POINTE DU BOIS TRANSMISSION PROJECT

## Project description

Existing transmission lines from Pointe du Bois to Winnipeg have reached the end of their serviceable life. The proposed Pointe du Bois Transmission Project replaces the existing lines with a new transmission line, improving system reliability.

A new 115-kV transmission line would originate at the Pointe du Bois Station and terminate at the Whiteshell Station located near the community of Seven Sisters Falls. Minor upgrades at both the Pointe du Bois and Whiteshell Stations are also part of the proposal.

Other related system improvements that have already been completed will facilitate the transfer of energy from this new transmission line in the Seven Sisters Falls area to Winnipeg.

## Project facts

- Length of transmission line: approximately 45 km.
- Right-of-way width: 60 m.
- Environmental Assessment Report submission: December 2013.
- In service date: spring/summer 2016.

## Environmental characterization underway

Manitoba Hydro has begun to collect information that will contribute to the selection of a transmission line route and environmental assessment of the project. Once a route is determined, this information will help the project team understand the landscape to determine any potential effects the project may have on the following:

- Physical, terrestrial and aquatic environments.
- Heritage resources.
- Land and resource use.
- Socio-economic environment.



## Site Selection and Environmental Assessment process

A site selection process will determine a transmission line route based on technical, ecological, social, land use and economic factors as well as public input. The steps of the site selection process include:

- Study area delineation.
- Identifying route selection factors.
- Route selection factor scoring and weighting.
- Identifying the preliminary route.
- Identifying the preferred route.
- Conduct an Environmental Assessment of preferred route.

Once the preferred route is selected, an environmental assessment of the proposed route will occur. The results will be included in the Environmental Assessment Report that will be submitted to regulatory authorities.

The environmental assessment will involve:

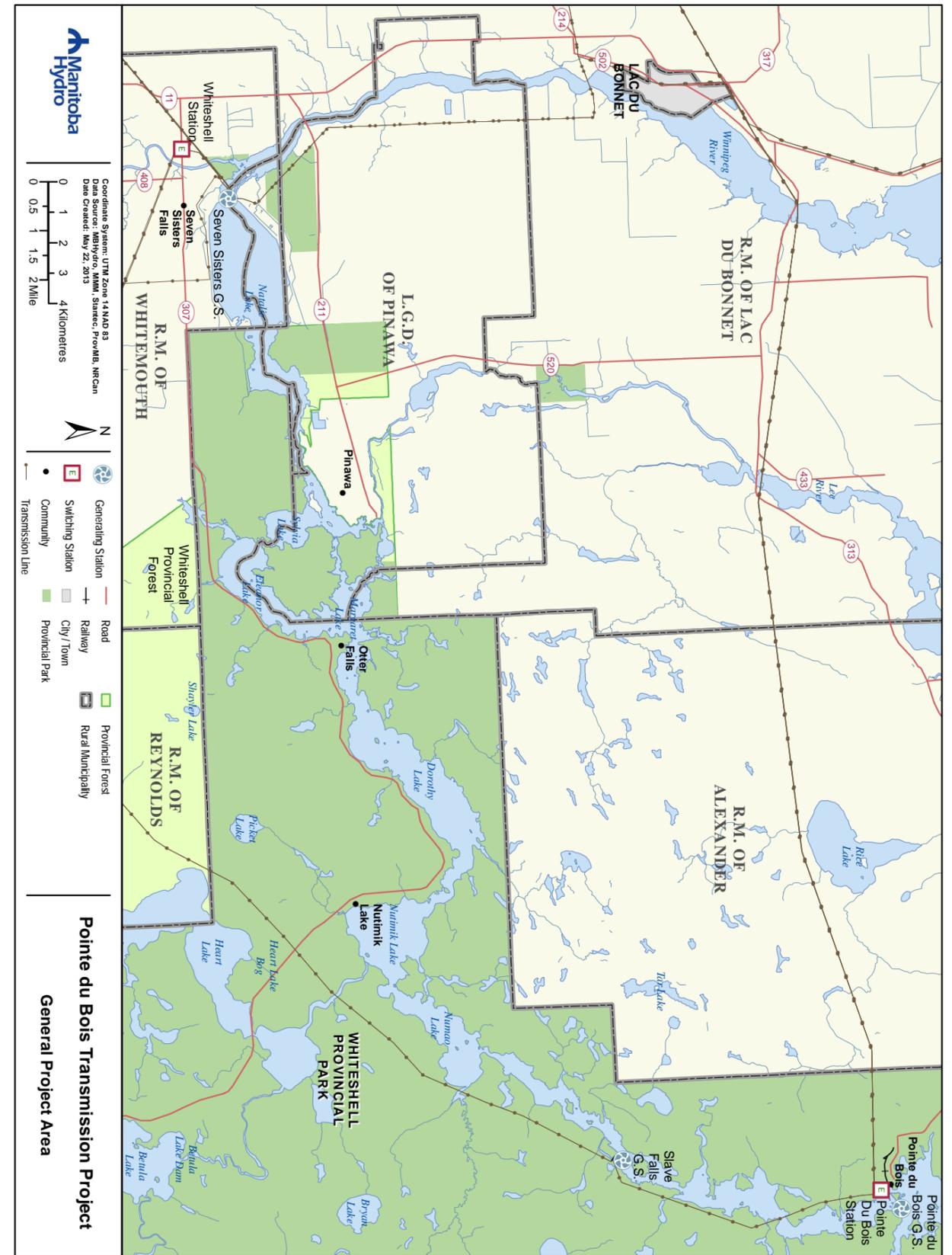
- Documenting the existing environment.
- Identifying potential effects of the project on people and their environment.
- Developing mitigation measures to avoid/reduce potential adverse effects as well as to enhance positive effects.
- Developing follow-up and monitoring activities as necessary.

The project is a Class 2 development under *The Environment Act* (Manitoba) and requires regulatory approval before proceeding with construction.

## Public engagement process

Manitoba Hydro will undertake two rounds of engagement with the public to gather feedback at different stages in the transmission line and assessment processes. Manitoba Hydro will:

- Inform the public regarding the project, timelines and route selection process.
- Utilize a variety of mechanisms to receive and share information with interested individuals.
- Gather feedback on the local environment to assist routing a transmission line as well as the environmental assessment.
- Provide the public with an opportunity to have their questions answered and concerns addressed by Manitoba Hydro representatives.



## Project Timeline

### Round 1 - May/June 2013

- Introduce the Project.
- Describe the route selection process.
- Outline the regulatory process and timelines.
- Receive input to be utilized in the selection of the route.
- Document what was heard.

### Round 2 - Aug/Sept 2013

- Present preferred route.
- Identify and document any concerns with the route and/or the project
- Consider potential project-based effects.
- Identify mitigation measures.
- Document what was heard.

### Next Steps

- Confirmation of the preferred route.
- Submission of the Environmental Assessment Report
- Regulatory authorities review report
- Construction
- In service spring/summer 2016

We are here.

## Next Steps

Manitoba Hydro will undertake a variety of meetings and public events to gather input from local residents. This feedback will assist the Project team in determining any final route adjustments as well as appropriate mitigation for any potential effect of the Project. This process will be documented in the Environmental Assessment Report. The report will be submitted to Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship as part of the application for the Environmental Act licence in December 2013 and will be available for public review and comment.

Following regulatory review and licensing, Manitoba Hydro will begin construction of the Project. It is anticipated that this transmission line will be operational by the summer of 2016.

## We would like to hear from you

There are a number of ways that you can participate in the review of this project and provide your input:

- attend an Open House.
- submit a comment sheet, available at the Open Houses or on our website (see address below).
- contact us directly:  
1-877-343-1631  
LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca  
www.hydro.mb.ca/pdbtransmission.



# Pointe du Bois Transmission Project

## Project Description

Existing transmission lines from Pointe du Bois to Winnipeg have reached the end of their serviceable life. The proposed Pointe du Bois Transmission Project replaces the existing lines with a new transmission line, improving system reliability.

A new 115-kilovolt transmission line would originate at the Pointe du Bois Station and terminate at the Whiteshell Station located near the community of Seven Sisters Falls. Minor upgrades at both the Pointe du Bois and Whiteshell Stations are included in the proposal.

Other related system improvements that have already been completed will facilitate the transfer of energy from this new transmission line in the Seven Sisters Falls area to Winnipeg.

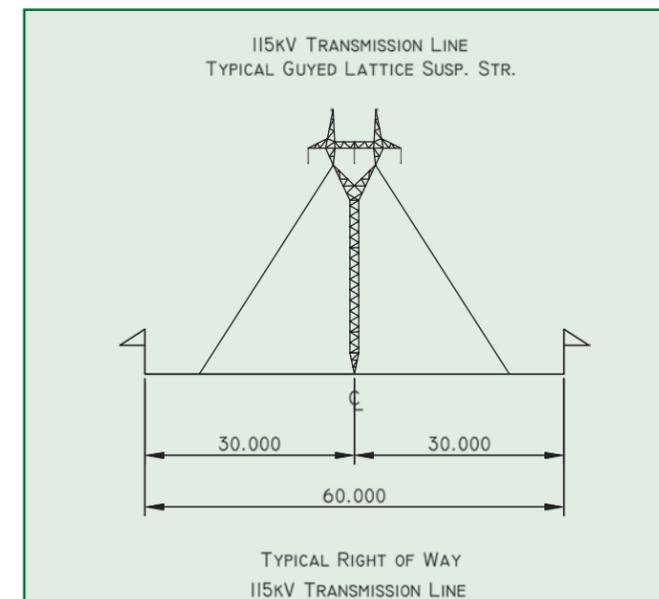
## Environmental Assessment

The development of the 115-kv Pointe du Bois Transmission Project will require a Class 2 licence under the Environment Act (Manitoba). The environmental assessment report for the project includes characterization of the environment, identifying potential effects on people and the environment, and determining ways to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects. The environmental assessment includes a public engagement process to share information and address concerns that will be documented in the environmental assessment report.

## Site Selection and Environmental Assessment process

The first phase of the Site Selection process has been completed. The steps involved in determining the preferred route included:

- Delineation of the study area.
- Determination of route selection factors including:
  - Technical concerns e.g., soil conditions.
  - Biophysical features e.g., wildlife habitat, species at risk.
  - Socioeconomic features e.g., existing and proposed developments; parks and protected areas.
  - Routing opportunities e.g., paralleling existing linear features.
- Collection of route selection factor data, scoring and weighting of route selection factors.
- Selection of a preferred route using a GIS based model that considers constraints and opportunities to determine a route that minimizes potential effects.



## Tower Design

Manitoba Hydro will be using steel lattice guyed wire towers for the Project. These towers will be located on a 60 m right of way and will vary in height from 28 m to 38 m. Self supporting structures will be utilized for right angle turns along the route to add stability to the transmission line. The above diagram outlines the anticipated design of the guyed wire structures.

## What We Heard in Round 1

Comments or concerns received from the first round of the public engagement include the following:

| Comment / Concern   | How was the feedback incorporated?  |
|---|---|
| Locate the transmission line within existing corridors, especially the line planned for decommissioning.              | The existing corridor and linear features were identified as routing opportunities in the site selection process.           |
| Some participants recommended that public access should be prohibited or managed while others sought additional uses. | Only Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship can restrict/approve access on Crown land.                                 |
| The use of self-supporting towers was recommended for agricultural lands.   | Self-supporting towers may be used when appropriate. However, the majority of the structures will be guyed.                 |
| Proximity to homes and cottages was noted by participants.  | During routing, Manitoba Hydro aimed to avoid residences as much as possible.   |
| Areas along waterways which were important to fishing - both past and present.  | These areas have been avoided with the determination of the preferred route.  |
| Trail areas and future trail areas.   | Working with these groups, Manitoba Hydro has avoided areas of high importance such as scenic view scapes or sitting areas. |
| Bait sites used by local outfitters may be impacted by the route.   | Bait sites were documented and incorporated into the selection of the preferred route.                                      |

## Round 2 Preferred Route

The intent of the second round of engagement aims to:

- present the preferred route,
- identify and document any outstanding concerns with the selected route or the project, and
- provide an opportunity to discuss potential effects and mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate potential effects.

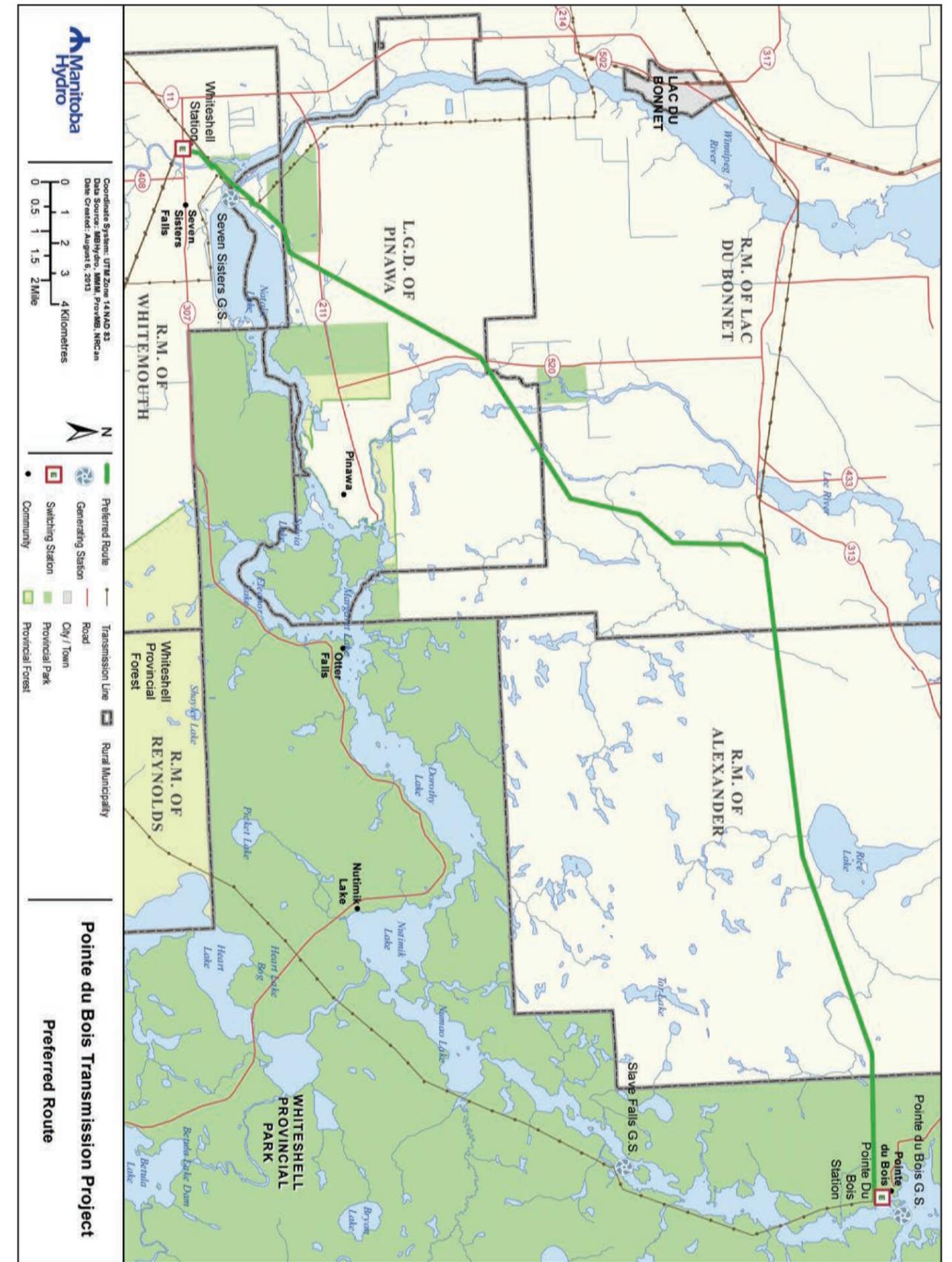
Information will be shared with the Municipalities, First Nations, the Manitoba Metis Federation as well as local residents. As well, a second round of public houses will be held in Lac du Bonnet, Seven Sisters Falls and Pointe du Bois.

In Round 1, the project was introduced to the public and the route selection process was described. Comments and feedback received helped the Project team identify a preferred route, which is outlined on page three of this document.

## Public Engagement Process

Engaging communities, stakeholders, property owners and the public is integral to the environmental assessment process. Manitoba Hydro will:

- Inform the public regarding the project, timelines and site selection process.
- Utilize a variety of mechanisms to receive and share information with interested individuals.
- Gather feedback on the local environment to assist routing a transmission line as well as the environmental assessment.
- Provide the public with an opportunity to have their questions answered and concerns addressed by Manitoba Hydro representatives



# **Public Engagement Program**

## **Round 1 Letter**



P.O. Box 7950 Stn Main • Winnipeg Manitoba Canada • R3C 0J1  
Telephone/ N° de téléphone: 1-877-343-1631 • Fax/ N° de télécopieur: (204) 360-6176  
LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca

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May 31, 2013

[Name]  
[Box]  
[Town, Province, Postal Code]

Dear [Name]:

**RE: POINTE DU BOIS TRANSMISSION PROJECT**

Manitoba Hydro would like to inform you of the proposed Pointe du Bois Transmission Project. The Project includes the installation of a new 115-kV transmission line originating at the Pointe du Bois Station, terminating at the Whiteshell Station located near the community of Seven Sisters Falls. Minor upgrades at both the Pointe du Bois and Whiteshell Stations are also part of the project. Enclosed is a newsletter that outlines the project components, location and regulatory requirements.

Manitoba Hydro invites you to attend a public Open House to gather additional information, ask questions about the Project and share feedback with the Project team.

**Pointe du Bois Transmission Project Open House Schedule**

| <u>Date</u>        | <u>Location</u>                                  | <u>Time</u>    |
|--------------------|--|----------------|
| Tuesday, June 18   | Lac du Bonnet – Community Centre                 | 3:00 – 8:00 PM |
| Wednesday, June 19 | Pointe du Bois – John Glassco School (gymnasium) | 3:00 – 8:00 PM |
| Thursday, June 20  | Seven Sisters Falls – Whiteshell Baptist Church  | 3:00 – 8:00 PM |

If you require any further information prior to the open house, please contact the Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department's Project Information Line toll free at 1-877-343-1631.

We look forward to discussing the Project with you.

Yours truly,

Brett McGurk  
Licensing & Environmental Assessment Department  
Manitoba Hydro

# **Public Engagement Program**

## **Round 2 Letter**



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  
LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca

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August 9, 2013

[Name]

[Box]

[Town, Province, Postal Code]

Dear [Name]:

**Re: Proposed Pointe du Bois Transmission Project: Preferred Route Selected**

Manitoba Hydro would like to advise you that a preferred route for the proposed 115 kV transmission line from the Pointe du Bois station to the Whiteshell Station has now been selected. Input received during Round One assisted the Project team in determining this preferred route, which is outlined on the enclosed map.

We are currently seeking feedback regarding the preferred route for the Point du Bois Transmission Project. Manitoba Hydro will be holding drop-in Public Open Houses to share information and respond to questions from local residents. The drop-in open houses will be held as outlined below.

**Pointe du Bois Transmission Project Open House Schedule**

| <u>Date</u>         | <u>Location</u>                                  | <u>Time</u>     |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| Saturday, August 24 | Lac du Bonnet Royal Canadian Legion Hall         | 12:00 – 4:00 PM |
| Tuesday, August 27  | Pointe du Bois — John Glassco School (gymnasium) | 3:00 – 7:00 PM  |
| Thursday, August 29 | Seven Sisters Falls — Whiteshell Baptist Church  | 3:00 – 7:00 PM  |

The goal of the Open Houses is to:

- Review the preferred route;
- Identify any issues or concerns; and
- Discuss possible mitigation measures with local residents.

The development of the proposed Pointe du Bois Transmission Project will require a Class 2 licence under the *Environment Act* (Manitoba). The environmental assessment (EA) for the project, including the public engagement process, will be documented in an Environmental

Assessment Report that will be submitted to Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship in application for the *Environment Act* licence in December 2013. The EA will be available for public review and comment once submitted to Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship. Construction will not begin until all licences and permits have been acquired.

If you have any questions prior to the open house, please call us toll free at 1-877-343-1631 or you can email the project team at [LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca) . Project information can also be found on the Manitoba Hydro website at [www.hydro.mb.ca/pdbtransmission](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/pdbtransmission)

We appreciate your continued interest in the Pointe du Bois Transmission Project and look forward to discussing the Project further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Block".

David Block  
Environmental Specialist  
Licensing & Environmental Assessment Department

**Public Engagement Program**  
**Adjacent Landowner Letter**



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  
LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca

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September 11, 2013

[Name]

[Box]

[Town, Province, Postal Code]

Dear [Name]:

**Re: Proposed Pointe du Bois Transmission Project: Preferred Route Selected**

Manitoba Hydro would like to advise you that a preferred route for the proposed 115-kV transmission line from the Pointe du Bois station to the Whiteshell Station has now been selected. This route was determined by the Project team after receiving feedback from local stakeholders and the general public throughout the engagement process which is currently ongoing.

We would also like to inform you that the preferred route is traversing land within a ½ mile that you own or manage. The map enclosed identifies the transmission line right-of-way. More detailed mapping is available on the Project website listed below.

The new 115-kV transmission line would originate at the Pointe du Bois Station and terminate at the Whiteshell Station located near the community of Seven Sisters Falls. Minor upgrades at both the Pointe du Bois and Whiteshell Stations are also part of the proposal. This Project will improve system reliability and replace the existing transmission lines from Pointe du Bois to Winnipeg, which have reached the end of their serviceable life.

The development of the proposed Pointe du Bois Transmission Project will require a Class 2 licence under the *Environment Act* (Manitoba). We are currently preparing an Environmental Assessment Report for submission to Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship in December 2013 for review and approval. Construction will not begin until all licences and permits have been acquired.

Additional project information and mapping can be found on the Manitoba Hydro website at [www.hydro.mb.ca/pdbtransmission](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/pdbtransmission). You can also contact us toll free at 1-877-343-1631 or by the Project email address at [LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca)

Any feedback provided will be considered as we determine the final placement of this transmission line and intend to file this final route with Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship by the end of the calendar year.

We look forward to discussing this Project with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Trevor Joyal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "J".

Trevor Joyal  
Environmental Specialist  
Licensing & Environmental Assessment Department

**Public Engagement Program**  
**Potential Route Adjustment Letter**



P.O. Box 7950 Stn Main, 820 Taylor Avenue • Winnipeg Manitoba Canada • R3C 0J1  
Telephone / N° de téléphone : (204) 360-7888 or 1-877-343-1631 • Fax / N° de télécopieur : (204) 360-6176  
[LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca)

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October 10, 2013

[Name]  
[Stakeholder]  
[Address]  
[Town], Manitoba  
[Postal Code]

Dear [Name]:

**Pointe du Bois Transmission Project – Potential Route Adjustment**

We want to inform you that a potential route adjustment is being presented for the Pointe du Bois Transmission Project.

We are currently presenting this adjustment for feedback from stakeholder groups, First Nations communities and the Manitoba Metis Federation. We would request that the attached map be reviewed to identify any potential concerns with this potential adjustment.

Based on feedback received through this review and an assessment of the potential adjustment, we will file a final preferred route with Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship with the environmental assessment report being undertaken for the Project.

The project website ([www.hydro.mb.ca/pdbtransmission](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/pdbtransmission)) contains mapping and GIS files for use and review.

If you have any further questions regarding the project, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 1-(204)-360-4305.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Joyal'.

Trevor Joyal  
Environmental Specialist  
Licensing & Environmental Assessment Department