

**SUBJECT AREA:**     **Aboriginal employment**

**REFERENCE:**       **CEC - IR #039**

**QUESTION:**

Can Manitoba Hydro explain what it has learned from Bipole III and other corridor projects in terms of the tender requirements and supporting programs and what if any changes are contemplated for the MMTP to increase Aboriginal involvement?

**RESPONSE:**

1    In terms of tendering requirements on Bipole III and other corridor projects, Manitoba Hydro  
2    has learned which work packages are better suited for direct-negotiated contracts (DNCs) with  
3    Indigenous communities or joint ventures including Indigenous ownership. Prior experience has  
4    demonstrated that it is difficult to achieve fair market value while satisfying all parties with  
5    pricing and community opportunities when directly negotiating major, complex work packages.  
6    Eight DNCs related to clearing were awarded on Bipole III. They required 51 percent (minimum)  
7    Indigenous ownership and achieved approximately 55 percent (by financial value) Indigenous  
8    employment.  
9  
10   The first set of Bipole III construction contracts were tendered publically with Indigenous  
11   participation components including Indigenous and local hiring preferences, local pre-  
12   construction training, job recruitment fairs, and on-the-job training programs. The over-all  
13   strategy for Indigenous content of submissions was evaluated and considered in the selection  
14   process. However, there were no minimum thresholds or mandatory requirements included in  
15   the terms and conditions. Submissions were scored relative to one another. There were eight  
16   contracts awarded in this manner, and to date they have achieved approximately 47 percent  
17   (by financial value) Indigenous employment.  
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19 The final three Bipole III construction contracts were also publically tendered, but with more  
20 comprehensive Indigenous participation components and robust requirements. These latest  
21 contracts specify mandatory minimum thresholds for Indigenous employment rates (hours  
22 worked and wages paid out) and training investments (number of trainees and financial  
23 investments) and incentives for other Indigenous opportunities. Indigenous content formed  
24 part of the evaluation criteria in selecting the contractor.

25

26 The latest contracts also include monthly compliance checks and financial penalties for not  
27 achieving commitments and targets. To date, these contracts have achieved approximately 70  
28 percent (by financial value) Indigenous employment.

29

30 Manitoba Hydro is achieving successful results from the latest public tenders  
31 including mandated targets for Indigenous content and penalties for under-performance. The  
32 most recent Bipole III tendering strategy forms the basis for the approach under consideration  
33 for the MMTP Transmission Line Construction project.

**SUBJECT AREA:** Access Management

**REFERENCE:** CEC - IR #56

**QUESTION:**

Based on a review of section 4.8 of Chapter 22 Appendix 22-B a variety of possible techniques are identified on page 21 for access controls, following the construction period. These include: gates; trenches and berms; rock placement; culvert removal; debris spreading; replant the entrance of access routes; and, ATV access route decommissioning.

Does Manitoba Hydro intend to present these various options to private landowners within the MMTP corridor? Will Manitoba Hydro fund or otherwise facilitate the installment or implementation these options on private land? Would the same approach be utilized for the respective management authorities for crown lands?

**RESPONSE:**

- 1 Manitoba Hydro has funded or facilitated the installment of access controls during the
- 2 construction phase of projects to address access related concerns of private landowners. Prior
- 3 to construction activities commencing on private property, Manitoba Hydro is in contact with
- 4 the landowner to discuss and identify any access issues or constraints. This includes access
- 5 during and post construction. Manitoba Hydro has worked with Manitoba Sustainable
- 6 Development on previous projects to facilitate the installment of access controls to address
- 7 wildlife conservation concerns. Any access controls implemented must consider Manitoba
- 8 Hydro staffs' safe access to the right-of-way for operations and maintenance activities.

**SUBJECT AREA:** Access Management

**REFERENCE:** CEC-IR #59

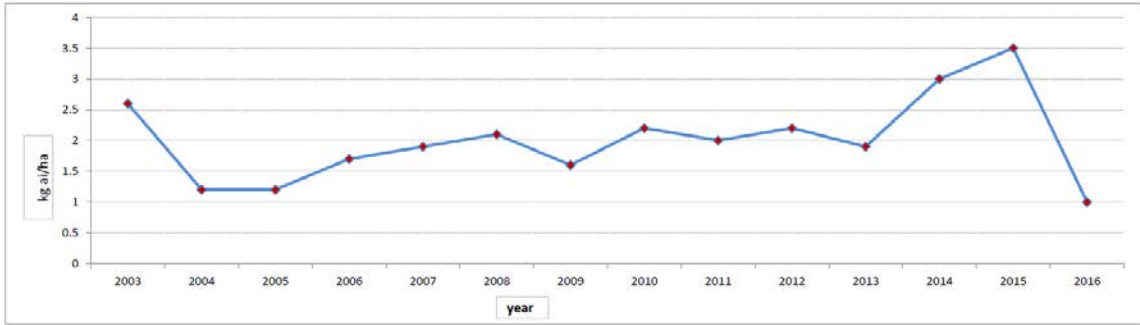
**QUESTION:**

Attached to the response is a copy of Hydro's "Vegetation Management Practices" which provides a thorough description and considerable data on their tree and weed control practices. However, the data in the report spans the years 1985 – 2002. Could Hydro provide more recent numbers for comparative purposes. e.g. there was a significant drop in the intensity of herbicide application during those years but a very significant increase in the number of hectares treated for weeds with herbicides. What has happened since 2002?

**RESPONSE:**

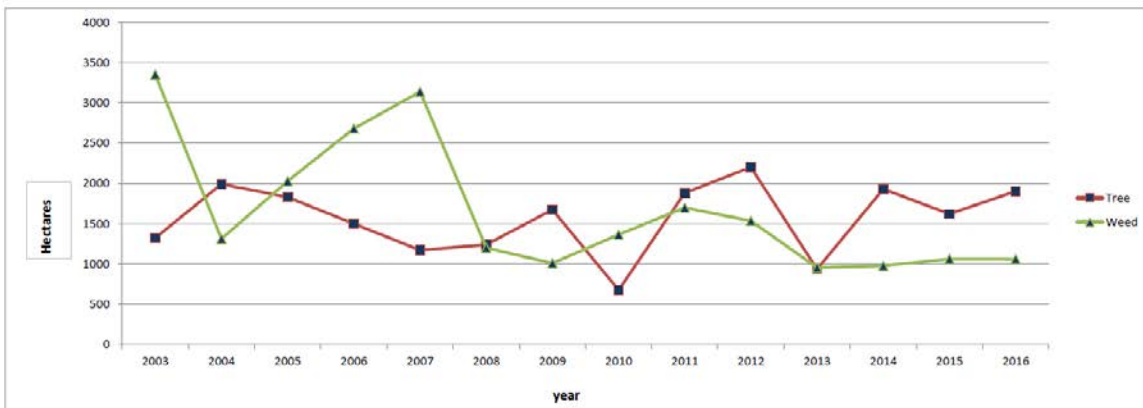
- 1 Manitoba Hydro was able to create the graphs below using the same methods as was done for
- 2 the "Vegetation Management Practices" document.
- 3 The Active Ingredient Use 2003-2016 graph illustrates the amount of herbicide active ingredient
- 4 (a.i.) in kg applied per hectare, this is a conservative estimate as Manitoba Hydro generally does
- 5 not use a broadcast application method for herbicide, instead uses selective application
- 6 methods for tree control. While there have been small variances in 2014 and 2015 as a result of
- 7 new herbicide formulation trials with higher ai kg/ha, the average has decreased in the last
- 8 decade. Important to note in 2016 is, with the introduction of new herbicide formulations,
- 9 Manitoba Hydro has dramatically reduced the a.i. use to 1kg/ha and expects that trend to
- 10 continue into the immediate future.

**Tree Control Herbicide Programs**  
 (Transmission & Distribution Lines Combined)  
**Active Ingredient Use 2003 - 2016**



11 Since 2002 Manitoba Hydro has had variability in weed control area treated, due to allocation  
 12 of resources, climate and noxious weeds infestations of large stations requiring multiple  
 13 applications of herbicides. New herbicide formulations and application technologies over the  
 14 past 10 years have stabilized the weed control usage in stations. Tree control area treated has  
 15 been less variable and averages approximately 1500-1800 hectares per year. This represents a  
 16 small fraction of both the approximate 80,000 km's (64,000 hectares) of distribution ROW and  
 17 11,000 km's (50,500 hectares) of transmission line ROW.  
 18

**Tree & Weed Control Herbicide Program**  
 (Transmission & Distribution Lines Combined)  
**Area Treated 2003 - 2016**



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**SUBJECT AREA:** Plant surveys

**REFERENCE:** CEC-IR-063, CEC-IR-064 and CEC-IR-065

**QUESTION:**

The IR's and Tables 4-4, 4-5, and 4-6 (Chapter 22) state that pre-construction surveys for rare plants, invasive plants, and traditional use plants will be completed. Initial surveys covered only a very small proportion (less than 1%) of the ROW. Will pre-construction surveys be completed for the entire route? If not, how will survey sites be chosen?"

**RESPONSE:**

- 1 Pre-construction surveys will be completed at sites along the entire route for the Project. Sites
- 2 will be selected by stratifying sampling areas by cover types for criteria or elements to survey.
- 3 Available digital imagery and the Land Cover Classification will be used for this process. Criteria
- 4 to survey will include invasive plants, rare plants, and traditional use plants. Surveys for invasive
- 5 plants will include both roadside surveys in agricultural areas and potential borrow sources, and
- 6 quantitative sampling in areas of proposed right-of-way clearing of native vegetation. Rare
- 7 plants survey locations will focus on areas that may support these species such as river
- 8 crossings, wetlands and other areas of native vegetation along the right-of-way. Surveys will
- 9 focus on species listed by the *Manitoba Endangered Species and Ecosystems Act*, the federal
- 10 *Species at Risk Act*, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, and species
- 11 ranked very rare to uncommon by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre. Surveys for
- 12 traditional use plants important to both First Nations and Metis will focus on known areas
- 13 identified from the Project, as well as sampling in areas of native vegetation where traditional
- 14 plants (berry picking, cultural species) may occur, on both private and Crown land.
  
- 15 Please see the revised draft Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project Environmental
- 16 Monitoring Plan for further details (CAC-IR-020).