

Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

Attachments: Application for Licence to Construct Water Control Works.pdf

With respect to stream crossings, and works in and around waterways/water bodies, the *Water Control Works and Drainage Licensing Section* recommends the following:

- 1) All works be constructed in accordance with *Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Operational Statements*.
- 2) The construction schedule to avoid critical fisheries time periods of April 15th to June 15th.
- 3) The timing of construction be aimed at eliminating, reducing, or preventing erosion.
- 4) Construction activities be suspended during wet conditions, and performed only during low or no-flow periods.

Please remind the proponent that all water control works (drains, culverts, dykes, dams, etc.) require licensing under the *Water Rights Act* - an application is attached for their convenience. Any inquiries in this regard may be directed to the local *Water Resource Officer*. Their contact information may be found at:

http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/waterstewardship/licensing/pdf/officer_areas_of_focus_30mar2015.pdf

Licensing of yard and field approaches (access points) are the responsibility of either the municipality, or *Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation*, whichever is applicable.

The drainage and/or alteration of permanent and semi-permanent wetlands is not permissible under the *Water Rights Act*.

Thank You,

Dan Roberts

Water Resource Officer
Water Control Works and Drainage Licensing Section
Conservation and Water Stewardship

Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

From: +WPG1212 - Parks Circulars (CWS)

Sent: October-23-15 9:25 AM

To: Boswick, Robert (CWS); Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

Subject: RE: Review and comments request - MB Hydro - Environmental Impact Statement - Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project File: 5750.00

Parks and Protected Spaces Branch has reviewed the proposal submitted pursuant to the *Environment Act* for Review and comments request - MB Hydro - Environmental Impact Statement - Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project File: 5750.00. The Branch has no comments or concerns to offer as all concerns were addressed during the routing phase of the project. The Branch appreciates Manitoba Hydro's cooperation in avoiding provincial parks, ecological reserves, and proposed protected areas.



Infrastructure and Transportation

Highway Planning and Design Branch
Environmental Services Section
1420 – 215 Garry St., Winnipeg, MB R3C 3P3
T (204) 619-4359 F (204) 945-0593

November 18, 2015

Tracey Braun, M. Sc.
Director, Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
123 Main St., Suite 160
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

RE: MB Hydro – Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project
Client File No. 5750.00

Dear Ms. Braun:

MIT has reviewed the EIS documents for the MB-MN Transmission Project and we have the following comments:

- Manitoba Hydro will be required to get the approval for any pole structures within the MIT's right-of-way or Controlled Area. For more information, please contact Murray Chornoboy, Regional Planning Technologist, at (204) 346-6287 or Murray.Chornoboy@gov.mb.ca.
- For highways under the PR 200 to 600 series: under *The Highways and Transportation Act*, permits are required from MIT to:
 - Construct a new access driveway;
 - Relocate or modify an existing access driveway;
 - Place any structures (including access driveways, advertising signs, dugouts, wells, etc.) on, under or above the ground within 38.1 metres (125 feet) of the edge of highway right of way;
 - Place any plantings within 15.2 metres (50 feet) of the edge of highway right of way; and/or
 - Discharge water or other liquid materials into the ditch on any of our rights-of-way.
- For PTH 1 to 190 and PR 230: under *The Highway Protection Act*, permit are required from the Highway Traffic Board to:
 - Construct a new access driveway;
 - Relocate, modify or change the use of any existing driveways;

- Place any structures (including advertising signs, wells, septic fields, etc.) on, under or above the ground within 38.1 metres (125 feet) of the edge of the highway right-of-way; and/or
 - To change the use of land or buildings or to relocate, rebuild or make additions to a structure within the above noted control circle or controlled area.
- For question on permitting, please contact Karen Toews Therrien, Access Management Technologist, at (204) 945-0324 or Karen.ToewsTherrien@gov.mb.ca.
- The preferred route crosses or is situated within the rights-of-way of six (6) Provincial Waterways.
 - All crossings or utilizations of Provincial Waterway rights-of-way require review by District Operations staff, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation. If approved by District Operations staff, Water Management and Structures Division will provide written conditional authorization to cross the Provincial Waterways, in accordance with Section 14(4) of The Water Resources Administration Act.
 - An Authorization application for this project should be completed by Manitoba Hydro, and submitted to Brad Allum, Development Review Officer, at Brad.Allum@gov.mb.ca.
- Manitoba Hydro should be advised that MIT's Water Management and Structures Division will not authorize crossing of the Red River Floodway at the location indicated in the EIS documents. Objections have previously been expressed to Manitoba Hydro in relation to other Manitoba Hydro projects at this crossing location. Water Management and Structures Division's primary concerns are:
 - the inherent risks posed to the Red River Floodway Inlet Control Structure by a tower or line failure in such close proximity to the structure, and the impacts that any disruption of service of the structure during time of flood would have upon the City of Winnipeg should operation of the structure be negatively impacted by any such failure; and
 - constraints upon emergency operations during periods of flood, including unforeseen circumstances.

Thank you very much for providing us the opportunity to review the EIS document.

Sincerely,

Ryan Couflet, M. Sc., P. Eng.
 Manager of Environmental Services

CC: Brad Allum
 Karen Toews Therrien
 Murray Chornoboy



Municipal Government

Community & Regional Planning Branch
240-323 Main Street
Steinbach, MB R5G 1Z2
Telephone: (204) 346-6240
Fax: (204) 346-7305

Dear Ms. Dagdick,

The Community and Regional Planning Office in Steinbach has reviewed Chapter 6 and Chapter 16 of the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement Volume 3 from a land use planning perspective with respect to the proposed Hydro transmission project. Our office provides the following comments:

Chapter 6:

- 1) 6.3.7.2: We note the following Development Plan policies in RMs of Taché and Ste. Anne are relevant with regard to utility placement:

Policy 4.2 in the RM of Ste. Anne Development Plan states:

4.2.1. In order to provide necessary services to existing and future development in the municipality, public utilities and services (both public and privately owned) that are deemed to be essential by Council, will be permitted in any land use designation. Such uses should be located and developed in a manner that minimizes potential incompatibility with neighbouring land uses.

4.2.3. Existing public utility and private utility corridors shall be protected from incompatible or potentially incompatible land uses that may adversely impact their operation.

Policy C.3 in Section C in the RM of Taché Development Plan states:

C.3.3. The municipality will continue to work co-operatively with utility companies in order to resolve land use issues, and ensure the provision of safe, economic and efficient service to its ratepayers. Utility companies will be encouraged to develop facilities that will support the local planning policies. On their part, Council will endeavour to keep the utility companies advised of development trends.

- 2) 6.3.7.3.2: We note that private development rights are set out in Development Plans and Zoning By-laws. Subdivisions are an indicator of development activity but do not equate to development rights. Building permits and development permits are a more accurate measure of development activity than subdivisions.
- 3) 6.5.13: References - Development Plans and Zoning By-laws are not listed as references.

Chapter 16:

- 1) 16.4.3: There does not appear to be a discussion of the residential dwellings that are being impacted in the RM of Ste. Anne, particularly in SW 18-8-8E.
- 2) Appendix 16B- Land Use Development Controls:
 - a) RM of La Broquerie: Development Plan designation "Principal Policy Area" should read "Principal Centre Policy Area". Delete "designated" and use "zoned" in the last line.
 - b) RM of Taché: There is no "Open Space and Recreation" area in the RM of Taché Development Plan. Delete "Open Space and Recreational" and add "Limited Agricultural Area".
 - c) RM of Piney: Please delete the term "land use designation" after "Rural Seasonal Residential Zone".
 - d) RM of Stuartburn: The Zoning By-law No. is missing in this section. The RM of Stuartburn Zoning By-law no. is 98-2011.
 - e) Please note that development plan by-laws designate land and zoning by-laws zone land. Delete the term "designation" for the zoning by-law reference in the document and use "zone".

The proposed transmission line intersects rural residential properties and rural residential designations in the RM of Ste. Anne and RM of Taché. Community and Regional Planning recommend that appropriate setback distances from the transmission lines are maintained in order to protect the dwellings from the impacts associated with transmission lines.

Lubna Yeasmin
Community Planner

Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

From: Roberecki, Susan (HHLS)

Sent: December-01-15 4:12 PM

To: Dagdick, Elise (CWS)

Subject: FW: Review and comments request - MB Hydro - Environmental Impact Statement - Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project File: 5750.00

Hi Elise:

Public Health has the following comments on the Manitoba Transmission Line Project:

We would like more information on the burning of slash

- How is it conducted? Does the burning occur into the evening. How is it monitored (including air emissions blowing into populated areas) and the potential for fires. Will nearby communities be notified?

Will there be independent quality control inspections to determine if the pesticides and other measures are being applied appropriately and could this be reported on annually as this will be an ongoing issue , particularly on land important to First Nations?

Is there First Nation liaison group to discuss the mitigation of ongoing issues that may develop, such as hunters or snowmobilers who may enter the land.

Is there a plan to monitor noise levels of the lines / stations once in operation in populated areas to assure recommended levels are not exceeded for residents / occupants in the area?

In addition to country food quality, should there also be a discussion of the potential health effects of changes to country food availability related to land changes (e.g. opening up the areas to non- residents by providing a passage/ easy access) and the potential impact on health in the HHRA.

In terms of climate change risk, is there a risk of that putting the lines together may create the possibility of a problem to both lines at once (e.g. flooding, tornado, ice storm)?

Recently electromagnetic hypersensitivity has been discussed as a concern

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=8041315&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=2&File=87> . Commentary or a section on this issue may be warranted.

Will there be efforts to recruit local workers and will this be tracked?

The mobile work camps at Piney and Zhoda are not mentioned in the overall summary on impacts to the community (just Steinbach and Winnipeg). Piney was mentioned to have lower resilience and Zhoda was not mentioned in the community resilience section. More information on these mobile work camps are requested. E.g. how long are they going to be in place and where will they be receiving their services, including health services, bars, etc (e.g. closest communities).

Do the easements discussed in the mitigation section include financial compensation for use of land?

It should be noted that ticks and mosquitoes may be a risk to workers. Is there a section on worker safety?

DATE: November 30, 2015

TO: Elise Dagdick
Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Box 80, 160-123 Main Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5

FROM: Geoffrey Stephens, District Supervisor
Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

SUBJECT: MB Hydro – Environmental Impact Statement – Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project File
5750.00

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch, Winnipeg Region, has reviewed *MB Hydro – Environmental Impact Statement – Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project File 5750.00* and has no concerns at this time.

**MANITOBA CONSERVATION AND WATER STEWARDSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
RESPECTING MANITOBA HYDRO'S
MANITOBA-MINNESOTA TRANSMISSION PROJECT**

**ECCC File: 4194-10-5/3086
MB CWS File: 5750.00**

Environment Canada Information Request No. 1

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Information Requests from Environment Canada

Question #	Subject/Reference	Preamble/Rationale	Information Request
WATER			
<u>SURFACE WATER</u>			
EC-1	Chapter 8 – Section 8.5.2 – Assessment of Change in Fish Habitat	The EIS report indicates that, “at waterway crossings, towers will be located as far back from the water’s edge as possible, to enhance stability and prevent bank erosion.” However, no mention was made of any minimum distance that is necessary in order to prevent erosion from banks and sediment deposition into waterbodies.	Confirm the minimum distance towers will be constructed from a waterway.
EC-2	Chapter 22 – Appendix A – Riparian Buffer Zone	It is noted in Appendix A that the width of the riparian buffer zone changes depending on the slope of the land entering the waterway. This width, as presented in Table 2-1, ranges from a 30m buffer zone (slope of 10%) to an 85m buffer zone (slope of 50%). Within these buffer zones, areas are allocated to either the Management Zone or the Machine Free Zone. The report indicates that the Machine Free Zone is 7 m. Given the differences in slope, and the potential for increased erosion and sediment deposition into waterbodies with increased slope, the machine free zone should change accordingly with the width of the riparian buffer rather than remain a standard 7 m.	Discuss if, and how, the machine free zone distances vary with an increasing riparian buffer zone.

Question #	Subject/Reference	Preamble/Rationale	Information Request
TERRESTRIAL			
<u>SPECIES AT RISK, MIGRATORY BIRDS AND WETLANDS</u>			
<u>General</u>			
EC-3	Chapter 9 – Section 9.4.6 – Summary - Golden Winged Warbler Critical Habitat	<p>As noted by the Proponent on page 9-67 of the EIS, the project intersects proposed critical habitat identified in the proposed Recovery Strategy for the Golden-winged Warbler in Canada - 2014 https://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=86D89339-1.</p> <p>On page 9-77 of the EIS, the Proponent states that right-of-way clearing will remove 475 ha of potential golden-winged warbler habitat, but that the loss will be short-term as new shrubs and herbs will regenerate and provide 472 ha of habitat. The Proponent further states that the net loss of habitat is 2 ha and consists of low quality golden-winged warbler habitat.</p> <p>On page 9-96 of the EIS, the Proponent states that “In sensitive areas of critical golden-winged warbler habitat, right-of-way vegetation will be selectively cleared and managed with the integrated vegetation management program to enhance suitability for golden-winged warbler.”</p>	<p>Provide a detailed plan showing how the destruction of critical habitat for golden-winged warbler will be minimized in the near and long terms, including a description of how right-of-way vegetation will be selectively cleared and managed to enhance habitat suitability for golden-winged warbler.</p>

Question #	Subject/Reference	Preamble/Rationale	Information Request
EC-4	Chapter 9 – Section 9.9 – Follow-up and Monitoring - Northern Leopard Frog	The Proponent states on page 9-120 of the EIS that a 30 m buffer will be applied to the edges of wetlands for the leopard frog. This may be appropriate for construction related activities during the fall winter when the frogs are not active, but does not clarify whether there will be new roads/trails with ongoing traffic. Northern leopard frogs are known to disperse more than 400m from overwintering ponds and are susceptible to traffic mortality.	Clarify whether there will be new roads/trails and/or long term increases in traffic at existing access points and what the expected traffic frequency and buffer planned from overwintering ponds would be.
EC-5	Chapter 9 - Section 9.4.2 – Species of Conservation Concern	The Proponent has observed a number of species at risk. This data can be lost if not put into central repositories that are readily accessible to biologists and environmental consultants. This information is valuable in gaining a better understanding of species, establishing baseline conditions and examining future activities in the project corridor/area.	Clarify whether observations of species at risk will/have been provided to provincial conservation data centres.