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September 29, 2017

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Manitoba Sustainable Development
Environmental Stewardship Division
Environmental Approvals Branch
123 Main Street, Suite 160
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5

Attention: Tracey Braun, Director

Counsel:

Hon. Peter S.
Morse, Q.C. (Retired)

Hon. Richard J.
Scott, O.C. O.M. Q.C.

Dear Ms. Braun:

**Re: Manitoba Minnesota Transmission Line
Southeast Stakeholders Coalition (the "Coalition")
Our File: 16359**

Thank you for your letter dated September 13, 2017 (copy enclosed for ease of reference).

The purpose of the Coalition's request that the Minister exercise the suspension power in section 30 of the *Environment Act* is to ensure that Manitoba Hydro does not waste further public resources on a project that may not ultimately proceed (either at all or as currently proposed).

Section 12(7) of the *Environment Act* is an alternative to the suspension power that could be exercised by the Minister to provide similar protection to Manitobans. Section 12(7) grants the Minister the power to impose terms and conditions on any Class 3 license that she may issue.

The Minister is therefore empowered to issue a license that does not become effective until the appeal period set out in section 28(1) of the *Environment Act* has expired or after any appeal has been dealt with by the provincial cabinet.

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Can you please advise if the Minister would be willing, as an alternative to exercising her suspension power, to impose terms and conditions on any license granted to Manitoba Hydro to ensure that public funds are not wasted by Manitoba Hydro before the Coalition has an opportunity to commence an appeal under section 28(1) and it has been heard by the provincial cabinet?

In the event that an appeal under section 28(1) becomes necessary, I should also advise that the Coalition will be seeking a public hearing before the provincial cabinet of their appeal.

Yours truly,

HILL SOKALSKI WALSH OLSON LLP

Per:

Kevin D. Toyne

KDT/km

cc: Hon. Rochelle Squires
Hon. Ron Schuler
Hon. Kelvin Goertzen
Cliff Graydon, MLA
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client