



**Environment and Climate Change**

Environmental Approvals Branch  
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File No.: 6195.00

September 12, 2025

James Matthewson  
Department Manager  
Manitoba Hydro  
360 Portage Avenue (18)  
Winnipeg MB R3C 0G8  
[JMatthewson@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:JMatthewson@hydro.mb.ca)

Dear James Matthewson:

**Re: Manitoba Hydro – Pointe du Bois (PW75) Transmission Project - Environment Act Licence No. 3447**

Please find enclosed the Environment Act Licence in response to your proposal dated July 7, 2023. You wish to build a 51-kilometre, 115-kilovolt transmission line from the Pointe du Bois electrical station in Pointe du Bois to the Whiteshell electrical station near the Town of Seven Sisters.

All licence requirements and federal, provincial, and municipal regulations and by-laws must be followed. The licensee must get approval from the director per The Environment Act to alter the development.

Anyone affected by this decision may appeal, in writing, to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change at [minecc@manitoba.ca](mailto:minecc@manitoba.ca) by October 12, 2025. The licence is available on the public registry at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/index.html>.

If you have any questions regarding this approval, please contact Allan Cyrenne, Regional Supervisor, Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch at [EnvCEEastern@gov.mb.ca](mailto:EnvCEEastern@gov.mb.ca) or 204-485-6410.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By  
Agnes Wittmann  
Director  
The Environment Act

Enclosure

c. Allan Cyrenne – Environmental Compliance and Enforcement  
Bryce Wood – Environmental Approvals

# LICENCE

File No.: 6195.00

Licence No. / Licence n°: 3447  
Issue Date / Date de délivrance : September 12, 2025

In accordance with The Environment Act (C.C.S.M. c. E125)/  
Conformément à la Loi sur l'environnement (C.P.L.M. c. E125)

Under Section 11(1) / Conformément au Paragraphe 11(1)

THIS LICENCE IS ISSUED TO: / CETTE LICENCE EST DONNÉE À:

**Manitoba Hydro; "the licensee"**

for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the development being a new 51-kilometre, 115-kilovolt transmission line from the Pointe du Bois electrical station in Pointe du Bois to the Whiteshell electrical station near the Town of Seven Sisters, as identified in Schedule A of this licence, and in accordance with the proposal information filed under The Environment Act on July 7, 2023, proposal revisions dated November 6, 2023 and September 8, 2025, and additional information dated February 14 and 28, 2025, subject to the following specifications, limits, terms, and conditions:

## **DEFINITIONS**

In this licence,

**"accredited laboratory"** means an analytical facility accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), or accredited by another accrediting agency recognized by Manitoba Environment and Climate Change to be equivalent to the SCC, or be able to demonstrate, upon request, that it has the quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) procedures in place equivalent to accreditation based on the international standard ISO/IEC 17025, or otherwise approved by the director;

**"affected area"** means a geographical area, excluding the property of the development;

**"approved"** means approved by the director or assigned environment officer in writing;

**"contractor"** means any party entered into a contract with the licensee;

**"director"** means an employee so designated under The Environment Act;

**"environment officer"** means an employee so designated under The Environment Act;

**"herbaceous understory vegetation"** means the non-woody plants that grow beneath the forest canopy, typically in the understory layer of a forest or woodland;

**"Historic Resources Branch"** means the branch of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism, or any future branch responsible for the administration of The Heritage Resources Act.

**"noise nuisance"** means an unwanted sound, in an affected area, which is annoying, troublesome, or disagreeable to a person:

- a) residing in an affected area;
- b) working in an affected area; or
- c) present at a location in an affected area which is normally open to members of the public;

if the unwanted sound

- d) is the subject of at least five written complaints, received by the director in a form satisfactory to the director and within a 90-day period, from five different persons falling within clauses (a), (b), or (c), who do not live in the same household; or
- e) is the subject of at least one written complaint, received by the director in a form satisfactory to the director, from a person falling within clauses (a), (b), or (c) and the director is of the opinion that if the unwanted sound had occurred in a more densely populated area there would have been at least five written complaints received within a 90- day period, from five different persons who do not live in the same household;

**"pest"** means an animal, a plant or other organism that is injurious, noxious or troublesome, whether directly or indirectly, and an injurious, noxious or troublesome condition or organic function of an animal, a plant or other organism as defined in The Pest Control Products Act.

**"pesticide"** means any chemical or biological agent registered under The Pest Control Products Act of Canada and used or represented as a means for preventing, destroying, mitigating, or controlling any pest;

**"record drawings"** means engineering drawings complete with dimensions which indicate all features of the development as it has actually been built;

**"waste disposal ground"** means an area of land designated by a person, municipality, provincial government agency, or crown corporation for the disposal of waste and approved for use under the Waste Management Facilities Regulation, or any future amendments, or a licence under The Environment Act; and

**"waterbody"** means any body of flowing or standing water, whether naturally or artificially created, and whether the flow or presence of water is continuous, intermittent or occurs only during a flood, including but not limited to a lake, river, creek, stream, slough, marsh, swamp and wetland, including ice on any of them, as defined in The Water Protection Act.

## **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **Retain Copy of Licence**

1. The licensee must at all times maintain a copy of this licence at the development or at the premises from which the development's operations are managed.

### **Environmental Accidents**

2. The licensee must, in the case of physical or mechanical equipment breakdown or process upset where such breakdown or process upset results or may result in the release of a pollutant in an amount or concentration, or at a level or rate of release, that causes or may cause a significant adverse effect, immediately report the event by calling the 24-hour environmental accident reporting line at 204-944-4888 (toll-free 1-855-944-4888). The report must indicate the nature of the event, the time and estimated duration of the event, and the reason for the event.
3. The licensee must, following the reporting of an event following clause 2 of this licence:
  - a) identify the repairs required to the mechanical equipment;
  - b) undertake all repairs to minimize unauthorized discharges of a pollutant;
  - c) complete the repairs following any written instructions of the director; and
  - d) submit a report to the director about the causes of breakdown and measures taken, within one week of the repairs being done.

### **Sampling**

4. In addition to any of the limits, terms, and conditions specified in this licence, the licensee must, upon the request of the director:
  - a) sample, monitor, analyze, or investigate specific areas of concern regarding any segment, component or aspect of pollutant storage, containment, treatment, handling, disposal or emission systems, for such pollutants, ambient quality, aquatic toxicity, leachate characteristics and discharge or emission rates, for such duration and at such frequencies as may be specified;
  - b) determine the environmental impact associated with the release of any pollutant(s) from the development;
  - c) conduct specific investigations in response to the data gathered during environmental monitoring programs; or
  - d) provide the director, within such time as may be specified, with such reports, drawings, specifications, analytical data, bioassay data, flow rate measurements, descriptions of sampling and analytical procedures being used, and such other information as may from time to time be requested.
5. The licensee must, unless otherwise specified in this licence:
  - a) carry out all preservations and analyses of liquid samples in accordance with the methods prescribed in the most current edition of "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater" or in accordance with equivalent preservation and analytical methodologies approved by the director;
  - b) carry out all sampling of, and preservation and analyses on, soil, compost, air samples

- or other samples in accordance with methodologies approved by the director;
- c) have all analytical determinations undertaken by an accredited laboratory; and
- d) report the results to the director, in an electronic format acceptable to the director, within 60 days of the samples being taken.

### **Reporting Format**

6. The licensee must submit all information required to be provided to the director or environment officer under this licence, in written and electronic format, in such form (including number of copies) and of such content as may be required by the director or environment officer, and each submission must be clearly labelled with the licence number and file number associated with this licence.

### **Compliance**

7. The licensee must adhere to the commitments made in the proposal dated July 7, 2023, and any future alterations approved following Section 14(2) of The Environment Act during construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the development, except as otherwise required by this licence.
8. The licensee must obtain approval from the director for any proposed alteration to the development before proceeding with the alteration.
9. The licensee must, prior to construction of the development, arrange a meeting with the Manitoba Hydro construction project manager(s) and the assigned environment officer to review Environmental Protection Plans associated with construction of the development.
10. The licensee must, during construction of the development, submit monthly reports regarding construction, environmental protection, and emergency response issues to the assigned environment officer.
11. The licensee must submit a concise annual report to the director documenting the licensee's process and outcome of engagements with Indigenous Nations during the construction of the development. The report must be submitted by June 30th of each year until the end of the construction.

The report must include:

- a) a summary of engagement activities;
  - b) issues raised by Indigenous Nations; and
  - c) how the licensee responded or plans to respond.
12. The licensee must, during construction of the development, have qualified environmental inspectors to monitor the work on a daily basis to ensure that all the environmental practices outlined in the proposal, supporting information, and the plans submitted pursuant to this licence are carried out.

### **Compliance With Other Acts and Regulations**

13. The licensee must obtain all necessary federal, provincial and municipal permits and approvals for construction of relevant components of the development.

## **SPECIFICATIONS, LIMITS, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS**

### **Notification**

14. The licensee must notify the assigned environment officer prior to beginning construction of the development. The notification must include the intended starting date of construction and the name of the contractor responsible for the construction.
15. The licensee must, prior to construction, provide a copy of this licence to the contractor and subcontractor(s) involved in the development.
16. The licensee must, prior to construction of the development and decommissioning, notify engaged Indigenous Nations and other nearby communities when and where construction and decommissioning will be occurring, and provide them with a construction and decommissioning schedule.
17. The licensee must, prior to the occurrence of any implode blasting period, notify impacted Indigenous Nations.
18. The licensee must notify the assigned environment officer, no less than two weeks prior to the completion of the construction of the development, to allow for a final inspection.
19. The licensee must:
  - a) between 30 and 60 days prior to spraying, notify local Indigenous Nations about the location and timing of planned pesticide use; and
  - b) not spray pesticide on important sites as identified by engaged Indigenous Nations and the Environmental Protection Plans.

### **Environmental Protection Plans**

20. The licensee must develop, implement, maintain, and amend as necessary Environmental Protection Plans and management plans for the development as referenced in the proposal, supporting information, and this licence.
21. The licensee must, upon request from the assigned environment officer, submit the Environmental Protection Plans to the department within a timeframe stipulated by the environment officer.

The assigned environment officer may request separate Environmental Protection Plans for the construction, operation, and/or decommissioning phases, or for different components of the development.

The Environmental Protection Plans must:

- a) describe the approach to be used by the licensee to ensure that mitigation measures are applied systematically;
- b) present mitigation measures in a manner consistent with the commitments made in the proposal; and

- c) develop and follow mitigation measures to address concerns raised by engaged Indigenous Nations or Indigenous monitors about important sites they have identified and potential adverse effects on rights-based activities as summarized in the proposal.

22. The licensee must:

- a) monitor the effectiveness of Environmental Protection Plans; and
- b) during the pre-construction and construction of the development, and decommissioning, must provide Indigenous monitors from engaged Indigenous Nations:
  - i. a schedule of construction activities; and
  - ii. the opportunity to be present to identify unmarked burial sites, heritage resources, or Indigenous cultural resources.

Monitoring may also include field tours, ceremonial events, Indigenous Nation meetings, and other opportunities.

### **Pre-Construction**

- 23. The licensee must, prior to construction of the development, contact the Regional Forester of the Forestry and Peatlands Branch related to the clearing of timber in association with the development.
- 24. The licensee must, prior to construction of the development in agricultural areas, discuss with agricultural landowners to determine the tower placement that meets technical and design requirements that would have the least impact on agricultural operations, and incorporate those changes into the final design of the development unless there is compelling rationale to deviate from tower placement or design.
- 25. The licensee must, prior to construction on Crown land, obtain a Crown Lands permit following The Crown Lands Act.
- 26. The licensee must, prior to construction on Crown land, apply for and obtain the appropriate land tenure allocations in accordance with The Crown Lands Act from the Real Estate Services Branch of the Department of Public Service Delivery, or any future department responsible for the administration of The Crown Lands Act.
- 27. The licensee must restrict construction and operational activities to only such lands to which the licensee possesses legal control, by ownership or by rental, lease, or other agreement.
- 28. The licensee must provide engaged Indigenous Nations opportunities to participate in a ceremony or ceremonies prior to construction or decommissioning, and at project milestones identified by the engaged Indigenous Nations, at times that work for those who are interested in leading and/or participating in the ceremony or ceremonies.

### **Construction, Operation and Maintenance**

- 29. The licensee must not cause or permit a noise nuisance to be created as a result of the construction, operation, or alteration of the development, and must take such steps as the director may require to eliminate or mitigate a noise nuisance.

30. The licensee must:
  - a) comply with the requirements of The Heritage Resources Act;
  - b) if heritage resources (as defined within the Heritage Resources Act) or other Indigenous cultural resources are encountered during the construction of the development, suspend construction and immediately notify:
    - i. the Historic Resources Branch; and
    - ii. affected Indigenous Nations; and
  - c) prior to construction, submit for approval of the Director of the Historic Resources Branch a Heritage Resource Protection Plan for the development.
31. The licensee must provide cultural awareness training for staff working in construction areas within the development that is reflective of the Indigenous cultures in the area. The training must include recognizing cultural sites and management of any resources encountered.
32. The licensee must dispose of non-reusable construction debris from the development at a waste disposal ground.
33. The licensee must, unless otherwise approved by an environment officer, locate fuel storage and equipment servicing areas established for the construction and operation of the development a minimum distance of 100 metres from any waterbody, and must comply with the requirements of the Storage and Handling of Petroleum Products and Allied Products Regulation, or any future amendment.
34. The licensee must collect and dispose of any hazardous waste following The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act, and other federal, provincial, and municipal regulations.
35. The licensee must, during construction and maintenance of the development, operate, maintain, and store all materials and equipment in a manner that prevents any deleterious substances (fuel, oil, grease, hydraulic fluid, coolant, paint, uncured concrete and concrete wash water, other similar substances, etc.) from contaminating soil or entering any waterbody. Emergency spill kits for both land and in-water use must be readily available on site during construction.
36. The licensee must, during construction and maintenance of the development, prevent the introduction and spread of foreign aquatic and terrestrial biota by cleaning equipment prior to its delivery to the site of the development following the requirements of the Aquatic Invasive Species Regulation, or any future amendment.
37. The licensee must, during construction and maintenance of the development, adhere to the general recommendations on design, construction, and maintenance of stream crossings as specified in the Manitoba Stream Crossing Guidelines for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat, May 1996, and the current versions of applicable federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans codes of practice.



38. The licensee must, during construction, operation and maintenance of the development, take all appropriate measures to prevent erosion and the deposition of sediment into any waterbody.
39. The licensee must adhere to the Pesticides Regulation, or any future amendment, for the storage, handling, and application of pesticides in conjunction with the development.
40. The Licensee must:
  - a) register all holding tanks associated with this development in accordance with the Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation, including any future amendments;
  - b) ensure all wastewater generated at the development is safely removed and transported by a registered sewage hauler and disposed of at a licensed wastewater treatment facility; and
  - c) maintain accurate records of the volumes and locations of wastewater disposal.
41. The licensee must, within six months of the completion of construction of the development, submit for approval of the Director of the Environmental Approvals Branch, a plan for the management of vegetation along the transmission line right-of-way. The plan must describe the methods to be used for vegetation control and for communication to the public and Indigenous Nations during operation of the development.
42. The licensee must, within three months of the completion of construction of the development, submit a plan for approval of the Director of the Environmental Approvals Branch to ensure that there is no net loss of wetland benefits related to Class 3, 4, and 5 wetlands (as defined by the Stewart & Kantrud Classification System) that are altered or destroyed during construction of the development.
43. The licensee must, during the planning, construction, maintenance, operation, and decommissioning of roads and crossings associated with the development located in or adjacent to boreal wetlands, adhere to the mitigation sequence of avoid, minimize, or offset, outlined in Manitoba's Boreal Wetlands Conservation Codes of Practice to achieve a no-net-loss of wetland benefits.
44. The licensee must engage with Indigenous Nations to:
  - a) identify harvested timber stockpile locations within 100 kilometres from the right-of-way of the development; and
  - b) deliver a volume of harvested timber to those locations.
45. If the licensee observes any trees containing large nests of sticks, or active animal dens or burrows, the licensee must:
  - a) maintain buffer and setback distances as outlined in the Environmental Protection Plans;
  - b) leave the nests, dens or burrows undisturbed; and
  - c) contact the Manitoba Hydro environmental officer for direction and follow their requirements.

46. The licensee must, in riparian buffer areas:
- a) maintain shrub and herbaceous understory vegetation a minimum distance of 30 metres upslope from the ordinary high-water mark for all natural waterbodies and waterways. The distance must follow Schedule B of this licence;
  - b) where access trails or stringing corridors are required:
    - i. limit the width of clearing to no more than 9 metres; and
    - ii. carry out construction activities on frozen or dry ground or use additional mitigation measures, including construction matting, if required to minimize surface damage, rutting and erosion;
  - c) where towers are required:
    - i. use specialized equipment and methods if necessary to minimize surface damage, rutting and erosion; and
    - ii. monitor the site post-construction for effectiveness of revegetation; and
  - d) maintain a machine free zone a minimum distance of 7 metres from riparian habitats except where access trails, stringing corridors, or towers are required. The distance must follow Schedule B of this licence.

### **Drawings**

47. The licensee must:
- a) prepare "record drawings" for the development and must label the drawings "record drawings". The drawings must include the transmission line route and the tower locations; and
  - b) provide to the director, within four months of the completion of the development, "record drawings" of the development as identified in clause 47 of this licence.

### **Decommissioning**

48. The licensee must, at least six months prior to decommissioning of the development or portion of the development, submit a formal decommissioning plan for the approval of the director. The licensee must provide opportunity for engaged Indigenous Nations to provide input on the plan.
49. The licensee must, at least six months prior to decommissioning of the existing P3/P4 transmission line between the Pointe du Bois Generating Station and the Lee River Distribution Centre, or portion of the transmission line, submit a formal decommissioning plan for the approval of the director.
50. The licensee must implement the approved decommissioning plans as identified in clauses 48 and 49 of this licence.

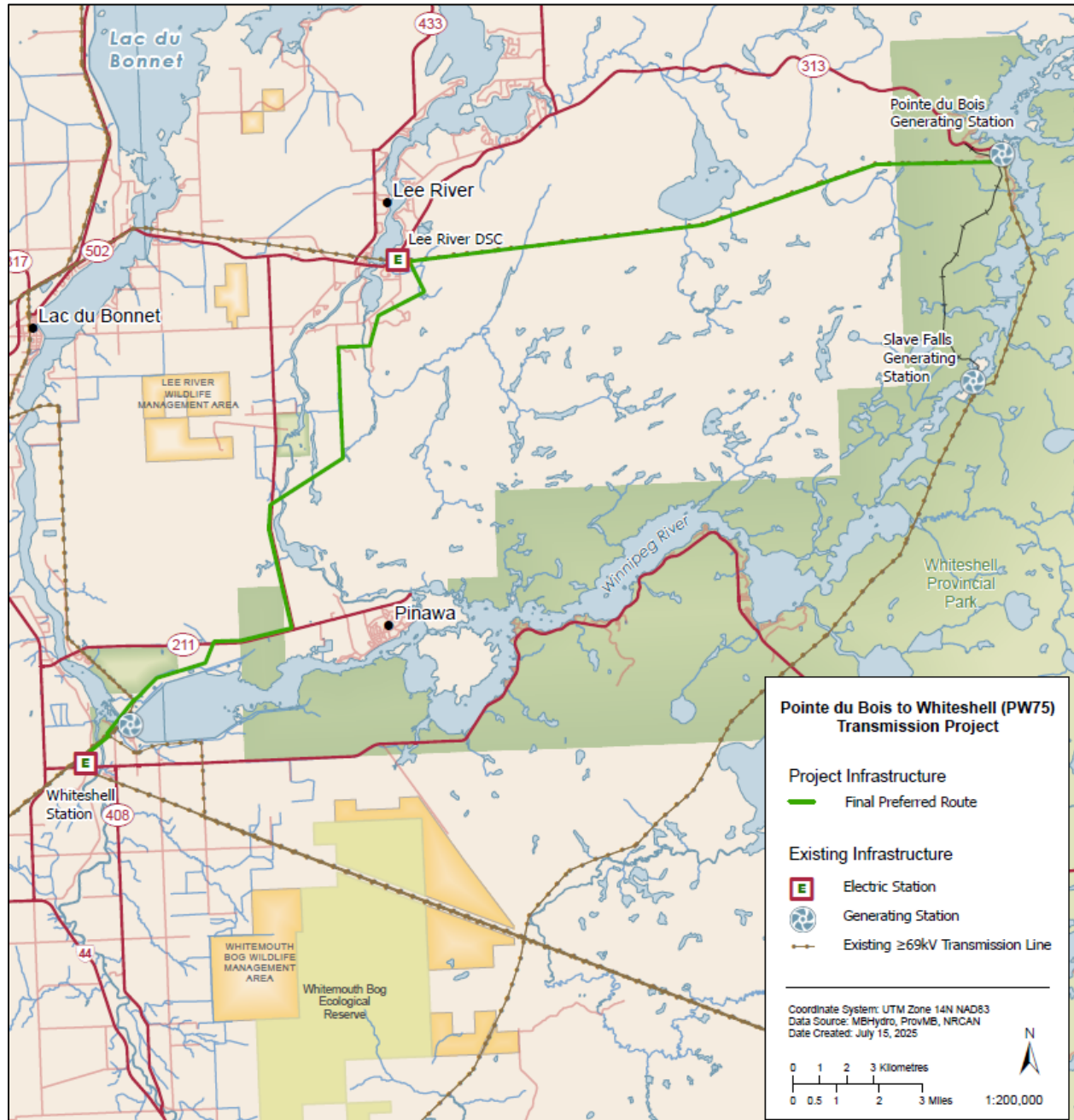
### **REVIEW AND REVOCATION**

51. If, in the opinion of the director:
- a) the licensee has exceeded or is exceeding or has or is failing to meet the specifications, limits, terms, or conditions set out in this licence, the director may, temporarily or permanently, revoke this licence; or
  - b) for purposes of effective environmental management, a change in the specifications, limits, terms, or conditions of this licence is necessary, the director may amend the licence accordingly and thereafter the licensee must comply with the licence as amended.
52. If, in the opinion of the director, new evidence warrants a change in the specifications, limits, terms or conditions of this licence, the director may require the filing of a new proposal pursuant to Section 11 of The Environment Act or a notice of alteration pursuant to Section 14 of The Environment Act.
53. If the licensee has not commenced construction of the development within three years of the date of this licence, the licence is revoked.

Original Signed By  
Agnes Wittmann  
Director  
The Environment Act

**Schedule A to Environment Act Licence No. 3447**

**The Layout of the Pointe du Bois to Whiteshell Transmission Line.**



**Schedule B to Environment Act Licence No. 3447**

**Riparian Buffer and Machine Free Zone Distances Based on Slope**

**Pursuant to clause 46 of the licence**

| <b>Slope of Land Entering<br/>Waterway (%)</b> | <b>Width of Machine Free<br/>Zone (m)</b> | <b>Width of Riparian<br/>Buffer (m)</b> |
|--|---|---|
| 10   | 7   | 30                                      |
| 20   | 10  | 40                                      |
| 30   | 15  | 55                                      |
| 40   | 20  | 70                                      |
| 50   | 25  | 85                                      |