

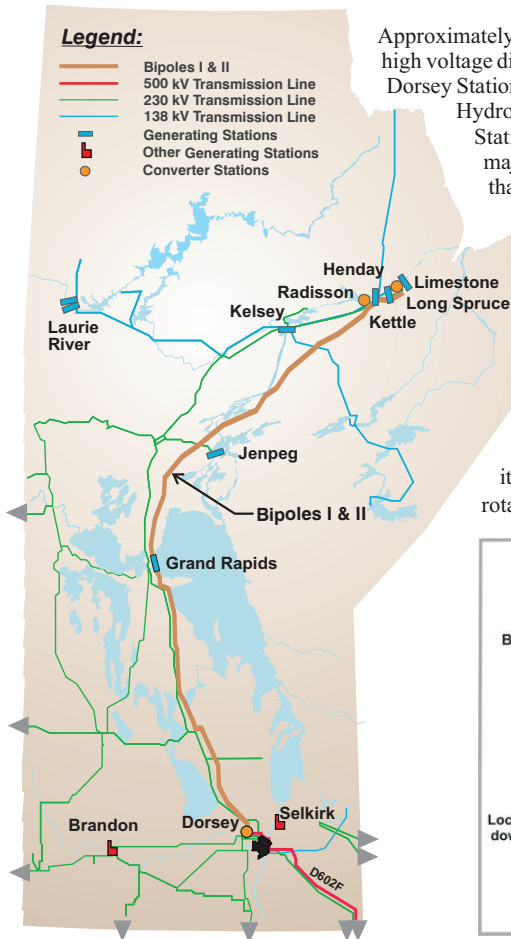
APPENDIX 5A

Newsletters

BIPOLE III

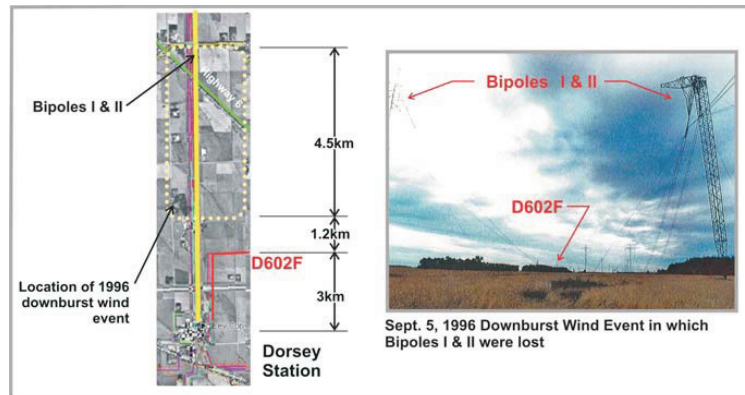
A Major Reliability Improvement Project

The Reliability Concern



Approximately 75% of Manitoba's generating capacity is delivered to southern Manitoba via the existing high voltage direct current (HVdc) Interlake corridor which is shared by Bipoles I & II which terminate at Dorsey Station, in the Rural Municipality (RM) of Rosser, northwest of the City of Winnipeg. Manitoba Hydro's system is vulnerable to the risk of outage of either the Interlake corridor or Dorsey Station, both of which could, for example, occur as a result of a severe weather incident such as a major ice storm, an extreme wind event or a tornado. System reliability studies have concluded that the likelihood of such events occurring when combined with the potential consequences of prolonged major outages warrant mitigation measures to reduce dependency on Dorsey Station and the existing HVdc Interlake corridor.

In 1996, the existing Bipoles I & II were concurrently lost as a result of an extreme wind event in the vicinity of Grosse Isle, north of Dorsey Station. The existing 500 kilovolt (kV) international transmission line (known as D602F), which runs from Dorsey Station to Forbes, Minnesota was used to import power to support the Winnipeg area transmission system. Had the wind event occurred a few kilometres further south, D602F would also have been damaged severely limiting the ability of the system to import power for Manitobans. Similarly, if Dorsey Station incurred a similar major outage (i.e., involving the HVdc lines and D602F), it would severely limit sources of major alternative energy supply which could result in rotating blackouts and supply restrictions.



The Bipole III Project will improve system reliability in a number of ways. The project will establish a second converter station (Riel Station) in southern Manitoba which will provide a second major point of power injection into the system. As well, Bipole III will reduce risks from a range of possible system outages such as:

- The HVdc facilities at Dorsey Station
- The adjacent 500 kV station at Dorsey Station
- The Bipoles I & II Interlake corridor
- The corridor immediately north of Dorsey Station containing D602F, Bipoles I & II and a 230 kV line to Brandon
- The transmission corridors around Winnipeg

In addition, Bipole III will improve the existing Bipoles I & II line losses and provide additional transmission line capacity to get new northern hydroelectric generation to southern markets.

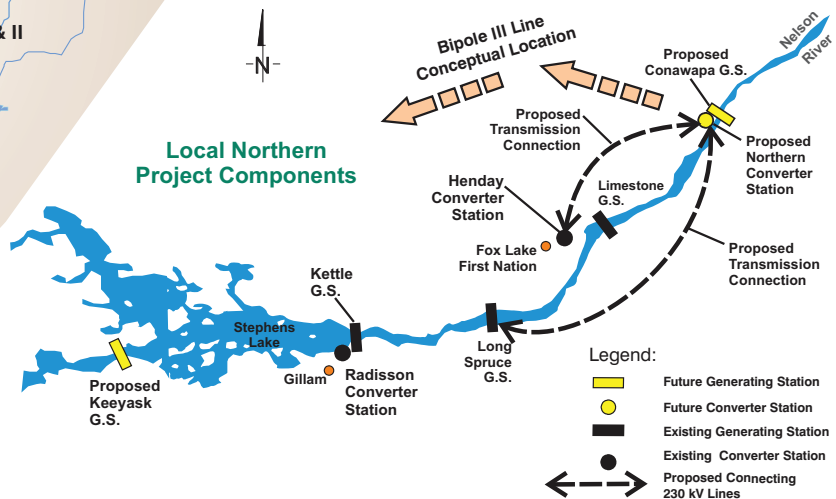


Bipole III Project Concept



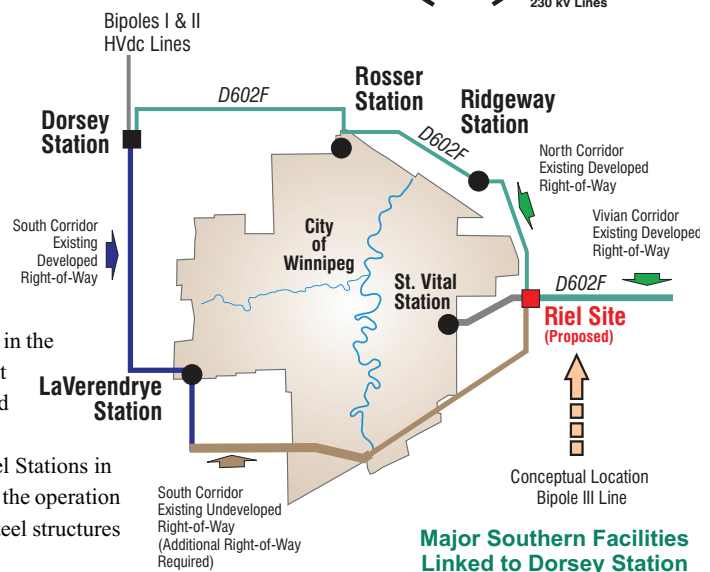
There is a need to improve the reliability of the existing transmission system. Following an assessment of reliability options and pursuant to a review by the Manitoba Hydro Electric Board and the Province, a decision was made to develop Bipole III in the westerly area of the Province. The in-service date for Bipole III is 2017.

Bipole III will originate at a new northern converter station site at the Conawapa Generating Station, will travel south and west of Lakes Winnipegosis and Manitoba, and will come south of Winnipeg and terminate at the Riel site immediately east of the Red River Floodway in the RM of Springfield. The locations of the new northern converter station and Riel Station are identified on the accompanying map which also illustrates the general conceptual location area for eventual siting of alternative routes for Bipole III.



Following the introductory round of community/public consultation, the conceptual location area will be refined in order to define a specific project study area for the formal Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) process which is to be initiated in the fall. Lines will be required from the new northern converter station at Conawapa to connect to the existing Henday Converter Station and Long Spruce Generating Station, in northern Manitoba.

A 500 kV transmission line will be required to link Dorsey and Riel Stations in southern Manitoba. A ground electrode facility will be required for the operation of each of the new converter stations. Bipole III will be strung on steel structures on a 60 meter wide right-of-way.



The Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) Process

Identification of a proposed route for Bipole III will be based on a Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) process. The SSEA process is a phased approach which will involve the systematic refinement of a project study area to identify and assess the best balanced choice for a proposed route. The SSEA iterative process includes the following:

- Defining a project study area based on factors including community and public input, environmental and technical (engineering) considerations
- Identifying regional and site-specific constraints and opportunities for transmission line routing including potentially sensitive socio-economic, cultural and biophysical features
- Identifying and evaluating alternative routes based on community/public input, local and Traditional Knowledge, socio-economic, biophysical, technical and cost considerations
- Selecting a preferred route which, where feasible, minimizes potential negative effects and enhances opportunities
- Developing impact management measures, where required, to address potential negative effects

Ongoing community/public input is a critical component of the SSEA process. A description of the planned community/public consultation program for Bipole III is provided in the next section of this newsletter.

The SSEA process will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will accompany Manitoba Hydro's application for environmental licensing. The SSEA process for Bipole III is scheduled to take four years to complete and the project EIS will be submitted to government regulatory authorities in the fall of 2011.



Community and Public Consultation

Consultation with communities, resource users, stakeholders and the public is a critical part of the planning process for identifying and evaluating alternative routes, and selecting a preferred route for Bipole III. The purpose is to facilitate community and public understanding about the project and the SSEA process, to enable information to be shared as it becomes available, and to be responsive to identified concerns. Information obtained will be incorporated into project planning to assist in identifying a proposed route and in assessing the potential impacts and mitigative measures associated with this choice.

Four rounds of community/public consultation are planned for Bipole III at key planning junctures of the SSEA process. Each round will include meetings with elected officials, community leadership, organizations and other potentially affected stakeholders, as well as Public Open Houses in the project region. In Aboriginal communities, formal consultation will begin following initial dialogue during the introductory round and the development of a consultation plan with potentially affected communities. Following the introductory round, a second round which will commence the formal SSEA for Bipole III is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2008. To ensure that activities are conducted in an efficient and timely manner, two teams of Manitoba Hydro representatives will concurrently carry out the ongoing community and public consultation process.



Regulatory Approvals

Development of Bipole III will require a Class 3 licence under *The Environment Act* (Manitoba). The environmental impact assessment for the project, including a program of community/public consultation, and identification of potential impacts and mitigative measures, will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The project EIS, together with an Environment Act Proposal Form (EAPF) will be submitted to Manitoba Conservation as application for the Environment Act Licence. It is anticipated that Manitoba Conservation will coordinate with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to ensure a harmonized approach to application of the Federal *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Receipt of the Environment Act Licence is required in late 2012 to meet a project in-service date of 2017.

Comments

Manitoba Hydro would welcome your comments related to the Bipole III Project. Should you require more information or desire to further discuss this project, please contact:

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BIPOLE III

A Major Reliability Improvement Project: Introductory Round One Consultation – What We Heard & Round Two – Alternative Route Siting Process

Bipole III is a major transmission line project that will significantly improve the reliability of the provincial transmission system.

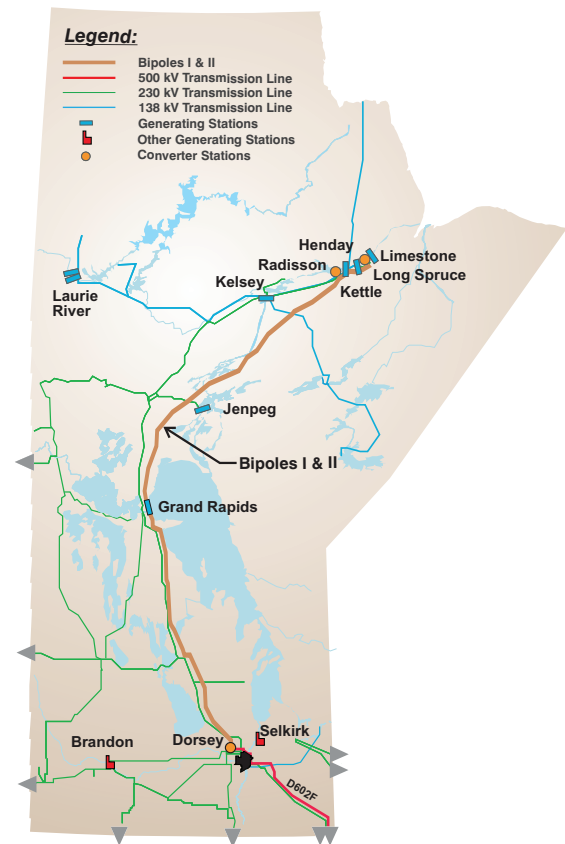
Approximately 75% of Manitoba Hydro's generating capacity is delivered to southern Manitoba via the existing high voltage direct current (HVdc) Interlake corridor which is shared by Bipoles I and II, which terminate at Dorsey Station, in the Rural Municipality of Rosser, northwest of the City of Winnipeg. Manitoba Hydro's system is vulnerable to the risk of outage of either the Interlake corridor or Dorsey Station, both of which could, for example, occur as a result of a severe weather incident such as a major ice storm, an extreme wind event or a tornado. The in-service date for the project is 2017.

The Bipole III Project will improve system reliability by establishing Riel Station, a second converter station in southern Manitoba, which will provide a second major point of power injection into the transmission system. As well, Bipole III will reduce risks from a range of possible system outages such as:

- The HVdc facilities at Dorsey Station;
- The adjacent 500 kV station at Dorsey Station;
- The Bipoles I & II Interlake corridor;
- The corridor immediately north of Dorsey Station containing a 500 kV line to the United States, Bipoles I & II and a 230 kV line to Brandon; and
- The transmission corridors around Winnipeg.

In addition, Bipole III will improve the existing Bipoles I & II line losses and provide additional transmission line capacity to deliver new northern hydroelectric generation to southern markets.

Newsletter #1 for Bipole III (dated February 2008) further describes "The Reliability Concern". That newsletter also provides an overview of the "Bipole III Project Concept", "The Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) Process", "Community and Public Consultation", and "Regulatory Approvals".



Additional copies of the introductory newsletter can be obtained from Manitoba Hydro at the contact address shown on the back of this newsletter. Project information is also available at:
www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/bipoleIII/

From February to October 2008, Manitoba Hydro conducted introductory meetings with elected officials and the leadership of northern and southern communities that are in the general area under consideration for planning the Bipole III transmission line. Following these meetings Manitoba Hydro also held a series of regional Public Open Houses regarding the project.

This newsletter outlines feedback obtained during the introductory round of community and public consultation and the next steps.

Round One - Introductory Community and Public Consultation



Community and public consultation is an essential part of the planning process for the Bipole III Transmission Reliability Project. As part of this process Manitoba Hydro conducted an introductory round of community meetings with the elected officials and leadership of communities in the northern and southern part of the province. These meetings provided opportunities for elected officials and leadership to receive information about the need for Bipole III, the Bipole III concept, the Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) process for selecting a route for the line, SSEA timelines and regulatory requirements, and to provide input into the Bipole III project. In Aboriginal communities, formal consultation will begin following this initial round of dialogue and will be guided by the development of a community based consultation plan.

As part of the Round One consultations, regional Public Open Houses were held in September and October 2008 to give interested parties an opportunity to receive information and provide input into the project. The regional Public Open Houses were held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the following locations: Swan River, Dauphin,

Russell, Neepawa, The Pas, Flin Flon, McCreary, Snow Lake, Portage la Prairie, Thompson, Gillam, Oakbank and Winnipeg.

Issues and questions raised during the Introductory discussions included the following:

- The rationale for an east versus west Bipole III location;
- Respect for comprehensive Aboriginal community consultations;
- Aboriginal project benefits considerations;
- Details of the SSEA process and associated timelines;
- Consultation and next steps;
- Potential property impacts; and
- Right-of-way acquisition procedures.

In general, there was a good understanding by all participants that transmission reliability was a very important consideration for the provincial transmission system.



Public Consultation Session

Round Two - Alternative Route Siting Process

Manitoba Hydro utilizes a Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) process to identify a proposed route for transmission line projects. The purpose of the SSEA process is to select a route that has the least negative impact on people and the environment while maximizing positive opportunities. An overview of the SSEA process for Bipole III is found in Newsletter #1.

Following the Round One consultations, the SSEA process commenced with the definition of a study area, which is large enough to identify several alternative routes for Bipole III. The next step in the SSEA process is to identify biophysical and socio-economic features within the study area that may be affected by a transmission line. Features that may be affected include wildlife, vegetation, culturally sensitive sites, residences, land uses such as agriculture and mining, resource harvesting areas, and river/stream crossings. Alternative transmission line routes for Bipole III will be selected and compared based on public/landowner input, avoidance of sensitive sites/areas, as well as technical (engineering) and cost considerations. Technical (engineering) factors include minimizing line length and heavy angle structures, and limiting routing through major waterbodies.

The Bipole III study area covers a very large portion of the province. Mapping of biophysical and socio-economic features within the study area is a significant part of Round Two activities.

Round Two will include discussions with potentially affected communities, resource users, landowners, interest groups, potentially affected stakeholders and government departments, as well as conducting Public Open Houses. Information obtained during these consultations, including local input and Traditional Knowledge, will be built into the planning process to assist in the identification of alternative routes. The concluding aspect of the Round Two consultations will be the definition of a set of alternative routes by the summer of 2009.



For Illustrative Purposes Only

Next Steps



under *The Environment Act* (Manitoba). The environmental impact assessment for the project, including a program of community/public consultation, and the identification of potential impacts and mitigative measures, will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The project EIS, together with an Environment Act Proposal Form (EAPF) will be submitted to Manitoba Conservation in the fall of 2011 as application for the Environment Act Licence. It is anticipated that Manitoba Conservation will coordinate with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to ensure a harmonized approach to application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Receipt of the Environment Act Licence is required in the fall of 2012 to meet a project in-service date of 2017.

A third round of consultation to present an evaluation and comparison of alternative routes is planned to begin in September of 2009 and continue through to the summer of 2010. The fourth and final round, which will present the proposed route along with mitigative measures to enhance positive and reduce potential negative effects, is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2010 and continue through until the spring of 2011. Further updates on the project will be available on Manitoba Hydro's Bipole III website (www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/bipoleIII/) and through additional newsletters as the SSEA process proceeds.

Development of Bipole III will require a Class 3 licence



Comments

Manitoba Hydro would welcome your comments related to the Bipole III Project. Should you require more information or desire to discuss the project, please contact:

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Project information is also available at www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/bipoleIII/



Bipole III

Bipole III Transmission Project: A Major Reliability Improvement Initiative

Round Three – Alternative Route Selection



About the Bipole III Transmission Project

The Bipole III Transmission Project involves the construction of a new 500 kV high-voltage direct current (HVdc) transmission line to link the northern power generating complex on the Lower Nelson River with the delivery system in southern Manitoba. The line is required to improve system reliability (reduce the risk of major power outages) and to provide additional transmission capacity for delivery of existing and proposed hydroelectric generation to southern markets.

The line will originate at a new northern converter station site located near the proposed Conawapa Station site east of Gillam in northern Manitoba, and will terminate at a new converter station at the Riel Site east of Winnipeg in the Rural Municipality of Springfield. The transmission line will be built on steel towers on an approximately 60 meter wide right-of-way.

As part of the project, collector transmission lines (230 kV) will be required from Henday Station and Long Spruce generating station for the new northern converter station. A 500 kV AC transmission line will also be required to link Dorsey and Riel Stations along an existing right-of-way in southern Manitoba. A ground electrode facility will also be needed for the operation of each of the new converter stations.

Why is Bipole III needed?

Approximately 75% of Manitoba's generating capacity is delivered to southern Manitoba (to Dorsey Station) in just one corridor through the Interlake, shared by the Bipoles I and II HVdc transmission lines.

The existing transmission system is vulnerable to the risk of catastrophic outages if both Bipole lines and/or the Dorsey Converter Station are damaged due to severe weather events (tornado/ice storm/wind storms), fire, or sabotage. System reliability studies have concluded that the likelihood of such events occurring, when combined with severe consequences of prolonged major outages, warrant substantial system improvements to reduce dependence on Bipole I and II and the Dorsey Station.

*Top Left: Existing Bipole I and II Transmission Lines
Bottom Left: Forest fire adjacent to Bipole I and II transmission lines.*

Bipole III Alternative Route Selection Process



Manitoba Hydro has initiated a Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) process to select a route for the Bipole III transmission line. The SSEA Process involves mapping biophysical, socio-economic, technical and reliability criteria within the broad study area originally identified in Round 1. Some of the areas to be avoided by transmission line routes

included: National Parks, Ecological Reserves, Provincial Wilderness Parks, First Nation Lands, Provincial protected areas, and critical habitat for species at risk. It was also desired to keep a large separation distance from Bipoles I and II for system reliability and security reasons. Terrain suitability for construction was considered along with routing opportunities such as placing the transmission line along existing right-of-ways (roads, rail lines). Public and stakeholder input from Rounds 1 and 2 were also reviewed and considered in route selection. Computer mapping was used to assemble all the information over the entire study area. The study team then considered all the various inputs and made three initial route selections for further evaluation (see map insert). Evaluation of the alternative routes will continue this Fall leading to selection of a preferred route in early 2010 after considering all public and stakeholder responses obtained during the current round of consultation.



Please refer to the attached map showing the alternative routes and their descriptions.

Four Rounds of Consultation

Public consultation is a key element of the SSEA activities and will involve four rounds of consultation before the process is complete (See graphic below). The purpose of the public consultation process is to provide meaningful opportunities for people to receive information and participate in the review and evaluation of the project. The public and stakeholder input will help identify issues and potential effects of the project that can be considered and assessed while the project is in the planning stage. Two rounds of consultation have already occurred and helped in selecting alternative routes for consideration in Round 3.

Round Three Consultation

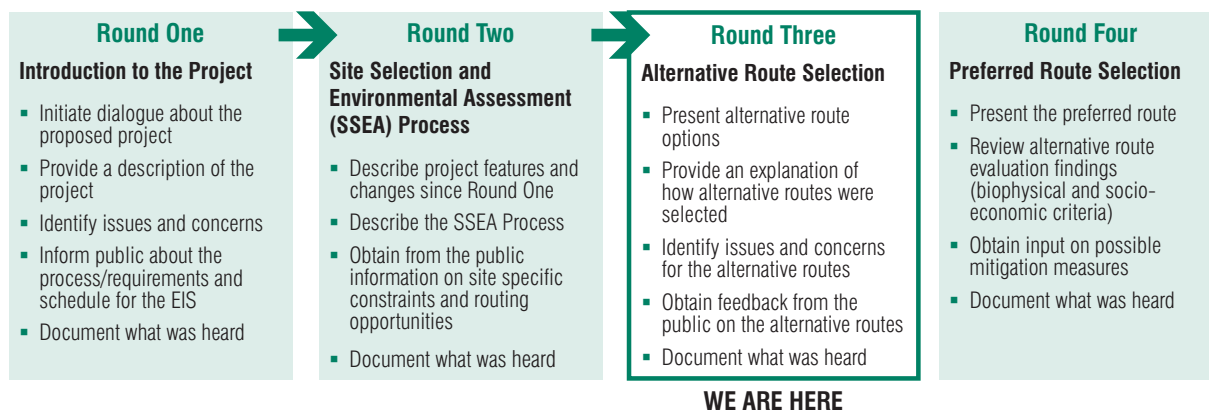
The main purpose of this round of consultation is to provide an opportunity for stakeholders and the public to review and comment on the alternative routes. The stakeholder input will be key in selecting a preferred route for the project. Along with the input from Round 3, the alternative route options will be subject to further evaluation and comparison by the Bipole III study team. Round Three consultation will consist of many stakeholder meetings and Community and Regional Open Houses.

What We Heard During Round Two

Round 2 of the consultation process for Bipole III was used to gather information on possible routing constraints and opportunities.

Multiple meetings, and Community and Regional Open Houses were carried out throughout the conceptual study area in order to gain feedback from the public on landscape features that were important to them and indicate areas that should be avoided by transmission line routes.

Four Rounds of Consultation



NEWSLETTER #3 – September 2009



During Round 2 consultation many issues were discussed including:

- Agricultural uses within the transmission right-of-way;
- Effects on property values;
- Export opportunities related to this project;
- Potential environmental effects;
- Construction of buildings within the transmission right-of-way;
- Property acquisition and easement;
- Employment opportunities;
- Community benefits; and
- Alternate locations for the transmission line including underground, under Lake Winnipeg or on the eastern side of Manitoba.

Environmental Assessment is Key

A key requirement of preliminary planning for the project will be the completion of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will:

- Identify potential effects the project may have on the environment and people;
- Determine ways to avoid, reduce or mitigate potential negative effects;
- Determine ways to enhance potential positive effects; and
- Develop follow-up and monitoring programs.

Bipole III Environmental Studies are Currently Underway



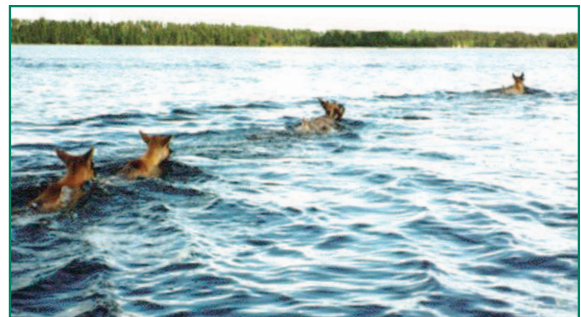
Manitoba Hydro has begun collecting information that will contribute to the environmental assessment of the project. These studies will assess the potential effects of the project on the physical environment, terrestrial and aquatic environments, as well as heritage resources, land and resource use, and the socio-economic environment.

Manitoba Hydro is committed to seeking Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge as well as science-based knowledge for use in the assessment of the Bipole III project. Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge will provide important perspectives on the environmental and socio-economic implications of developing and operating the proposed project. This will enhance the environmental assessment leading to improved mitigation and project benefits.

Next Steps

A preferred route will be selected in early 2010 based on review of Round 3 input and on-going studies. The fourth and final round of consultation will provide opportunity for review of the preferred route prior to project submission to regulatory authorities for environmental approval.

The project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be submitted for review and approval under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and *The (Manitoba) Environment Act* as well as under other federal and provincial legislation. The EIS will be available for public review and comment. It is anticipated there will be public hearings for this project.



TASKS	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 - 2017
Round One Consultation	■					
Round Two Consultation		■				
Develop Alternative Routes		■				
Round Three Consultation			■			
Preferred Route Selection			■			
Evaluation of Preferred Route			■			
Round Four Consultation			■			
Submit EIS for Regulatory Review				★		
Regulatory Review and Approval				■		
Construction					■	
In-Service Date						★

What is the Project Timeline?

We are currently in the third round of consultation with the fourth and final round scheduled to be completed by the end of 2010. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required for environmental approval and licensing will be completed and filed by the end of June 2011. Receipt of the Environment Act Licence is needed in the Fall of 2012 to meet an in-service date of 2017.



We Want To Hear From You

We would like to hear from you. There are a number of ways you can participate in the review of this project and provide your input:

- Community and Regional Open Houses (check our website for upcoming dates and locations)
- Comment sheets available at Open Houses and on the website
- Or contact us directly



Contact Information

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Website Address

Project information is also available at www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/bipoleIII/

NEWSLETTER #3 – September 2009

Bipole III

Bipole III Transmission Project: A Major Reliability Improvement Initiative Round Four – Preliminary Preferred Route



Manitoba Hydro is pleased to be sending out this Round Four newsletter to continue dialogue with you on this important project. We have been busy since last Fall (2009) collecting and evaluating input and undertaking environmental assessment activities related to alternative routes for the Bipole III transmission project. This newsletter outlines what we have learned thus far, presents a preliminary preferred route for the transmission line, and provides background information on the project. In this final round of the environmental assessment consultation process, we are again asking for your input on the route through a series of meetings and open houses.

Bipole III is an important reliability improvement initiative for our transmission system in Manitoba. With Bipole III we will continue to provide reliable, clean, and economic energy to all Manitobans. With your input we will continue to work towards minimizing potential effects of the project on people and our environment.

We look forward to continuing discussions with you on this project.

Sincerely,

Bob Brennan, FCA
President and CEO
Manitoba Hydro

Why is Bipole III Needed?

The Interlake transmission corridor (Bipole I and II) carries 75% of Manitoba's generating capacity in a single corridor while Dorsey Station is the only converter station in southern Manitoba. This over dependence on these facilities leaves Manitobans vulnerable to outages from severe weather, fire or sabotage events.

The Bipole III transmission project will improve system reliability by providing a new transmission line and additional conversion facilities in both northern and southern Manitoba. These system improvements will reduce the risk of simultaneous and potentially catastrophic outages by increasing the separation distance from existing facilities.

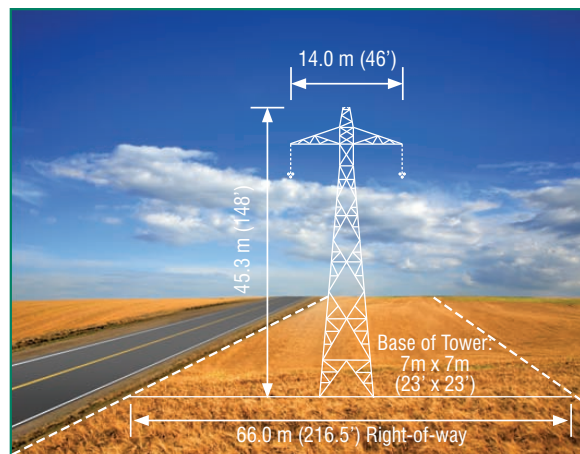
About the Bipole III Transmission Project

The Bipole III transmission project involves construction of a new 500 kV high-voltage direct current (HVdc) transmission line to link the northern power generating complex on the Lower Nelson River with the conversion and delivery system in southern Manitoba. The project is required to improve system reliability, decrease dependency on one southern converter facility and provide additional transmission capacity for delivery of existing and proposed hydroelectric generation to southern markets.

The line will originate at a new northern converter station (Keewatinoow), located near the proposed Conawapa Generating Station site east of Gillam in northern Manitoba. It will terminate at a new converter station at the Riel site east of Winnipeg. The transmission line will be built on steel towers on a 66 meter wide right-of-way, over the 1,364 km of the preliminary preferred route.

As part of the project, collector transmission lines (230 kV high voltage alternating current (HVac)) will be required from Henday Converter Station and Long Spruce Generating Station for the new Keewatinoow Converter Station. A ground electrode facility will also be needed for the operation of each of the new converter stations.

Typical Tower and Right-of-way





What We Heard During Round Three

The goal for Round Three of the environmental assessment (EA) consultation process was to obtain feedback on the alternative routes.

Numerous meetings were carried out throughout the study area. Feedback provided was then incorporated into the evaluation of the alternative routes.

■ Eastern Routing

A frequently mentioned comment from Round Three participants was the issue of an eastern routing for Bipole III. This was noted as an important issue for many respondents. However, following an assessment of system reliability options and review by the Manitoba Hydro Electric Board and the Province, a decision was made to develop Bipole III on the west side of the Province. Fundamental to the decision was concern for the protection of a proposed UNESCO World Heritage site on the east side of Lake Winnipeg and avoiding potential negative impact on Manitoba Hydro's U.S. export revenues.

■ Agriculture

Many individuals raised concerns regarding the potential impact to agricultural operations, particularly due to diagonal crossings and the loss of agricultural lands. To address agricultural concerns, diagonal crossings were avoided where possible and routing opportunities along roadways and ½ mile lines were considered when determining the preliminary preferred route. Effects on irrigated land and limits on aerial application are potential concerns that Manitoba Hydro has acknowledged and will continue to address. In addition, landowners will be able to continue farming the land under the transmission line as they have prior to any towers being erected.

■ Health and Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)

A number of individuals raised concerns regarding potential health effects associated with EMF from transmission lines. In addition, there were concerns regarding potential EMF interference with GPS and other electrical devices. To address these issues, Manitoba Hydro has contracted an independent consulting firm to review these concerns. Current scientific studies and literature have shown no direct link between human health effects and EMF. For further information on this topic, alternating and direct current brochures are available on the Bipole III project website.

■ Property

Potential effects on property were frequently discussed at meetings in regards to land use and changes to farming practices.

Manitoba Hydro will provide a comprehensive compensation package for landowners affected by the transmission right-of-way. The compensation package will be based on:

- Acquiring easements based on the value of the land at the time of negotiations;
- The impact of tower placement on agricultural land as it relates to loss in production and changes to farming practices; and
- Construction damages during the construction phase of the project.

Landowners will have an opportunity to discuss the compensation package in more detail at scheduled landowner information centres (LICs). Potentially affected landowners will be notified directly regarding the locations and times for the LICs.

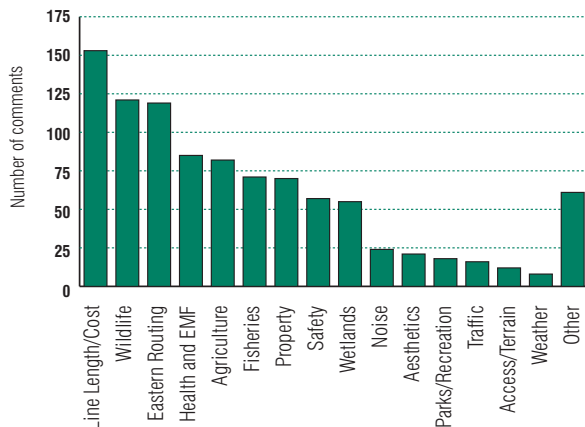
■ Trapping

Concerns were raised regarding the potential effects of the new transmission line on trapping. Manitoba Hydro has a Trapper Notification and Compensation Policy to address identified effects on trapping. Under the policy, transmission lines greater than 115 kV that impact Registered Traplines qualify for a disturbance allowance. Manitoba Hydro will be discussing this policy with individual trappers impacted by the transmission line throughout the EA consultation process.

■ Employment

Employment, training and business opportunities were frequently raised topics. There was significant interest in the process of securing employment and the types of jobs that may be available for the Bipole III transmission project. Manitoba Hydro will be discussing employment, training, and business opportunities with communities once an environmental licence is in place and the project has been approved.

Round Three Responses by Topics of Interest*



*The number of comments were derived from comment sheets, emails and letters submitted.

How was the Preliminary Preferred Route Selected?

The Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) process to select a route for the Bipole III transmission line was initiated in 2008. Round Three of the EA consultation process provided an opportunity for review and comment on the three alternative routes and a variety of sub-routes. Many comments and suggestions were received and this feedback was incorporated into the evaluation of the alternative routes to arrive at a preliminary preferred route.

A total of 83 alternative route segments were evaluated, rated and compared. Twenty-eight different criteria were used to determine the preliminary preferred route, some of which are shown below.

Route Selection Criteria

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ✓ Socio-economic concerns | ✓ Technical feasibility |
| ✓ Agriculture | ✓ Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge |
| ✓ Wildlife | ✓ Stakeholder group considerations |
| ✓ Habitat and fragmentation | ✓ Public input |
| ✓ Vegetation | ✓ Land use patterns and recreation |
| ✓ Caribou | |



Bipoles I and II Transmission Lines

Four Rounds of Environmental Assessment Consultation

The purpose of the EA consultation process is to provide meaningful opportunities for people to participate in the review and evaluation of the project. Your input helps the study team identify specific issues and potential effects of the project, which can then be considered and assessed. Three rounds of EA consultation to date have provided useful feedback that has been integrated into the route selection process.

Round Four EA Consultation – Goals and Commitments

The main purpose of Round Four EA consultation is to present the preliminary preferred route and to provide an opportunity for stakeholders and the public to:

- Review and comment on the preliminary preferred route;
- Identify potential concerns or effects; and
- Discuss mitigation measures to minimize or avoid potential project effects on people and the environment.

Round Four EA consultation will include stakeholder meetings and community and regional open houses. Landowner information centres (LICs) will provide an opportunity for landowners to discuss the project one-on-one with Manitoba Hydro representatives.



Please refer to the inserted map showing the preliminary preferred route.

Bipole III Project Timeline

TASKS	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 - 2017
Rounds One & Two EA Consultation Develop Alternative Routes						
Round Three EA Consultation						
Preliminary Preferred Route Selection						
Evaluation of Preferred Route						
Round Four EA Consultation						
Final Preferred Route Selection						
Submit EIS for Regulatory Review				★		
Regulatory Review and Approval						
Construction						
In-Service Date						★

Community Development Initiative

Manitoba Hydro has developed a Community Development Initiative (CDI). This initiative will provide an annual benefit to communities in the vicinity of the Bipole III facilities. The CDI will provide support for development projects that will benefit broad segments of the eligible communities. Further information about the CDI will be available during Round Four meetings.

Environmental Assessment is Key

As a part of the project planning process, a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared that will:

- Identify project components and characterize the environment;
- Identify potential effects the project may have on the environment and people;
- Determine ways to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects;
- Determine ways to enhance potential beneficial effects; and
- Develop follow-up and monitoring programs.

EA consultation is an important component of the process and is integral to implementing a project with minimal effects on individuals, communities and the environment.

Manitoba Hydro is also committed to incorporating Aboriginal Traditional and Local Knowledge in the EA process. This input will continue to provide important perspectives on the environmental and socio-economic implications of developing and operating the proposed project.

Next Steps

With the preliminary preferred route identified, the Bipole III project team will continue to collect information on the route for the remainder of 2010 and into 2011. The results of these EA activities will assist in the assessment of potential effects of the project on the physical environment, terrestrial and aquatic environments, as well as heritage resources, land and resource use, and the socio-economic environment. This information will support the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which will be submitted in June 2011 for review and approval under the *Environment Act* (Manitoba) as well as under other federal and provincial legislation. The EIS, once submitted, will be available for public review and comment.

We Want To Hear From You

There are a number of ways you can participate and provide your input:

- Community and regional open houses (check our website for upcoming dates and locations);
- Comment sheets available at open houses and on the project website; or
- Contact us directly.

Contact Information

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