1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Manitoba Hydro's corporate mission is to provide for the continual supply of energy to meet the needs of the province and to promote economy and efficiency in the development, generation, transmission, distribution, supply and end-use of energy.

Manitoba Hydro's system planning studies have identified reliability, voltage and loading issues resulting from above average load growth in southeast Manitoba, including the Steinbach. Richer, and south St. Vital areas.

In order to ensure reliable electrical supply to the areas southeast of Winnipeg and the surrounding region, Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct a new 230-66 kV Station west of Steinbach (Figure 1-1).

1.2 Project overview

The proposed Project involves the installation of a new 230-66 kV station northwest of Kleefeld to address reliability, voltage and loading issues resulting from above average load growth in southeast Manitoba, including the Steinbach, Richer, and south St. Vital areas.

Related projects, not included in the assessment, include:

- two new 230 kV lines as part of the St. Vital Transmission Complex (Environment Act License No. 3207); lines V78G (St. Vital to De Salaberry East) and G79L (De Salaberry East to Letellier);
- salvage of Hanover station;
- salvage of VJ50 from the 115 kV system between Randolph station and Hanover station; and
- the addition of 66 ky distribution lines.

Although these components are not included in the assessment, engagement activities will occur with area landowners to provide notification and address concerns.

1.3 Regulatory and policy context

1.3.1 Provincial legislation

The proposed Project is a Class II development under the Classes of Development Regulation and requires an *Environment Act* License for a transmission station of 115 kV and over but not exceeding 230 kV. The construction and operation of the proposed Project is subject to all applicable provincial legislation, guidelines, codes and standards including the following provincial acts and regulations:

- The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act;
 - o Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Regulation;
 - o Environmental Accident Reporting Regulation;
 - o Generator Registration and Carrier Licensing Regulation;
 - Storage and Handling of Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products Regulation;
- The Endangered Species and Ecosystems Act;
 - o Threatened, Endangered and Extirpated Species Regulation;
- The Environment Act;
 - o Classes of Development Regulation;
 - o Licensing Procedures Regulation;
 - o Litter Regulation;
 - o Pesticides Regulation;
 - o Waste Disposal Grounds Regulation;
- The Fisheries Act (Manitoba);
- The Forest Act;
- The Forest Health Protection Act;
- The Heritage Resources Act;
- The Highways and Transportation Act;
- The Noxious Weeds Act;
- The Provincial Parks Act:
- The Planning Act;
- Provincial Planning Regulation The Public Health Act;
- The Wildlife Act;
- The Workplace Safety and Health Act;
 - o Workplace Safety and Heath Regulation;

1.3.2 Federal legislation

The proposed Project is subject to the following Canadian acts and regulations under the acts:

- Explosives Act;
- Fisheries Act;
- Migratory Birds Convention Act;
- Radio Communications Act; and
- Species at Risk Act.

While the proposal does not trigger an environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, the construction and operation of the proposed Project is subject to all applicable federal legislation, guidelines, codes and standards.

