

# Valued Components Agriculture

## and the Manitoba–Minnesota Transmission Project

### Why do we assess agriculture?

Agriculture makes an important contribution to the local and provincial economy, and operators and residents as part of their livelihood and way of life. The public has expressed an interest in, and value of, various agricultural operations and environmental components that support agriculture as it relates to the current Project and past projects in the region. Agricultural land uses are protected by local development planning, zoning and legislation, including The Farm Practices Protection Act.

### How will we determine potential effects on agriculture?

We will undertake key person interviews, review background literature, including pertinent project reports and review of desktop information to further understand the existing agricultural landscape.

### What assessment activities are underway?

Key person interviews with agricultural stakeholder groups are underway. Data collection is also being undertaken to supplement available desktop data on agricultural land use, including specialty agricultural and livestock operations. As well, through the ongoing public engagement process, we will continue collecting information from local agricultural operators.



*Canola field, Manitoba.*

## What are some of the potential effects on agriculture?

Potential effects on agricultural land use that will be reviewed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is related to the construction and operation of the transmission line, could include but is not limited to:

- Change in agricultural land use through:
  - temporary and permanent loss of land for agriculture;
  - reduction in land capability.
- Conflict with agricultural activities including:
  - impediment to equipment maneuverability;
  - biosecurity issues (spread of invasive species, disease transmission);
  - aerial pesticide application.

## What are we considering to reduce the potential effects on agriculture?

Agricultural land uses are considered throughout route selection and preliminary transmission line design phases of the project. Additionally, steps are taken to reduce potential interaction with agriculture. Specific considerations include:

- reducing diagonal crossings of annual crop lands;
- tower types and spacing to reduce footprint areas and nuisance;
- consideration of tower placement to avoid sensitive sites;
- implementation of biosecurity standard operating procedures;
- communication with landowners during construction and operation.

Manitoba Hydro compensates for impacts on agriculture through the Property Compensation Program, which includes compensation for activities resulting in physical damages such as crop loss.

For more information on property compensation, please refer to the Manitoba Hydro Landowner Compensation Information brochure. Please phone 1-877-343-1631 or email [mmtp@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:mmtp@hydro.mb.ca) for a copy.



*Valued components (VCs) are components of the natural and human environment that are considered by the proponent, public, First Nations groups, Metis, scientists and other technical specialists and government agencies involved in the assessment process to have scientific, ecological, economic, social, cultural, archaeological, historical, or other importance.*

For more information or if you would like to share your concerns, contact us at [mmtp@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:mmtp@hydro.mb.ca) or toll free at 1-877-343-1631.