Pointe du Bois Renewable Energy Project Round 1: Identify & evaluate alternative route segments

As our oldest hydroelectric station, many of the electrical, civil, and mechanical works at Pointe du Bois Generating Station are over a century old.

We're planning a new project to increase Pointe du Bois Generating Station's supply of renewable, dependable electricity and enhance our transmission capacity and reliability in the area, so we can get the most value out of Manitobans' investment in this over 110-year-old energy asset.

The Pointe du Bois Renewable Energy Project (PREP) is made up of two main parts – a generating unit replacement in the station's powerhouse and the construction of a new transmission line in the area.



Located on the Winnipeg River and built in the early-1900s, Pointe du Bois is our oldest hydroelectric generating station.



Based on current conditions, only three of the original 16 generating units are expected to operate beyond 2029.

Generating unit replacement in the powerhouse

We're planning to install eight generating units at Pointe du Bois to replace some of the original units nearing end of life.

A generating unit is made up of a turbine and generator. Water from the river enters the powerhouse and flows through the turbine, causing the generator to spin to create electricity.

This upgrade will extend the operable life of the station to at least 2055 and increase the amount of renewable, dependable electricity we can produce to meet our customers' ever-growing needs.

With 380 gigawatt-hours per year, on average, of added production capacity, we'll be able to power an extra 35,000 homes in Manitoba.



To request accessible formats visit hydro.mb.ca/accessibility.

New transmission line from Pointe du Bois to Whiteshell Substation (PW75)

The current transmission lines connecting Pointe du Bois to Manitoba Hydro's grid are aging and won't have sufficient capacity to handle the station's increased electricity output once the new generating units are in place.

We're planning to construct a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (referred to as PW75), stretching about 50 kilometres between Pointe du Bois and the existing Whiteshell Substation, to deliver more renewable energy and improve reliability for our customers in surrounding areas. This component of the project will require a Class 2 licence under The Environment Act (Manitoba).

Various other upgrades are also planned at Pointe du Bois and Whiteshell Substation to accommodate this transmission work.

How will the new transmission line route be decided?

The new 115-kV transmission line, from Pointe du Bois to Lee River Distribution Supply Centre (DSC), will be routed through an existing right-of-way currently occupied by a 66-kV transmission line. The existing right-of-way will be widened to 60 metres (from 30 metres) to accommodate the higher voltage line. This 66-kV line, which connects Pointe du Bois to Winnipeg, is nearing end of life and will be decommissioned.

A new right-of-way will be required for the section of the new transmission line between Lee River DSC and Whiteshell Substation.

Transmission line routing is a key part of the environmental assessment process. Data gathering, on the ground fieldwork, technical and environmental considerations, as well as input collected in our engagement will help inform the selection of a preferred route for the new line.



Map of alternative route segments for the new 115-kV transmission line. View enlarged map at hydro.mb.ca/prep.



The existing 66-kV line (on the right) will be decommissioned. The new 115-kV line, from Pointe du Bois to Lee River DSC, will be routed through this existing right-of-way. A new right-of-way will be required for the section of the new transmission line between Lee River DSC and Whiteshell Substation.

Are regulatory approvals required?

The new transmission line requires approval as a Class 2 development under The Environment Act (Manitoba). An environmental assessment for the new transmission line will be submitted to Manitoba Environment, Climate, and Parks for approval before starting construction.

Engaging with the public and Indigenous communities

Manitoba Hydro has a long history of working in the area and we're using what we've learned from past projects to help inform how we engage with landowners, interested parties, and the public on the PREP. Also, through our First Nation and Métis engagement process, we're working directly with First Nation communities, Grand Council Treaty 3, and the Manitoba Métis Federation. We'll seek to understand concerns, assess potential effects, and work to find ways to address them.

We'll provide regular updates on the generating unit replacement occurring within the existing footprint of the powerhouse and create opportunities to ask questions and voice concerns.

Our engagement on the new transmission line will provide opportunities for feedback to influence decision-making as we'll be conducting an environmental assessment, including a routing process, to determine a preferred route for the new line.

What is the schedule?

The tentative schedule (subject to change) is:

- Generating unit replacement:
 - Preliminary worksite and equipment preparation: spring 2022
 - o Removal of old generating units: fall 2022 winter 2023
 - New generating unit assembly and installation: spring 2024 - summer 2027
- New transmission line:
 - Round 1 engagement Identify and evaluate alternative route segments: spring 2022 fall 2022
 - Round 2 engagement Select preferred route: winter 2023
 - o File environmental assessment report for regulatory review: spring 2023
 - o Licensing decision: estimated fall 2024
 - o Transmission line construction start: fall 2024
 - o Target in-service date: summer 2027

We want to hear from you

Our Round 1 engagement to identify and evaluate alternative route segments for the new transmission line is now underway.

We encourage you to ask questions, voice your concerns, and share feedback with us to help inform our routing and plans. Check out our current engagement opportunities:

Online survey

Go to **hydro.mb.ca/prep** to tell us what you think about the alternative route segments. Survey closes on August 30, 2022.

Virtual information sessions

Join us for a virtual information session on:

- July 13 at 7:00 p.m.
- July 14 at 12:00 p.m.
- July 19 at 7:00 p.m.
- July 20 at 12:00 p.m.
- July 21 at 7:00 p.m.
- August 9 at 12:00 p.m.
- August 10 at 7:00 p.m.

To register, go to hydro.mb.ca/prep, e-mail projects@hydro.mb.ca or call 1-877-343-1631.

Interactive map & feedback portal

Visit our interactive map and feedback portal to zoom into the alternative route segments in more detail, provide comments and suggestions, flag points of interest, and see what others are saying. Go to **hydro.mb.ca/prep** to get started.

For more information:

Visit hydro.mb.ca/prep to learn more and sign-up for project updates. Send your questions to projects@hydro.mb.ca or call 1-877-343-1631.