

# POINTE DU BOIS RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

## Engagement summary feedback

April 2022 - July 2023

### Project overview

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

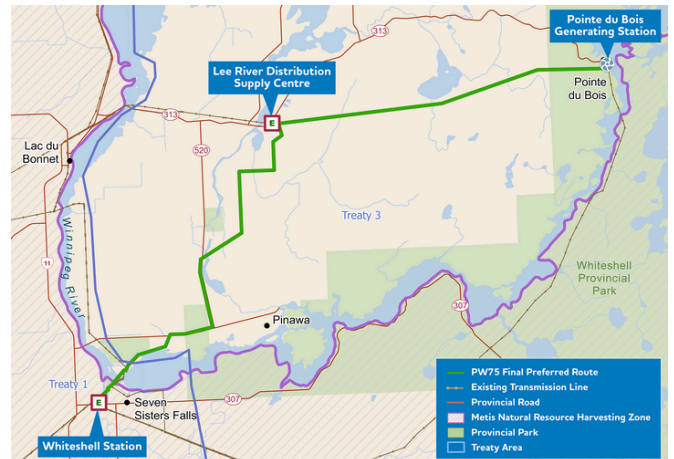
We're planning to build a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (referred to as PW75), stretching about 51 kilometres between Pointe du Bois and the existing Whiteshell station, to improve reliability for our customers in surrounding areas. This component of the project will require a Class 2 license under The Environment Act (Manitoba).

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 accommodate the higher voltage line, and the 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 station. Various other upgrades are also planned at Pointe du Bois station and Whiteshell station to accommodate this transmission work.

### Project engagement

Through engagement, we shared information, answered questions, and heard feedback about both the generation and transmission line components of PREP. This engagement summary focuses primarily on engagement related to the PW75 transmission line. For more information related to the generation components of the project, please refer to the [Pointe du Bois renewable energy project website: www.hydro.mb.ca/prep](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/prep)



A map of the final preferred route for the Pointe du Bois to Whiteshell transmission line, submitted as part of the Environment Act Proposal to Manitoba Environment and Climate Change in July 2023.

### Engagement activities

Our engagement process consisted of pre-engagement activities, followed by two rounds of engagement, from April 2022 to July 2023. During Round 1 engagement we asked for feedback on alternative route segments for the transmission line, and during Round 2 engagement we worked to understand concerns with the preferred route and to identify mitigation measures.

For this project we engaged with:

- First Nation and Métis audiences
- Affected and adjacent landowners
- Communities and Rural Municipalities
- Local businesses, cottage associations, trails organizations, and the public

Feedback gathered help us understand preferences, concerns, potential impacts and mitigation measures to inform the environmental assessment and route adjustments.

To request accessible formats visit [hydro.mb.ca/accessibility](http://hydro.mb.ca/accessibility).

Contact us for related inquiries



1-877-343-1631



[projects@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:projects@hydro.mb.ca)

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### Key engagement themes

#### Wildlife and habitat

Participants shared concerns about species moving into different habitats due to noise, changes to access, disruption of intact habitats, or changes to vegetation cover and composition resulting from the construction and presence of transmission lines.

#### Agriculture

Participants shared concerns about the logistics and feasibility of farming around transmission lines. Participants also shared biosecurity concerns related to where the transmission line crosses property boundaries, particularly related to cattle-ranching operations.

#### Culture and heritage

First Nation and Métis participants shared knowledge about specific locations in the project area that are culturally important and/or have high potential for heritage resources including petroforms. We heard about the importance of having clear protocols developed to protect potential heritage finds and the need for First Nation and Métis involvement.

#### Trees and vegetation

Participants asked questions about the vegetation management practices for transmission line rights-of-way, and shared concerns about herbicide application for vegetation management. Participants noted concerns related to the removal of trees and forested areas for transmission line development and some participants requested to follow existing linear infrastructure and previously disturbed areas to minimize the impacts.



Feedback from engagement circle #4.

### Next steps

We submitted the Environment Act Proposal to Manitoba Environment and Climate Change for regulatory review in July 2023 and are awaiting a licensing decision. The environmental assessment examined the potential effects of the project on the biophysical and socioeconomic environments. Based on the routing process, and measures developed to mitigate and manage any potential adverse effects, the conclusion of environmental assessment was that the residual effects were predicted to be not significant. Following Manitoba Environment and Climate Change's decision, we will notify engaged audiences of the outcome. If we are granted a licence, we will keep our engagement audiences informed of construction schedules and activities.

### Engagement activities

9

Virtual and in-person information sessions

2

Agreements with First Nations to support Indigenous Knowledge studies in the project area

2

Community perspective routing workshops

4

Engagement circles with First Nations, the Manitoba Métis Federation, and interested parties

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