

Brandon–Portage la Prairie (BP6/BP7) transmission line replacement project

Round 2 engagement summary

Portage la Prairie and surrounding communities were some of the hardest hit by the powerful storm that struck southern Manitoba in October 2019. Now, work is continuing on some of the large-scale repairs and rebuilds in the area, including a double circuit transmission line between Brandon and Portage la Prairie (referred to as BP6/BP7). To learn more, visit www.hydro.mb.ca/bp67

This March, landowners, Indigenous communities, local residents, and interested parties were invited to participate in round 2 of the engagement process for the project. This feedback, along with input from other studies, helped inform final routing and design. The following are some key insights from our engagement.

Key engagement themes

Proximity to homes

Participants shared concerns about impacts to their homes and neighbourhoods, such as decreased property values and changes to their view.

Research on property values associated with transmission line projects has shown that small effects on property values sometimes occur immediately after construction but diminish over time with no long-term effects.

Agriculture

A participant shared concerns about impacts to their irrigation infrastructure and high valued crops. They shared concerns that this project is going to completely change the way they farm.

Manitoba Hydro has developed a compensation policy for landowners that grant an easement for a transmission line right-of-way and for incidental and or physical damages to property during construction.

Riverbank erosion

Participants shared concerns about the preferred route and riverbank erosion. A participant shared that they are concerned that the topography of the land near the Assiniboine river is not suitable for a transmission line.

Manitoba Hydro engineers are looking into shoreline erosion and whether it will influence tower design or placement.

Key survey findings

32% had concerns about the preferred route

39% didn't have concerns about the preferred route

29% said they might have concerns about the preferred route

Engagement activities



Online survey & feedback portal



Virtual information sessions



Virtual meetings with interested parties



Indigenous communities shared knowledge

Available lands for traditional harvesting

Participants shared concerns about the impacts of the Project on traditional harvesting practices and changes in available lands for harvesting and for accessing important sites.

The transmission line has been routed in collaboration with Indigenous Community and Assessment Coordinators to consider potential interaction with traditional harvesting and important sites that Indigenous communities have identified. Manitoba Hydro will continue to work with Indigenous communities to further mitigate effects to culture.

Culture and heritage

Participants continued to share concerns about potential cultural and archaeological sites and expressed the need for diligent monitoring before and during construction for potential heritage findings. Participants also shared that a traditional ceremony should precede construction.

Manitoba Hydro will be conducting a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment along the final preferred route where new tower locations are to be constructed to determine nature, extent, and significance of any heritage sites including implementing recommendations from the Historic Resources Branch including deep testing, where required. An opening ceremony and a closing ceremony will be organized in collaboration with interested Indigenous communities on the project.

For more information:

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Available in accessible formats upon request.