

# Brandon-Portage la Prairie (BP6/BP7) Transmission line replacement project

In October 2019, a powerful storm ripped through southern Manitoba. A mix of freezing rain, wet snow, and high winds caused extensive damage to Manitoba Hydro's system unlike anything seen before and left thousands of customers without power.

Portage la Prairie and surrounding communities were some of the hardest hit. In the days to follow, crews worked tirelessly and in challenging conditions to rebuild hundreds of kilometres of distribution lines and sections of the transmission network to restore power as quickly as possible.

Now, work is continuing on some of the large-scale repairs and rebuilds in the area, including one double circuit transmission line between Brandon and Portage la Prairie (referred to as BP6/BP7).

## What is happening?

Some sections of the BP6/BP7 transmission line need to be entirely rebuilt with permanent replacements.

For the sections that need to be rebuilt, Manitoba Hydro is considering different routes as development beside the line has grown and requirements for right-of-way widths have increased since the line was first built over half a century ago.

## Where is it?

The following map shows the sections of BP6/BP7 that need to be rebuilt and rerouted (in green) and the alternative route segments (in purple) currently under review.

Feedback received through engagement will help determine the preferred route.



*A steel tower in the Portage la Prairie area left crumpled by the storm.*



*Map of the Portage la Prairie area showing sections of BP6/BP7 that need to be rebuilt and rerouted.*

## Why is it necessary?

Over 50 towers on BP6/BP7 were damaged by the storm. As a temporary solution to quickly restore power to affected customers in the area, a smaller, wood pole transmission line was installed along the Trans-Canada Highway. Now, Manitoba Hydro needs to rebuild permanent replacements for the damaged sections to ensure it can continue to reliably serve the growing electricity needs of the area into the future.

## Are regulatory approvals required?

Yes. This project requires approval as a Class 2 development under The Environment Act. An environmental assessment for the rebuilt sections of BP6/BP7 will be conducted and a report will be submitted to Manitoba Conservation and Climate for approval.

## How will the new route be decided?

Routing is a key part of the environmental assessment process. Data gathering, on the ground fieldwork, technical and environmental considerations, as well as input from landowners, Indigenous communities, interested parties, and the public, will help inform the preferred route for the rebuilt sections of BP6/BP7.

## When will the work happen?

The tentative schedule (subject to change) is:

- Fall 2020 – Round 1 (Identify & evaluate alternative route segments)
- Winter 2020 – Round 2 (Select preferred route)
- 2021 – File environmental assessment report for regulatory review
- 2022 – Construction start, if regulatory approval is received.

## For more information:

Visit [www.hydro.mb.ca/bp67](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/bp67) to learn more and sign-up for updates. Send your questions to [LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca) or call 1-877-343-1631.

Available in accessible formats upon request.

## We want to hear from you

There are a number of opportunities for you to learn more about this work, ask questions, voice your concerns, and provide feedback to help inform our routing and plans.

### Online survey

Go to [www.hydro.mb.ca/bp67](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/bp67) to tell us what you think about the proposed alternative route segments. Survey closes on November 20.

### Virtual information sessions

Join us for a virtual information session on:

- October 26 at 7:00 pm
- October 27 at 4:00 pm
- November 3 at 12:00 pm
- November 4 at 7:00 pm

To register, e-mail [LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca) or call 1-877-343-1631.

### Online feedback portal

Take part in our online feedback portal as an interactive way to comment on the alternative route segments, share suggestions, and identify points of interest in the area. Go to [www.hydro.mb.ca/bp67](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/bp67) to get started.