

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



What is it?

In October 2019, a storm caused extensive damage to Manitoba Hydro's system in the Portage la Prairie area, including a section of two transmission lines between Brandon and Portage la Prairie referred to as BP6/BP7. As a result, both lines need to be repaired, rebuilt and modernized with a permanent replacement that meets safety requirements for rights-of-way. As part of these repairs, we're considering different routes for the rebuilt sections.

Why do we need it?

Over 50 structures on BP6/BP7 were damaged during the October storm. A temporary wood pole transmission line along the Trans-Canada Highway was installed to temporarily maintain reliability but we need to plan and rebuild a permanent replacement for the damaged sections of the two lines.

In addition, the original transmission lines were built between 1949 – 1964 and since then required right-of-way widths have expanded for safety reasons and development has grown beside the existing lines. As a result, we need to consider a new route for the rebuilt permanent replacement.

How can you get involved?

We welcome feedback as it helps inform the environmental assessment for the project and decisions on where to locate the route for the rebuilt transmission line.



What regulatory approvals are required?

The project requires regulatory approvals as it is a Class 2 development under *The Environment Act*. We will conduct an environmental assessment for the permanent replacement of a portion of the Brandon–Portage la Prairie (BP6/BP7) transmission lines. The environmental assessment report will be submitted to the Environmental Approvals branch of Manitoba Conservation and Climate for review and approval.

The environmental assessment report will include:

- a description of the project, through construction, operation, and maintenance;
- a study area characterization;
- an outline of the engagement processes, and the feedback received;
- a description of the transmission routing process;
- the identification and assessment of potential environmental and socio-economic effects; and
- the development of mitigation measures to minimize potential effects on people and the environment.

We will be seeking feedback on many of the above items.

Further communication will follow on the concerns addressed in the assessment. A key tool used to mitigate effects of transmission lines is through informed routing that includes engagement with landowners, communities and other interested parties.

Engagement process

Our goal is to conduct a transparent engagement process that involves communities, individuals and groups in the decision-making process, while working together to resolve concerns and build relationships.

The engagement objectives for this Project include:

- identifying interested communities, individuals and groups and asking for input in designing how they want to participate in the process;
- delivering an engagement process that is adaptive and inclusive;
- involving communities, individuals, and groups in the decision-making process; and
- informing communities, individuals, and groups about how their input influenced decision making.

We will use a variety of notification methods to inform communities, individuals, and groups of upcoming project activities. We want to hear from you about your preferences, concerns, and knowledge about the area.

How will we determine a preferred route?

Routing is a key part of the environmental assessment process and feedback received through engagement will assist in determining the final preferred route for the project. Transmission line routing will consider how well alternative routes balance potential effects to built, technical and natural environments. Data gathering, on the ground fieldwork and the input of technical specialists, Indigenous communities, landowners, the public, and interested parties will help inform the final placement of the transmission line route.

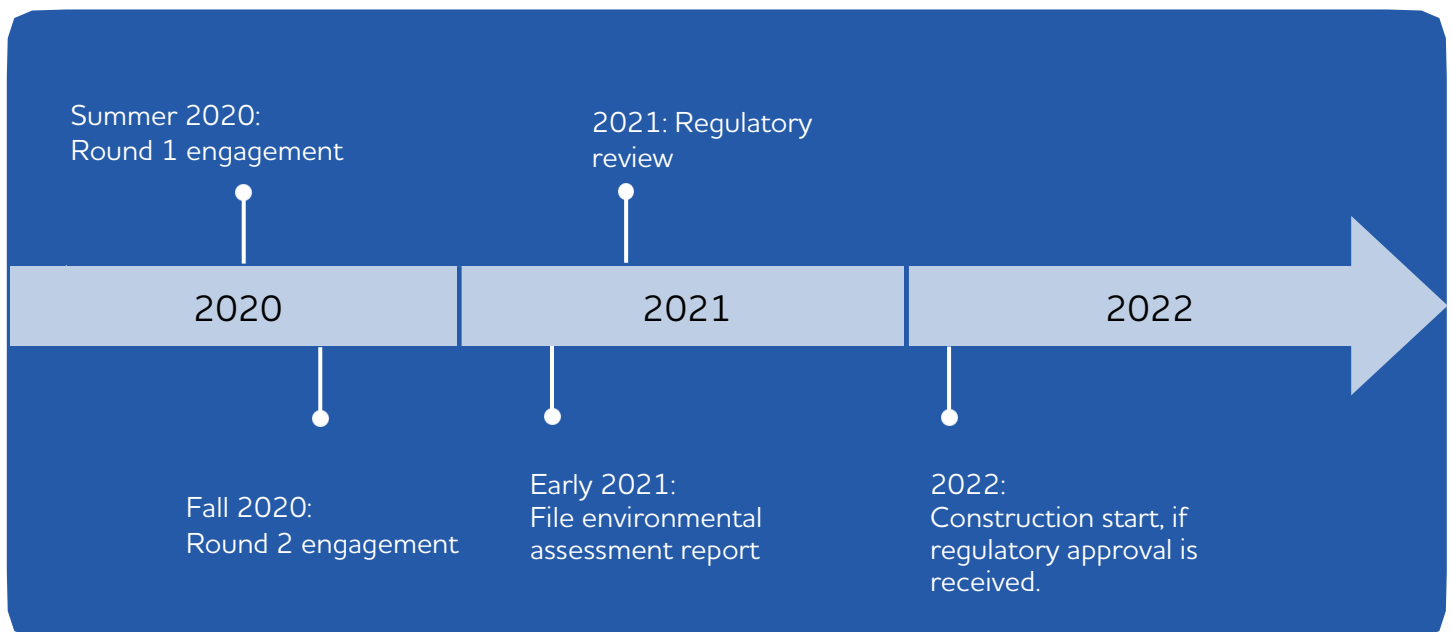
Have more questions?

We would like to hear from you. For more information about the Brandon–Portage la Prairie (BP6/BP7) transmission lines, please visit www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/expansion/portage_la_prairie/ If you would like further information, please contact us at LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca or call 1-877-343-1631

Where will it be?

The section of the damaged lines that will be re-routed and re-built are in the Portage la Prairie area as shown in green on the map on the next page. The route planning area is the area for rerouting BP6/BP7.

Anticipated schedule*



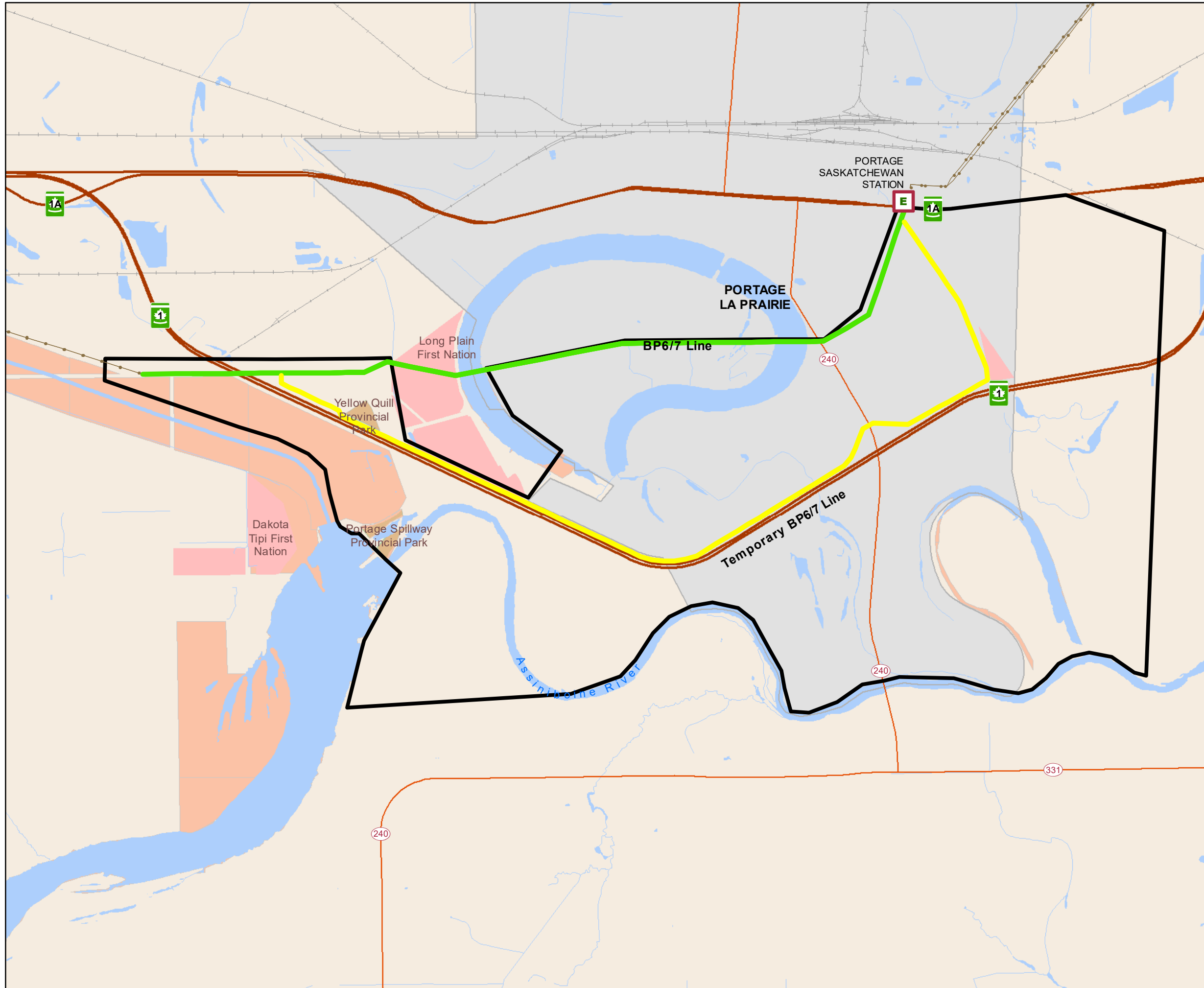
* Please note schedule is subject to change

BP6 / BP7 Transmission Lines Replacement Project

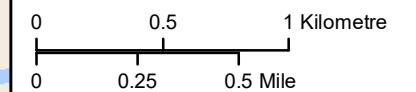
Legend

- Portage - Saskatchewan Station
- BP6 / BP7 Temporary Route
- BP6 / BP7 Storm Damaged
- Transmission Line
- Trans-Canada
- Provincial Road
- Railway
- Route Planning Area (area for rerouting BP6/BP7)
- City
- First Nation
- Provincial Crown Land
- Provincial Park

The map area shown overlaps with the Metis Harvesting Area



Coordinate System: UTM Zone 14N NAD83
 Data Source: MBHydro, ProvMB, NRCAN
 Date Created: July 20, 2020



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