

Dorsey to Wash'ake Mayzoon transmission line (D83W) project

Round 1 engagement summary

Growth in the Brandon and Portage la Prairie region, including the addition of new industrial customers, is increasing electricity demand. Manitoba Hydro is planning to build a new 230-kilovolt transmission line starting at Dorsey Converter Station (northwest of Winnipeg) and ending at the new, yet to be built, Wash'ake Mayzoon Station (west of Portage la Prairie) to meet the area's increasing electricity needs and enhance reliability for customers in Portage la Prairie and surrounding areas. To learn more, visit www.hydro.mb.ca/pace

This fall, landowners, Indigenous communities, local residents and interested parties were invited to participate in Round 1 engagement for the new D83W transmission line project. This feedback, along with input from other studies, will help inform final routing and design, which we expect to share more details on in the coming months. The following are some key insights from our Round 1 engagement.

Key engagement themes

Proximity to homes

Participants shared concerns about impacts to their homes and properties, such as the loss of use of land, and asked questions about easements and compensation. Some participants noted it would be overwhelming to have transmission lines located outside their homes and in their communities.

Routing

Participants shared perspectives on the alternative route segments presented. Some participants expressed a preference to route further north or south outside the study area, and other participants provided alternative segments for consideration through the mapping feedback portal. These suggestions were considered and evaluated when determining the final preferred route.

Agriculture

Participants shared concerns about impacts to agricultural activities, including pivot irrigation, aerial spraying, tile drainage, runways, biosecurity and associated economic impacts. Participants noted that there is a large amount of highly productive agricultural land in the project area.

Public engagement activities

- Online survey & mapping feedback portal
- 9 virtual information sessions
- 5 meetings with interested parties
- Attended in person sessions organized by the RM of Cartier and RM of St. François Xavier

First Nation and Métis engagement activities

- Sought feedback from eight First Nations, the Manitoba Métis Federation and the Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition through sharing information and holding virtual meetings.
- A series of heritage-focused workshops with interested First Nation communities and the MMF to further discuss key concerns that focused on heritage, cultural and archeological sites.
- Community-specific engagement initiatives undertaken by Community Coordinators from the Manitoba Métis Federation, Long Plain First Nation and Dakota Tipi First Nation providing valuable feedback to Manitoba Hydro on how to mitigate effects and support community interests.

Culture and heritage

Participants shared knowledge about the likelihood of finding cultural and heritage artifacts close to rivers, at old oxbow lakes and in areas north of Portage la Prairie. Participants shared it will be important to have a culturally specific approach to understanding project impacts and heritage resources.

Land and wildlife

Participants shared concerns about impacts to land and wildlife, including the potential removal of trees for the project, and shared that the rivers and creeks in the project area have high concentrations of birds and other wildlife. Participants also shared that the project area is a Métis harvesting area and that Crown land in the project area is used for practicing rights-based activities.

Health and safety

Participants shared concerns about the potential effects of electric and magnetic fields on human and animal health, as well as biosecurity concerns with the construction and maintenance of the transmission line on agricultural fields.

Key survey findings



79% of survey respondents noted they wanted Manitoba Hydro to consider impacts to agricultural activities



70% of survey respondents noted they wanted Manitoba Hydro to consider impacts related to the proximity of the transmission line to homes



65% of survey respondents noted they wanted Manitoba Hydro to consider impacts related to health and safety

Environmental assessment underway

An environmental assessment report, including the final preferred route for D83W, will be submitted to Manitoba Environment, Climate, and Parks for approval before construction work can begin.

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