

New station project

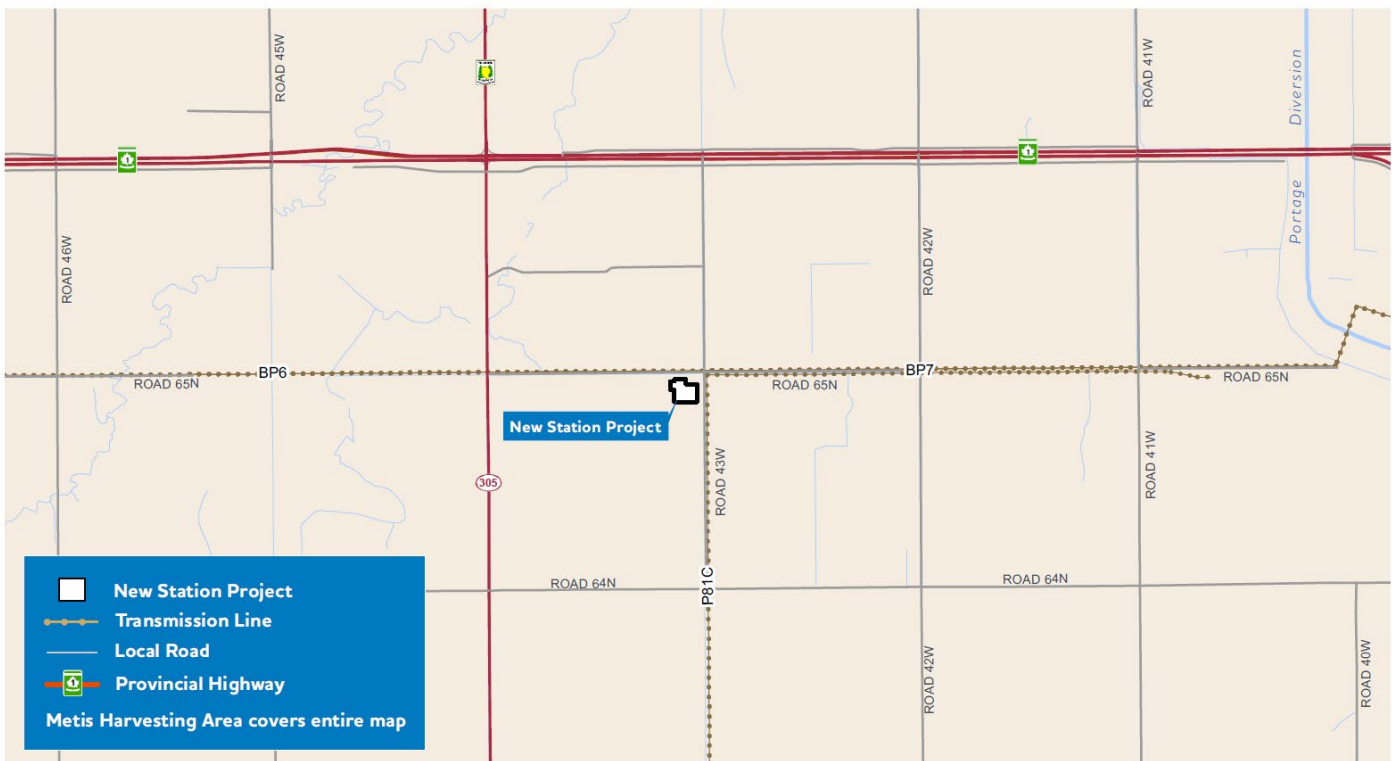
We know that safe, reliable supply of electricity today and into the future is important to our customers. That's why Manitoba Hydro is planning to build an electrical station west of the city of Portage la Prairie.

Why do we need it?

Growth in the Brandon and Portage la Prairie region, including the addition of new industrial customers, is increasing electricity demand. To meet these needs and help enhance electrical reliability, Manitoba Hydro requires a new station to deliver electricity from our 230-kilovolt transmission network into the regional 66-kilovolt distribution system.

Where is it?

The site for the electrical station is NE-26-11-8W (located approximately 1.5 kilometres east of Provincial Road 305 and 1.75 kilometres south of Highway 1).



Map of the new station

What do we need to build?

The electrical station will consist of transformers that reduce the voltage of electricity delivered by our transmission network so it can be distributed for local use. The station will be approximately 172m x 172m and will be fenced for public safety. The project will include a short double circuit transmission line to connect into the existing P81C Tap transmission line. This project is part of the Portage Area Capacity Enhancement (PACE) project, which includes planning for a future transmission line to further improve service around the region that would also connect to the station.

How did we determine a site for the station?

Manitoba Hydro sought to balance different concerns and preferences when locating the station. We considered:

- biophysical concerns (e.g. species at risk, wildlife),
- socio-economic aspects (e.g. heritage sites, subdivisions),
- project management (e.g. schedule, cost),
- property related concerns (e.g. land use, existing infrastructure),
- station layout and design (e.g. placement, access, future planning),
- transmission line planning and design (e.g. load concerns, future development, standards), and
- distribution line and station planning (e.g. road access, load growth needs).

The proposed site balances the above considerations and will best serve the communities benefitting from the enhanced reliability of their local electricity supply.

Are regulatory approvals required?

The development of the project will require a Class 2 Licence under *The Environment Act* (Manitoba).

The environmental assessment for the project will include:

- a description of the project, through construction, operation, and maintenance;
- a study area characterization;
- an outline of the public and Indigenous engagement processes, and the feedback received;
- 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.

Manitoba Hydro will develop and submit an environmental assessment report to the Environmental Approvals Branch of Manitoba Conservation and Climate for review.

When will the work happen?

The tentative schedule (subject to change) is:

- Site selected: June 2021
- Engagement begins: June 2021
- Environmental assessment report submitted: late summer 2021
- Licensing decision: early 2022
- If licence approved, construction spring 2023

For more information:

Visit www.hydro.mb.ca/pace to learn more and sign-up for updates. Send your questions to LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca or call 1-877-343-1631.

Available in accessible formats upon request.