

BRANDON-PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Engagement Feedback Summary

Key Engagement Themes

Agriculture

Participants 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.

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 was 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 continues to work with Indigenous communities to further mitigate effects to culture.

Heritage Resources

Participants shared concerns about potential cultural and heritage sites and expressed the need for diligent monitoring before and during construction for potential heritage findings. Manitoba Hydro conducted a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment along the final preferred route where new tower locations are being constructed. An opening ceremony and a closing ceremony was organized in collaboration with interested Indigenous communities, Elders, and Knowledge Holders engaged on the project.

Engagement Activities

In October 2019, a severe storm struck southern Manitoba, causing extensive damage to Manitoba Hydro's system. Parts of the BP6/BP7 transmission line between Brandon and Portage la Prairie required full reconstruction. Due to increased development and wider right-of-way requirements since the line's original construction, alternate routes were considered for the rebuild.

The project is classified as a Class 2 development under The Environment Act. Through our engagement process, we gathered feedback from landowners, Indigenous nations, local residents, and interested parties during the engagement processes for the project. This feedback, along with input from other studies, helped inform the environmental assessment report and identify mitigation measures for the project.

Next Steps

We thank everyone who provided their feedback and participated in the engagement process for this project. An environmental assessment report for this project was developed and submitted in 2021. A licence for the project was received in July 2022, and following Manitoba Environment and Climate Change's decision, we notified the engaged First Nations, the Manitoba Métis Federation, affected landowners, the Rural Municipalities and interested parties. We continue to keep engaged audiences informed about construction schedules and activities, while also engaging in ongoing discussions related to culture and heritage monitoring, as well as other project monitoring opportunities.

Engagement Activities

7 Virtual information sessions

36 Meetings with local governments, First Nations and the Manitoba Métis Federation

3 Indigenous Community and Assessment Coordinators

Contact us for related inquiries



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Timeline of Engagement Activities

Project Engagement

July 2020 - April 2021

- Round 1 engagement - identify and evaluate route options
 - October - November 2021
- Round 2 engagement - select preferred route
 - March 2021
- File environmental assessment report for regulatory review
 - April 2021

What we heard	How input was considered
Participants shared concerns about living near high voltage transmission lines and traffic collision risks with routing near the Trans-Canada Highway.	To address concerns about living near high voltage transmission lines, Manitoba Hydro designed the transmission line to meet international standards and guidelines set forth by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection for electric and magnetic fields. These guidelines have been adopted by Health Canada and the World Health Organization. To address traffic collision risks, the public will be made aware of construction activities through the project engagement process and through the provision of appropriate signage. Standard safety procedures, designated truck routes and signage will also be in place to mitigate potential effects of project traffic.
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 looked into shoreline erosion and whether it will influence tower design or placement. Erosion protection and sediment control measures will be implemented in areas near waterways.
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.

