

SILVER TO ROSSER TAP TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Engagement Feedback Summary

Key Engagement Themes

In April 2024, Manitoba Hydro invited representatives from the Manitoba Métis Federation, Peguis First Nation, the Rural Municipality of Gimli and the Rural Municipality of Armstrong, to attend a field tour and workshop to help evaluate the route options from the shared community perspective. Through this workshop, three values were identified as the most important features Manitoba Hydro should consider when routing the transmission line:

Culture and Heritage

First Nation and Métis participants shared that rightsholders use the area to practice rights-based activities and there is interest in identifying more specific sites for heritage investigations. Participants in the community perspective workshop identified areas of higher heritage potential along the preferred route and route planning area, and participants expressed interest in providing information and participating in heritage work.

Harvesting

Participants shared the importance of harvesting activities throughout the project area, including mushroom, wild raspberry, cranberry, and juniper picking areas near the preferred route. Participants also shared concerns about the presence of the transmission line affecting foraging and hunting activities.

Important Wildlife Areas

Participants expressed concerns regarding the potential impact on wildlife resulting from the removal of habitat along the line, highlighting concerns for certain species including eagles, red-headed woodpeckers, and the eastern whip-poor-will, due to the removal of mature forests.

Engagement Activities

The Silver to Rosser Tap project is a proposed transmission line to connect an existing transmission line (S65R) to Diageo Canada Inc.'s distillery facility in Gimli. This project will allow the Diageo Gimli distillery to reduce natural gas usage and use more hydroelectricity to power its facility. This project is classified as a Class 2 development under *The Environment Act*.

Through our engagement process, we reached out to First Nations, the Manitoba Métis Federation, rural municipalities, property owners, and interested parties, to share project information and seek feedback about the project.

Next Steps

We submitted the Environment Act Proposal with Manitoba Environment and Climate Change for regulatory review in August 2024 and are awaiting a licensing decision. Following Manitoba Environment and Climate Change's decision, we will notify the engaged audiences of the outcome. If we are granted a licence, we will keep our engagement audiences informed of construction schedules and activities, and plan to engage in further discussions about culture and heritage monitoring, and other project monitoring opportunities.

Engagement Activities


3 Virtual information sessions

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

2 Community open houses and info sessions

20 responses to the online survey and 3 responses to the feedback portal

Contact us for related inquiries

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Timeline of Engagement Activities

Project Engagement

February - August 2024

- Round 1 engagement - identify and evaluate route options
 - February - March 2024
- Round 2 engagement - select preferred route
 - June 2024 – July 2024
- File environmental assessment report for regulatory review
 - August 2024

What we heard	How input was considered
Concerns about the loss of aesthetic value from the presence of the transmission line, and the stress that property owners and residents may experience living close to a high voltage transmission line.	Stress and aesthetics were considered as part of the assessment of project impacts on community well-being in the environmental assessment report. We also considered proximity to homes throughout the routing process.
Participants shared that there was a potential nesting site for bald eagles and other species near the eastern edge of the Round 1 preferred route.	The preferred route was adjusted to use alternative segments 3 & 4 to avoid the nesting site.
Participants identified areas of higher heritage potential along the preferred route and route planning area. Participants shared concerns regarding standards set by the Historic Resources Branch, sharing that they feel these standards are the minimum, and they would like to see more robust analysis of areas of concern.	Manitoba Hydro understands and acknowledges the importance of cultural and heritage sites. Manitoba Hydro thanked participants for sharing any information on sensitive sites to be considered in the routing process, and continues to welcome suggestions and feedback on approaches to culture and heritage.
Participants shared concerns related to the removal of vegetation, highlighting concerns for certain species including eagles, red-headed woodpeckers, and the eastern whip-poor-will.	Protected bird nests, including red-headed woodpecker nest cavities will be buffered and left undisturbed until unoccupied. If required, nest removal permits will be requested from regulatory authorities, where additional mitigation measures may be required (i.e., artificial nest platform or cavity site).
Some participants expressed interest in holding a town hall for engagement events, so that participants could all receive the same information and hear what one another had to say.	In person open houses were held in both Round 1 and Round 2 engagement opportunities. One of the benefits of an open house is that it provides the opportunity for participants to engage in two-way dialogue with a Manitoba Hydro representative. Additionally, an open house approach allows for participants to attend the session at a time that is most convenient for them rather than at a set time. Manitoba Hydro has attempted to create a safe space for individuals to participate in the engagement process through opting for the come-and-go open house format, which provides opportunity for one-on-one conversations as well as group discussions, and recognizes that different participants may have different preferences related to formats of engagement. Manitoba Hydro also followed up with participants who provided their email addresses after the open house with a summary report of the feedback and concerns shared.



Silver to Rosser tap transmission line

Round 1 engagement summary - what we heard

Summary

The Silver to Rosser tap is a new proposed transmission line to connect an existing transmission line (S65R) to Diageo Canada Inc.'s distillery facility in Gimli. Earlier this year, we reached out to First Nations, the Manitoba Métis Federation, Rural Municipalities, property owners and interested parties to share information and seek feedback about the project.

Key engagement themes

Vegetation

- Clearance of trees, plants, wetland, medicines
- Use of herbicides for vegetation management

Wildlife & wildlife habitat

- Increase in invasive species
- Impacts to birds
- Removal of habitat through vegetation clearing

Property

- Perceived negative impacts to property values
- Restricts future development potential of property

Land & resource use

- Reduces ability to use
- property for recreational purposes
- Disruptions to
- agriculture and livestock
- Impacts to harvesting
-

Health & well-being

- Exposure to EMF and impacts on people and the environment
- Lack of benefits to communities

Access

- Changes in access through new right-of-way
- Trespassing on private property

Tranquility

- Noise during construction and operation/maintenance
- Impacts to aesthetics from presence of the line

Heritage

- Interest in conducting independent heritage studies
- Potential sites with heritage concerns

Engagement activities to date

Round 1 engagement on the routing options for the line from February to March 2024 and included:

- 2 virtual information sessions
- 6 meetings with local governments, First Nations and the Manitoba Métis Federation.
- In-person open house in Fraserwood.
- Online survey & feedback portal.



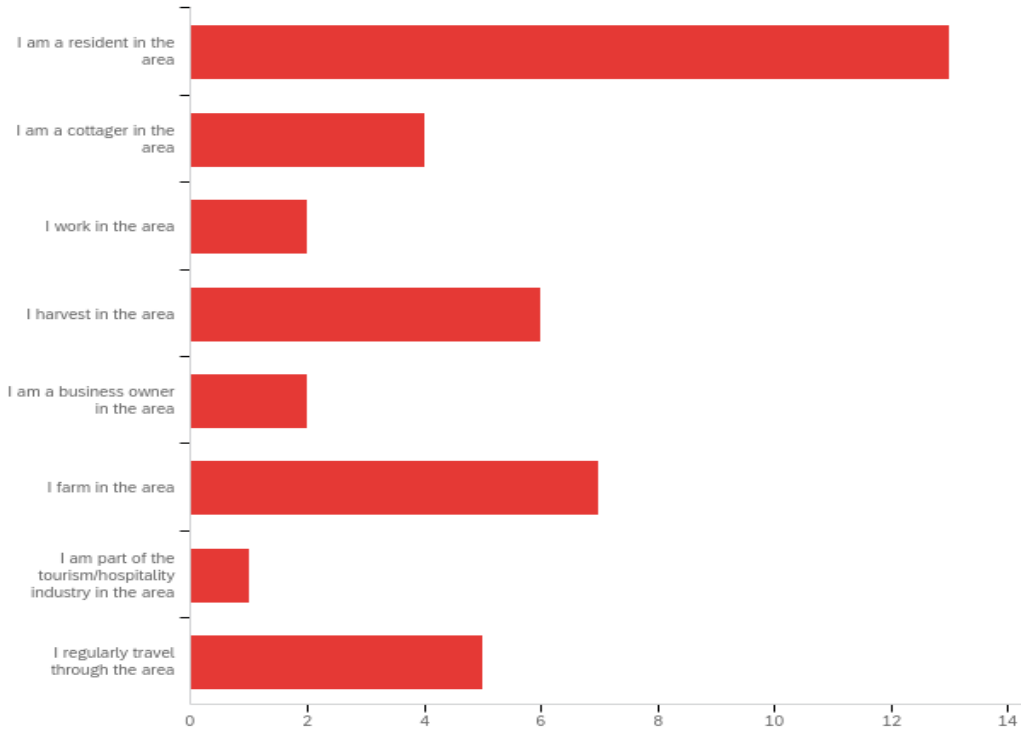
Environmental assessment underway

We are developing an environmental assessment report for the transmission line. We will be submitting this report to Manitoba Environment and Climate Change for approval before construction work on the transmission line can begin.

Round 1 engagement survey results

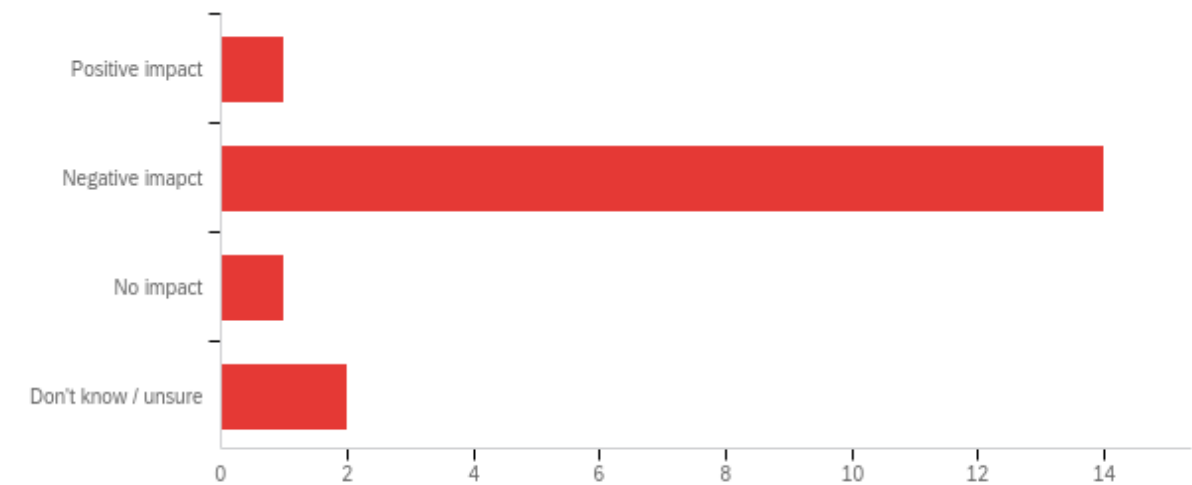
Silver to Rosser tap round 1 engagement survey results summary

Question 1: What is your connection to the project area*?



*Participants were able to select multiple options

Question 2: What type of impact do you think the project may have on you?



Positive impacts identified:

- Reductions to natural gas usage

Negative impacts identified:

- EMF effects on humans and the environment
- Loss of forest
- Disruptions to wildlife populations (e.g., deer, sandhill cranes)
 - Loss of habitat and increases in fragmentation
- Disruptions to farmland
- Noise during construction and maintenance
- Corona Effect (noise from a transmission line while in service).
- Loss of aesthetic value
- Disturbances to wetland habitat
- Concerns about using chemicals to control vegetation
- Impacts to drainage
- Increased likelihood of trespassing on private property
- Proliferation of invasive and nuisance species which creates a loss of biodiversity
- Limited use for recreational purposes on private property such as model rockets, kites, drones, model airplanes
- Impacts to property value

Suggestions to address the negative impacts:

- Explore other forms of electricity such as geothermal, renewable natural gas, H2 blending with natural gas, or solar panels.
- Consider using existing rights-of-way so less trees need to be cleared.
- Consider alternate routes to avoid disruptions to wildlife, homeowners, and farmers.
- Choose preferred route instead of alternative routes.
- Use alternative route 4 and 2
- Complete a public/private cost benefit analysis

Explanation of uncertainty:

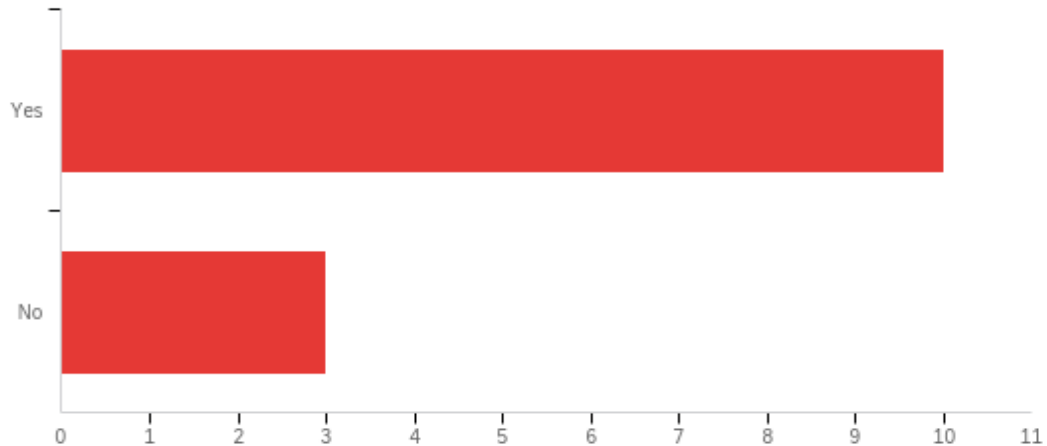
- Depends on where the line is placed.
- Questions around lowering property value, if machinery will be able to go under the line, how landowners will be compensated, construction activities, clean up after constructions activities, and revegetation.

Question 3: Which route (s) do you prefer and why?

- None
- The alternative route so the power lines are far away from the landowner's property.
- The alternative route because less destruction to existing homeowners and farming locations.
- The alternative route will have fewer negative effects on farmers in the area.
- The preferred route.
- Neither

- The preferred route.
- Alternate route 2 & 4.
- Neither. Manitoba Hydro should be considering alternative route options.

Question 4: Do you have concerns with the preferred route or alternative route segments?



Question 5: Which route (s) do you have concerns with and why?

- All routes.
- I am concerned with the preferred route since the power line would be beside my property and EMF is not good for the trees and living things nearby.
- All routes are problematic and disruptive to migratory birds, deer populations, farming and land/homeowners. Consider the installation of the line along a major roadway.
- All routes.
- The preferred route section from distillery property NW corner to PTH 8. Cuts through property and mature bush.
- All routes because of the impacts to landowners and the environment.
- All routes because of the intrusive nature of transmission line clearance to remove natural habitat for wildlife and migratory birds, clear dense treed areas and impact animal grazing and crop farming for a single company is alarming. The destruction of unaltered environments and properties so that a reduction (not even an elimination) will be realized is truly concerning given the significant investment that will be required.

Question 6: Do you have any other questions or concerns about the project?

Question / Concern	Manitoba Hydro Response
Will landowners receive compensation if the selected route goes through their property?	Compensation for future potential losses to landowners is built-in to the land easement. Once a preferred route is identified Manitoba Hydro will discuss compensation one-on-one with landowners.
I am concerned the route planning area will be increased.	The route planning area shown on the map is the maximum spatial extent Manitoba Hydro is considering for routing the transmission line.
Is this project strictly for switching energy types or do they plan a further expansion of the operation?	Manitoba Hydro is not aware of any further expansion of Diageo's operations.
Why have no other sources or tie in points to existing infrastructure been identified in the figure provided?	The routes shown on the map are the current feasible alternatives that Manitoba Hydro is considering. Participants can also propose alternative segments using the online mapping feedback portal or by drawing alternatives on a map. These route options will be considered through the same routing process as route options prepared by Manitoba Hydro.
Why has an existing right of way not been selected as the preferred route?	There are no existing rights-of-way that would be compatible for routing the transmission line. Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure has a control zone around Highway 8, which limits future development in proximity to the highway. Also, the existing line running along Highway 8 is a 66kV sub-transmission line, which does not have adequate capacity for Diageo's operations. Moreover, the current study area was selected based on the need to balance infrastructure costs with impacts to the environment and surrounding community.
What is the total cost of the project and what benefits and agreements are in place between Diageo and Manitoba Hydro?	<p>Manitoba Hydro does not currently have a publicly available estimate for the overall cost of the project. This is a customer-driven project, so Diageo is responsible for the material and labour costs associated with the project. Manitoba Hydro is responsible for the licensing, construction and maintenance of the transmission line.</p> <p>Within certain terms and conditions, and legislation set out in the <i>Manitoba Hydro Act</i>, Manitoba Hydro has a duty to serve all applicants of power within the province of Manitoba.</p>
If the project is for a private company, why are landowners to bear the impacts?	Compensation for future potential losses to landowners is built-in to the land easement. Once

Question / Concern	Manitoba Hydro Response
	a preferred route is identified Manitoba Hydro will discuss compensation one-on-one with landowners.
How much profit does Manitoba Hydro anticipate over the lifecycle of the project?	Manitoba Hydro does not have a publicly available estimate for any profits that may be generated from this project. Within certain terms and conditions, and legislation set out in the <i>Manitoba Hydro Act</i> , Manitoba Hydro has a duty to serve all applicants of power within the province of Manitoba.
What is the carbon footprint for the life cycle of this project and how does it relate to the carbon emissions of the status quo?	Diageo provided Manitoba Hydro with details regarding the carbon footprint and that the project will reduce carbon emissions by 83% by July 2026 at Gimli, with the full elimination of carbon emissions by 2028 as well as create local and regional air quality benefits. This is equivalent to taking 7,441 cars off the road per year.
Is the project planned to support future development at Diageo?	Manitoba Hydro does not know of any information about future development at the Diageo Gimli distillery.
What options do landowners have to refuse an easement on their property?	Manitoba Hydro will make every effort to work with landowners to mitigate any project impacts on their property and will work to reach a mutually beneficial agreement through easements.
Who is conducting the Environmental Assessment?	Manitoba Hydro is preparing the environmental assessment using in-house expertise with support from consultants for heritage work and field surveys.
Will the project have a clean Environment Commission Hearing?	The Minister of Environment and Climate Change decides whether a public hearing will be held.
When and how will the transmission line be decommissioned?	The transmission line design would be built to have a 75-year lifespan but can be maintained for longer. Information regarding decommissioning will be included and assessed in the environmental assessment for the project.
What mitigation or habitat compensation does Manitoba Hydro provide for loss of habitat? How are migratory birds and species at risk habitat identified and protected?	<p>Manitoba Hydro protects species at risk and critical habitats in accordance with provincial and federal legislations and guidelines. We will work to mitigate project effects on habitat by developing a project-specific environmental protection plan. Mitigation measures may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees containing large nests of sticks and areas where active animal dens or burrows are encountered within the right-

Question / Concern	Manitoba Hydro Response
	<p>of-way will be left undisturbed until unoccupied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial structures for nesting may be provided if unoccupied nests must be removed. • Clearing activities will not be carried out during reduced risk timing windows for wildlife species without additional mitigation, such as bird nest sweeps. • To reduce the potential for collisions with wires following wire installation, bird diverters will be placed at designated environmentally sensitive sites.
What type of towers will be used?	Most towers will be “Gulfport” style, which is the same towers design as the existing S65R line.
What is the distance between the towers?	The approximate distance between the towers would be 250m. This would vary based on the final route, corners, crossings, terrain and other obstacles.
What is the width of the right of way that is cleared and maintained?	The width of the right of way would be 40 meters.
How does Manitoba Hydro protect property owners from trespassing due to right of way access?	Manitoba Hydro would work with property owners to identify any access concerns along the right-of-way and will identify appropriate access management, including fencing, signage, or other mitigation measures acceptable to the landowners.
What mitigation is provided for landowners for the loss of use and enjoyment of their property, lost opportunities for future use and development, etc.	Compensation for future potential losses to landowners is built-in to the land easement. Once a preferred route is identified Manitoba Hydro will discuss compensation one-on-one with landowners.