

Public Open House St. Vital Transmission Complex - Preferred Route

Welcome

Purpose of the Open House

- Present findings of Round 1 engagement process
- Present the preferred route
- Answer questions
- Address outstanding concerns
- Provide opportunity to discuss potential effects and possible mitigation measures to minimize effects

Project Overview

The project includes the construction of two 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines, both originating at the St. Vital Station located in southeastern Winnipeg.

- One line will run south to Letellier Station
 - Required to accommodate growth
- One line will run west to La Verendrye Station
 - Required to improve reliability and performance

Environmental Assessment Process

Environmental assessment generally consists of:

- Characterizing the environment.
- Identifying potential effects on people and the environment.
- Determining methods to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects while enhancing beneficial effects.



Pasture located southeast of Rosa.



Unnamed wetland located near Tourond.

Environmental Assessment – VECs

The environmental assessment determines Valued Environmental Components (VECs).

- VEC definition: any part of the environment that is considered important by the proponent, public, scientists and government involved in the assessment process. Importance may be determined on the basis of societal or cultural values, scientific interest or concern. These are selected by:
 - Experience from other, similar projects.
 - Discipline specialists.
 - Input from interested stakeholders and the public.
- Some VECs being assessed include:
 - Human health.
 - Aboriginal lands.
 - Public safety.
 - Wildlife habitat .



Cairn, near Senkiw.

Environmental Assessment Findings

Discipline specialists have undertaken baseline evaluations:

Amphibians/ Invertebrates

- 3 species of concern (listed under Schedule 1, SARA (Species at Risk Act)).

Mammals

- Small mammals such as badger, ground squirrel and skunk are found throughout the study area.
- Large mammals confined to treed river valleys in eastern extreme of study area.

Birds

- Over 200 bird species in study area
- Limited high quality habitat
- 15 “at risk” species present in study area both provincially and federally.

Engagement Process

Round 1 - August, 2013

- Introduce the project.
- Present alternative routes.
- Answer questions.
- Identify and document concerns.
- Use input to guide preferred route selection process.



Round 2 - October/November, 2013

- Present findings of Round 1.
- Present the preferred route.
- Answer questions.
- Identify and document outstanding concerns.
- Provide opportunity to discuss potential effects and possible mitigation measures to minimize effects.

Input was also gained through:

- Initial stakeholder meetings or discussions.
- Key person interviews (KPI).
- Workshops.
- Comments received by telephone, email and on the project web page.

Engagement Processes and Route Selection

- **Mapping stations and comment forms at public open houses and telephone line and project email:**
 - allowed people to indicate both their issues and concerns, and their preferred route segments.
 - some adjustments to routes were proposed.
- **Workshops:**
 - allowed participants to work together to identify issues and concerns, constraints, and opportunities related to alternative routes, as well as preferred routes.
 - some adjustments to routes were proposed.
- **Key Person Interviews and stakeholder meetings:**
 - participants indicated their issues and concerns.

Findings from the Engagement Process – Round 1

Comment/Concern	How was the feedback incorporated?
Potential impacts to aerial application	Structure height in agricultural areas will be minimized to the extent possible to mimic heights of distribution lines. Air strip locations were identified, incorporated into early planning and avoided as much as possible in final route selection.
Impacts to agricultural operations	We will avoid half-mile (quarter section) alignments where possible. Guyed-wire structures are not being considered for this project. A tubular steel H-frame design, which has a smaller footprint than self-supporting or guyed structures, will be utilized.
Potential affect on livestock, particularly dairy cattle, e.g., tingle voltage	Tingle voltage tends to occur with faulted distribution lines as opposed to transmission lines. Livestock operators are encouraged to contact Manitoba Hydro if they notice tingle voltage occurring so that the source can be identified.
Will I be compensated if the transmission line is on my land?	Manitoba Hydro provides a one-time compensation payment for transmission line easements (75 per cent of market value), as well as one-time structure payment related to loss of annual production. We also compensate landowners for any damages which may occur through the construction and operation of the line.
Locate transmission line infrastructure adjacent to linear infrastructure such as provincial and municipal highways and roads and drains in order to reduce land requirements.	Existing corridors and linear features were identified as routing opportunities in the route selection process and are being taken advantage of where possible. We will consult with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT) on future planning before developing alignments near PTH 75, PTH 59 and PTH 52.
Transmission tower aesthetics	Towers that will be placed adjacent to existing towers will have similar spacing and heights.
Potential impact on wildlife, including birds, vegetation, riparian area, endangered species and wetlands	The environmental assessment process will identify potential environmental sensitivities and will prescribe appropriate mitigation measures.
Avoid heritage sites.	The environmental assessment process will identify heritage resources, including archaeological sites, which will be avoided.
Perceived health effects due to electric and magnetic fields (EMF)	Information will continue to be provided in the public engagement process and these concerns will be addressed in the environmental assessment process. Health Canada, the World Health Organization, and other international health entities have noted that no scientific evidence suggests that exposure to EMF will cause any negative health effects on humans, vegetation and wild or domestic animals.
Transmission line rights-of-way become areas for growth of noxious weeds and potential bio-security issues	We will take necessary precautions as part of construction of the project to minimize the risk of invasive plants and diseases spreading. Manitoba Hydro is currently developing a bio-security policy.

Route Selection Process

EPRI-GTC methodology* includes:

- Earlier stakeholder input into the route selection process to help guide alternative route selection.
- Consideration of engineering, natural and built environments.

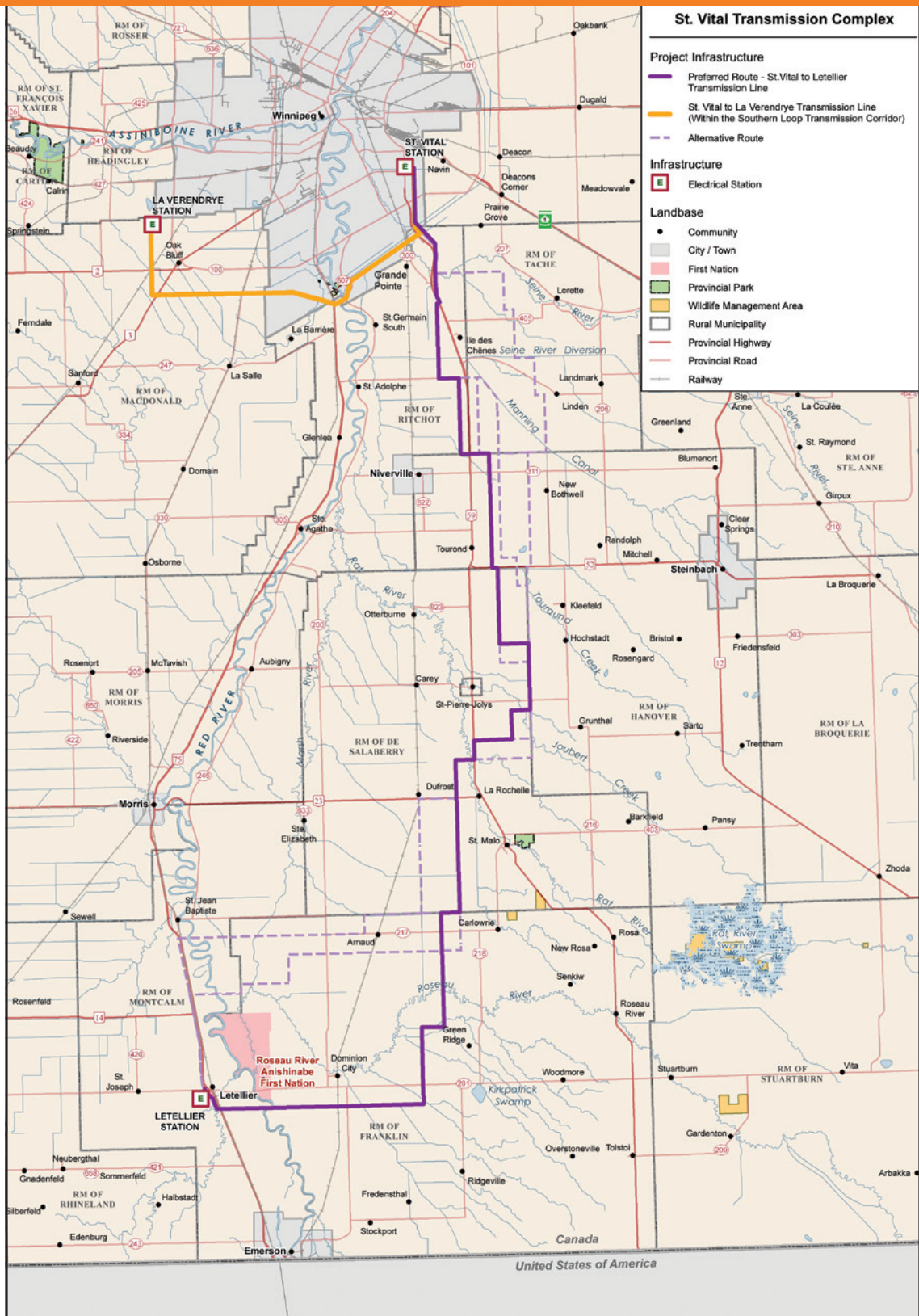
Some stakeholders included:

- Ducks Unlimited.
- MAFRI (Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives).
- Conservation Districts.
- Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation.
- Manitoba Trappers Association.

* Electrical Power Research Institute



Alternative Routes and Preferred Route



Coordinate System: UTM Zone 14N NAD83
 Data Source: MB Hydro, ProvAMB, NRCAN
 Date Created: October 16, 2013



Preferred Route

Preferred Route Selection

- All route segments (existing and proposed) are evaluated.
- Incorporates input received from stakeholders in the routing phase, local residents and land owners.
- Four route segments provided by the public in Round 1 are part of the preferred route.
- Preferred route is then presented to the public for further adjustment to finalize for regulatory review.

Preferred Route Determination

- **Criteria were used to compare and select a preferred route for the St. Vital Transmission Complex.**
- **Criteria considered:**
 - Cost.
 - Community values.
 - Environmental concerns.
 - Schedule risk.
 - Reliability.

Timelines and Next Steps

**October/
November**

- Round 2 public open house events
- Ongoing design and environmental assessment

**January
2014**

- Anticipated submission of environmental assessment to Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship and posting on public registry

Mid-2016

- Anticipated in-service date for St. Vital to Letellier Transmission Project.
- Anticipated project completion is 2017.

The Project team wants to hear from you

- Manitoba Hydro representatives are available to answer questions.
- Please take a moment to complete a comment sheet so the study team can document your concerns.
- Display boards and the comment form are also available at **www.hydro.mb.ca/stvital**.

Public Open House St. Vital Transmission Complex

**Thank you for attending
and providing your feedback.**