

# **St. Vital Transmission Project (Y36V)**

## **St. Vital to Laverendrye Transmission Line**

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### **Construction Access Management Plan**

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# Preface

This document presents the Construction Access Management Plan (the Plan) for the construction of the St. Vital Transmission Project (the Project). It is intended to provide information and instruction to Manitoba Hydro employees as well as contractors, regulators and members of the public. The Plan provides regulatory context as well as general considerations and guidance pertinent to how Manitoba Hydro will access the Right of way (ROW) during the construction phase in the Project area within Manitoba. Manitoba Hydro employees and contractors are encouraged to contact the onsite Manitoba Hydro Environmental Inspector/Officer if they require information, clarification or support. Regulators and the Public are to direct any inquiries about this Plan to:

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# Table of contents

1.0	Introduction.....	6
1.1	Commitment to environmental protection.....	7
1.1	Purpose and objectives.....	8
1.2	Roles and responsibilities.....	8
2.0	Implementation.....	12
2.1	Construction access management plan coverage.....	12
2.2	Identification of potential construction access opportunities.....	12
2.3	Transmission line construction access opportunities .....	13
2.4	Access mitigation measures.....	13
2.5	By-pass routes and trails .....	13
2.6	Traffic safety and access management mechanisms overview .....	15
2.6.1	Access allowance.....	16
2.6.2	Recreational vehicles.....	17
2.6.3	Temporary work camp sites, marshalling yards and borrow pits .....	17
2.6.4	Compliance .....	18
2.7	Education and training.....	18
2.8	Access rehabilitation.....	19

## Figures

Figure 1: Transmission Environmental Protection Program .....	7
Figure 2: Environmental communication reporting structure .....	9
Figure 3: By-pass trail/access route siting and approval process on Crown land .....	14

## Tables

Table 1: Key roles and responsibilities .....	10
Table 2: Access allowance and authorization in active construction areas .....	17

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# Definitions

**Approach:** These are either temporary or permanent structures to allow access through a ditch or drain.

**Access Point:** These are locations where the ROW intersects an existing road, highway or trail.

**Access Route:** These are roads, and trails that facilitate access from a Provincial Road or Highway, they are primarily existing, however new access routes may be developed, new developed access routes are primarily trails less than 15 m in width construction.

**Right of Way Access Trail:** This access trail is along the entire length of the ROW and is approximately 15m in width, typically centered in the ROW to accommodate construction activities and allow access around towers and stringing equipment. The ROW access trail is not a continually active road and not constructed (no cut and fill, soil storage or use of gravel base) or maintained as such during operations.

**By-Pass Trail:** This type of trail is typically outside the ROW and less than 15m in width and vary in length depending on obstacle on the ROW being avoided ( i.e. unfrozen wetland, steep slope). A By-Pass Trail is not a continually active road and not constructed (no cut and fill, soil storage or use of gravel base) or maintained as such during operations.

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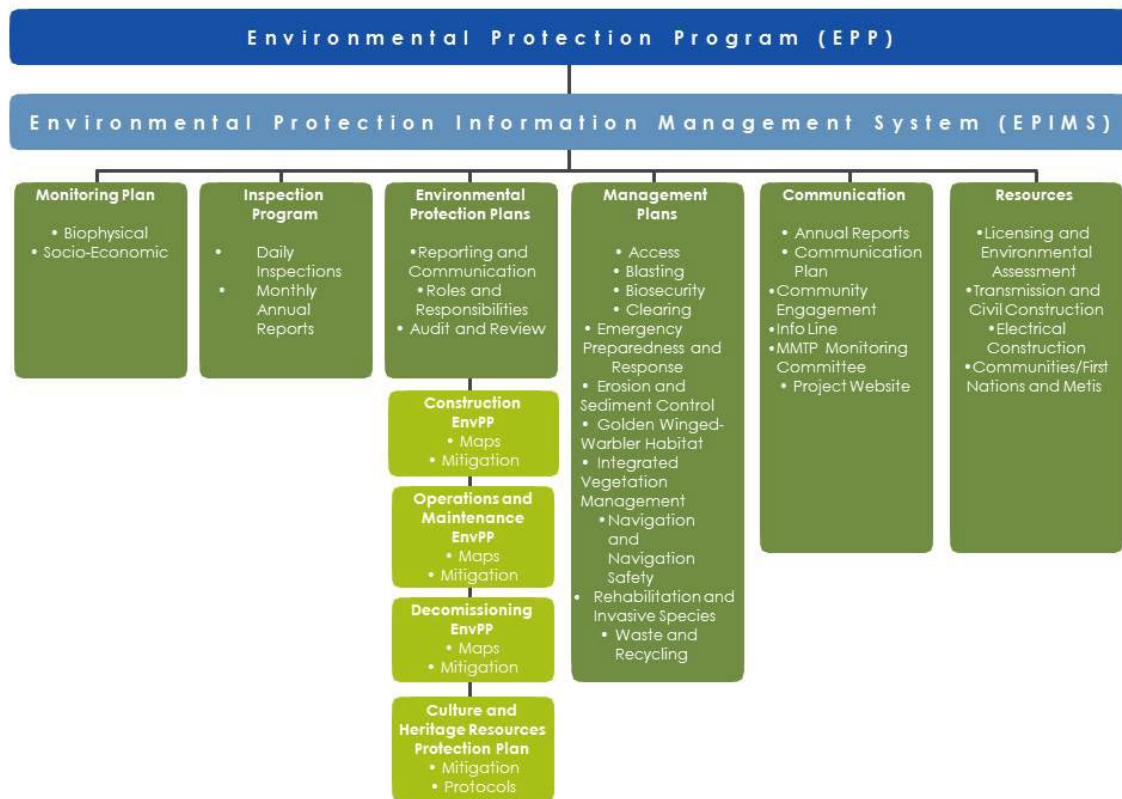
## List of acronyms

AC	Alternating current
AMP	Access Management Plan
ATK	Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge
ATV	All-terrain Vehicle
CEnvPP	Construction Environmental Protection Plan
ESS	Environmentally Sensitive Site
kV	Kilovolt
ORV	Off-road Vehicle
PR	Provincial Road
PTH	Provincial Trunk Highway
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
ROW	Right-of-way
MH	Manitoba Hydro

## 1.0 Introduction

Consistent with its corporate Environmental Management Policy, Manitoba Hydro has committed within the St. Vital Transmission Project Environmental Assessment Report to managing construction access as part of a larger suite of mitigation measures to minimize potential negative environmental and socio-economic effects. This access management plan (AMP) is designed to accomplish this goal. . General and site specific access management mitigation strategies are detailed in the St. Vital Transmission Project Construction Environmental Protection Plan (CEnvPP).

Manitoba Hydro's Environmental Protection Program (EPP) provides the framework for the delivery, management and monitoring of environmental and socio-economic protection measures that satisfy corporate policies and commitments, regulatory requirements, environmental protection guidelines and best practices, and input during the Public Engagement Process (PEP) and First Nation and Metis Engagement Process (FNMEP). The Program describes how Manitoba Hydro is organized and functions to deliver timely, effective, and comprehensive solutions and mitigation measures to address potential environmental effects. This AMP is a component of the EPP as illustrated in Figure 1.



**Figure 1: Transmission Environmental Protection Program**

In this document access management for the Project is considered only during the construction phase of the development. The implementation of this AMP requires the performance of tasks prior to and during construction.

## 1.1 Commitment to environmental protection

Manitoba Hydro integrates environmentally responsible practices in all aspects of our business. Environmental protection can only be achieved with the involvement of Manitoba Hydro employees, consultants, contractors, Indigenous communities and organizations and the public at all stages of the Project from planning and design through construction and operational phases.

The use of an AMP is a practical and direct implementation of Manitoba Hydro's environmental policy and its commitment to responsible environmental and social

stewardship. It is a proactive approach to manage potential effects of access related to the construction of a new transmission line and minimizes the needs for site rehabilitation and invasive species management as well as minimizing the impacts on cultural and heritage resources.

Manitoba Hydro is committed to implementing this AMP and requiring Contractors to follow the terms of this and other applicable plans within the Environmental Protection Program.

## **1.1 Purpose and objectives**

The AMP is intended to address concerns regarding the preservation of environmental, socio-economic, cultural and heritage values within the Projects' area of direct impacts. The focus of this AMP is on the construction phase of the Project.

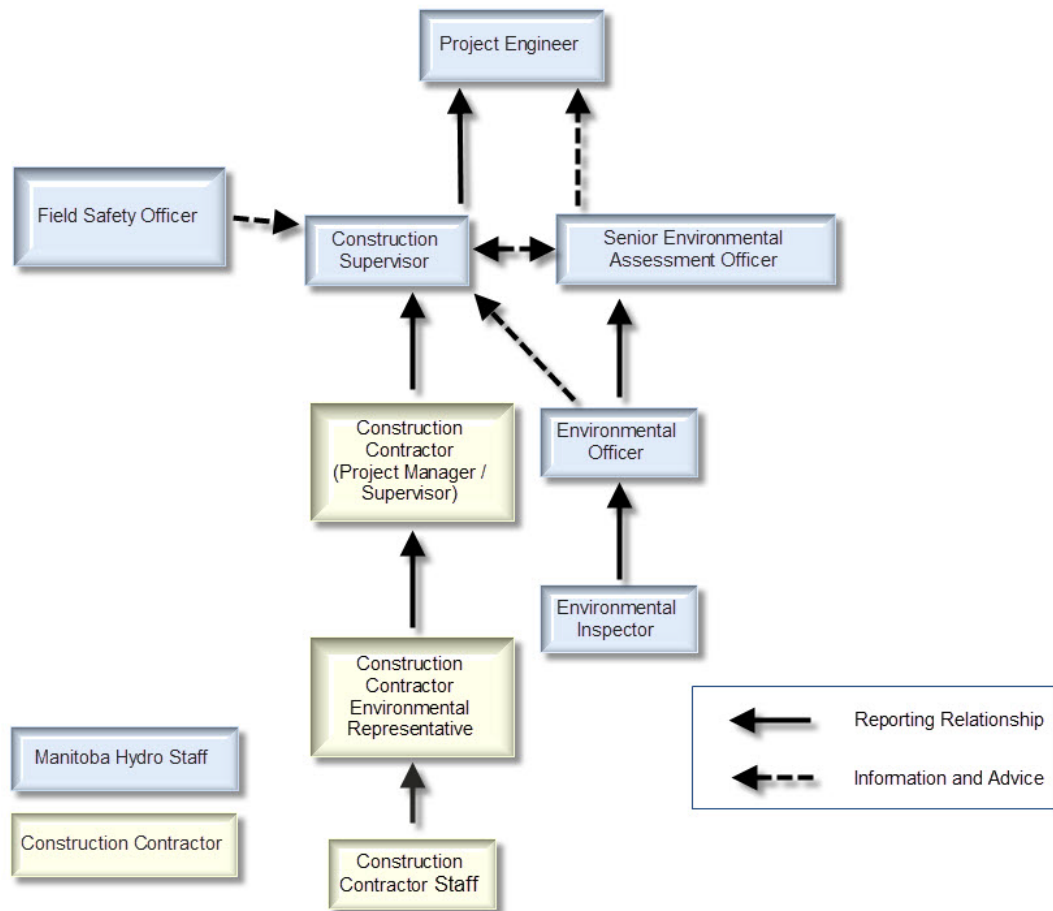
The objectives of the AMP are to:

- Provide for safe, coordinated access onto and along the Project construction site for Project workers.
- Support sustainable use through the protection of natural resources within the Project area.
- Support the preservation of socio-economic, cultural, spiritual and heritage values within the Project area.
- Allow Manitoba Hydro staff and contractors to construct the Project year round (where applicable).
- Provide security for Project personnel and property.
- Prescribe strategies and mitigation measures to minimize potential negative direct and indirect effects of Project access.

## **1.2 Roles and responsibilities**

A successful construction program requires commitment and cooperation from all participants. Instrumental for those involved is to fully understand their roles, responsibilities and lines of communication within the Project. For purposes of implementing this AMP, responsibilities rest with Manitoba Hydro's Construction Supervisor, Senior Environmental Assessment Officer, Construction/Environmental Inspectors, and the Construction Contractors' Project Manager/Supervisor, and

Environmental Officer/Supervisor. The communication and reporting structure is detailed in Figure 2. Their key responsibilities are shown in Table 1.



**Figure 2: Environmental communication reporting structure**

Table 1: Key roles and responsibilities

Role	Key responsibilities
Manitoba Hydro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides advice and guidance on access management and environmental protection matters</li> <li>• Issues environmental improvement and stop work orders as required for non-compliance issues</li> <li>• Responsible for the inspection of compliance with CEnvPP</li> <li>• Seeks approval for any Access Routes or By-pass trails from Landowner.</li> <li>• Liaises with regional regulatory authorities and other regulatory authorities where required or applicable</li> <li>• Responsible for implementing compliance inspection to ensure consistent and accurate reporting into EPIMS</li> <li>• Responsible for MH Project staff compliance with Access Management Plan</li> <li>• Ensures construction contractor(s) implementation of remedial actions, responses to non-compliance situations or incidents are implemented as required</li> <li>• Ensures that appropriate authorities are notified in emergency or incident situations</li> <li>• Implement Invasive Species Management Treatment Options where required</li> </ul>

Table 1: Key roles and responsibilities

Role	Key responsibilities
Construction contractor(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountable for all regulatory and environmental prescriptions (i.e., follow CEnvPP and mitigation measures prescribed)</li> <li>• Ensure all contractor project staff are adequately trained/informed of pertinent access requirements of the Project related to their position</li> <li>• Report any discoveries of non-compliance, accidents or incidents to the construction supervisor and environmental inspector/officer</li> <li>• Ensure that all remedial actions are carried out as per Manitoba Hydro instruction</li> <li>• Ensures contractor staff utilize only approved access as per Construction Environmental Protection Plan Mapbook</li> <li>• Ensures all discoveries of heritage resources, human remains, paleontological finds, environmentally sensitive sites, etc. are reported to supervisor or contractor's environmental representative</li> <li>• Responsible for implementation, coordination and verification of pre-project employee environmental orientation.</li> <li>• Ensures that the contractor employees adhere to all aspects of the AMP.</li> <li>• Sign and/or flag all access approaches, points, routes, bypass trails in the field as per flagging and signage standards.</li> <li>• Communicate any access related issues and/or concerns to Manitoba Hydro Environmental Officer</li> </ul>

## 2.0 Implementation

This section discusses the proposed access strategies for construction purposes and describes the proposed access routes to be used for construction.

### 2.1 Construction access management plan coverage

From a geographic perspective the scope of this AMP includes the Project's transmission construction site (i.e., rights-of-way, camps, marshalling yards, borrow pits and access trails specifically constructed for Project purposes). Public access restrictions are primarily limited to the "active" construction site, for reasons of safety, and will generally not interfere with traditional traffic patterns.

This AMP also addresses Project specific issues relating to existing provincial and municipal roads and concerns relating to private lands within Manitoba Hydro's control. Manitoba Hydro will minimize damage to infrastructure and private lands from its activities, and where possible, limit third party access to the active construction site. Of greatest concern are areas with environmental sensitivities, and areas of work force concentrations (e.g. camps, marshalling yards).

### 2.2 Identification of potential construction access opportunities

Manitoba Hydro has conducted a survey along the final preferred route to identify all potential construction access opportunities to the ROW using existing roads and trails.

These access opportunities outlined in Construction Environmental Protection Plan Mapbook have been selected based on the following criteria:

- To provide reasonable and safe entrance and egress to the Transmission Line ROW while minimizing disruption to Provincial, Municipal and private roads along with trails and private property.
- To ensure that there a minimum of one access point to get to any given location on the ROW.
- To provide good visibility for upcoming traffic at each access point turn off from existing roads and trails.
- To minimize the number of new access ditch crossings and potential culverts where the ROW intersects existing roads or trails by utilizing existing crossings if available



within the ROW. If there is an existing crossing outside of the ROW within reasonable distance from the ROW, obtain permission to utilize crossing from owner.

- Minimize the use of existing access routes in heavily populated residential areas.
- Minimize the use of private roads and trails

## **2.3 Transmission line construction access opportunities**

Manitoba Hydro and its contractors will use existing roads, trails and linear features where possible for accessing the Project construction site. To facilitate this, Manitoba Hydro has identified existing strategic access routes relative to the construction site and major roads to guide construction planners and contractors.

The Construction Environmental Protection Plan Mapbook illustrates the existing access opportunities (i.e., intersections between the proposed ROW and existing highways, roads, trails and linear features) that minimize the need for new access development to access the ROWs. The AMP will restrict Manitoba Hydro and its contractors to use the identified access options, thereby minimizing Project effects as they relate to access.

## **2.4 Access mitigation measures**

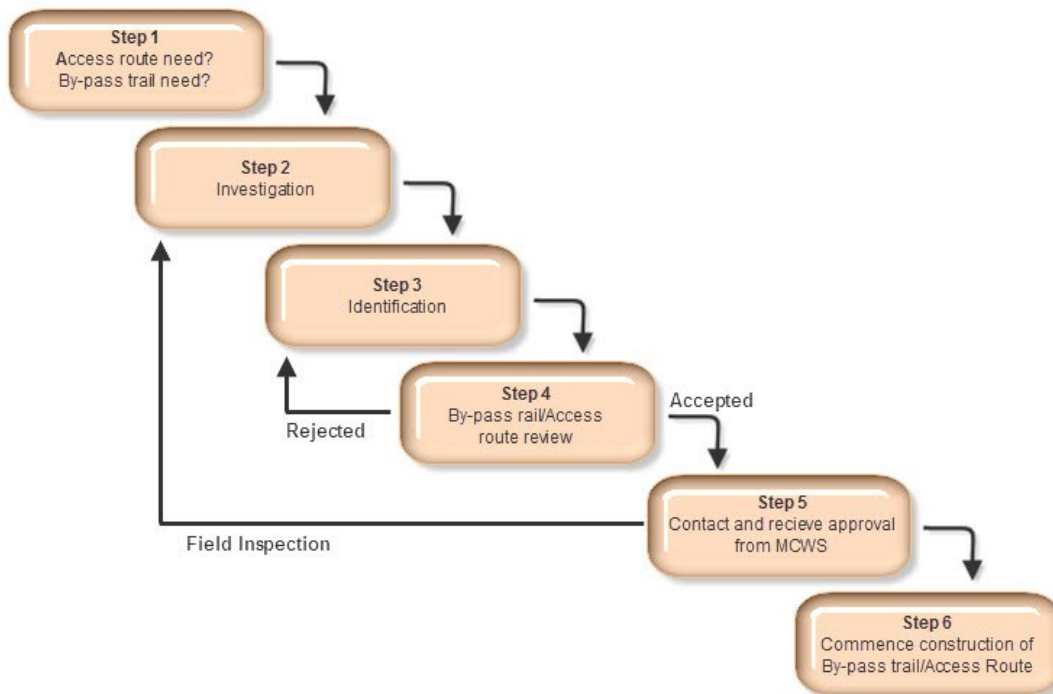
Manitoba Hydro, its personnel, contractors and consultants will adhere to the access management measures (AMMs) outlined in Section 5.0 (Table Access Roads and Trails PC-1) in the Construction Environmental Protection Plan (CEnvPP).

## **2.5 By-pass routes and trails**

Manitoba Hydro and its Contractors will be accessing the ROW through existing trails and access points to the extent feasible. However, in some instances there may be a requirement for a by-pass trail located outside, but along the ROW, or the creation of a new access route to the ROW. In those situations where a new by-pass trail/access route would be required, Manitoba Hydro would undertake the following process to:

- 1) site the by-pass trail/access route,
- 2) evaluate location for environmental and cultural sensitivities, and
- 3) ensure any new by-pass trails/access routes follow the applicable mitigation measures as outlined in the Construction Environmental Protection Plan (CEnvPP).

Figure 3 illustrates the process and details of the steps are provided to operationalize the process. .



**Figure 3: By-pass trail/access route siting and approval process on Crown land**

**Step 1: Determine by-pass trail/access route need:** Manitoba Hydro in conjunction with the Contractor identifies the need for a by-pass trail or new access route (i.e., unfrozen wetlands, impassable terrain) outside of the approved access routes and the Potential By-pass Areas identified in this plan. If any new access routes or by-pass trail is required on private land, MH will seek written approval from the Landowner

**Step 2: Investigation:** Manitoba Hydro and Contractor will assess potential by-pass area/access route area on foot for a viable location. In some instances an overflight may be required.

**Step 3: Identification:** Manitoba Hydro Environmental Officer/Inspector will review the by-pass trail/access route for the presence of environmentally sensitive sites, invasive species or any other biosecurity concerns. If none are found they will identify and verify the location of the by-pass trail/access route and sensitive sites by recording GPS coordinates and flagging the centerline, buffers and/or boundaries. The above information

is then submitted to Environmental Protection Information Management System (EPIMS) as “Unplanned Infrastructure” for review.

**Step 4: By-pass trail/access route review:** Manitoba Hydro Senior Environmental Assessment Officer or Environmental Officer will review by-pass trail/access route and evaluate against known Environmentally Sensitive Sites (ESS) as well as sensitive sites identified by the Environmental Inspector’s site investigation. If Rejected, by-pass trail/access route alternatives will be suggested for field assessment (Return to Step 3) and the process of submitting “Unplanned Infrastructure” through EPIMS will be restarted. If Accepted, proceeds to Step 5 or 6 for approval.

**Step 5: By-pass trail/access route approval:** If by-pass trail/access route is approved in Step 4, it will be added to the AMP and appropriate CEnvPP including any ESS sites; and move to Step 6.

**Step 6: Commence construction of by-pass trail/access route:** Implement mitigation and commence construction. Manitoba Hydro will identify and document any by-pass trails/access routes that may be required post construction for line maintenance activities and incorporate into the Operations and Maintenance Environmental Protection Plan.

## **2.6 Traffic safety and access management mechanisms overview**

Manitoba Hydro and its Contractors will rely extensively on the provincial and municipal existing road infrastructure to transport vehicles, personnel, equipment and materials to the Project construction site. In the interests of safety, Manitoba Hydro expects that all of its personnel and those of its contractors and consultants will adhere to all traffic laws while engaged in Project related activities and while commuting back and forth between their residences/camps/offices and the construction site.

Safety is of primary concern during the construction phase for construction workers, stakeholders and the public. During the clearing and construction process, a seasonal access trail will be constructed on the rights-of-way to facilitate the transportation of construction materials, equipment and workers. Manitoba Hydro and its contractors will restrict non-Project traffic on and along the active construction site during this period.

Where Manitoba Hydro and its contractor staff encounter non-project related traffic on the active construction site, safety advisory information will be provided and individuals will be asked to vacate the area for reasons of safety.

Signs may be placed at road/rights-of-way crossings and other locations in the active construction area to discourage/minimize access and to outline safety concerns.

Various types of signage may be used to convey safety or educational information, including:

- No hunting/shooting
- Guy wire shields/sleeves (brightly colored and/or reflective), where appropriate
- Reflective tape on tower legs and other obstructions
- Access restrictions to specific infrastructure sites (e.g. transformer, converter, repeater stations)
- Access restrictions to hazardous materials and petroleum storage sites
- Warning signs on vehicles transporting hazardous materials and petroleum products
- Private land
- Directional guidance signs
- High risk wildlife collision areas
- Speed limit postings
- Road/trail hazard warning signs
- Bollards, signage at water wells, petroleum storage areas, etc.
- Other

Manitoba Hydro will determine the type and quantity of signage required for the Contractor to supply and install.

### **2.6.1 Access allowance**

During the construction phase of the Project, one of Manitoba Hydro's concerns is safety for workers and others who may access the active construction site. Access and safety issues will be monitored by the Construction Contractor, the Manitoba Hydro Construction Supervisor and the Environmental Officer/Inspector.

All intersecting trails/roads will be kept clear of debris so as not to impede existing travel routes. Manitoba Hydro will limit/restrict access to the active construction site as safety is a primary consideration.

Those authorized to access the active construction site (including work camps) are noted in Table 3. Manitoba Hydro and its contractors will carefully monitor for safety and security issues and, if problems warrant, are prepared to limit access to only those directly associated with the Project.

Table 2: Access allowance and authorization in active construction areas

User	Type of user	Authority
Project traffic	Manitoba Hydro staff	No conditions
	Contractor personnel	
	Government (provincial and federal) personnel	Construction supervisor or delegate
	Research and monitoring personnel	
	Emergency vehicles/personnel	No conditions
Resource harvesters	Licensed outfitters/rights-based hunters	Construction supervisor or delegate
Non-project traffic	Public	Restricted
Others	Community officials, Manitoba Hydro staff/ officials/ contractors/ consultants, employee family members	Construction supervisor or delegate
	School and public tours, media, etc.	

### 2.6.2 Recreational vehicles

Project personnel will not be permitted to transport, use or store their personal off-road vehicles (ORV) (e.g., snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, boats, etc.) on the construction site where the intent of use is not Project work related. This condition will form part of the condition of employment and will be conveyed to all personnel at the time of hire. Breach of the condition will be grounds for disciplinary action, including dismissal. Manitoba Hydro and contractor ORV equipment shall be used exclusively for Project work related purposes.

### 2.6.3 Temporary work camp sites, marshalling yards and borrow pits

Temporary work camp sites, marshalling yards and borrow pits used for Project purposes form part of the construction site. All Project related access management measures shall

apply to these sites. When any of the new sites are no longer required for Project purposes, and if not required by other non-project parties (e.g. Manitoba Environment, Climate and Parks, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation, etc.), access into such sites may be decommissioned and all Project personnel will be restricted from entering such sites. Access decommissioning could include the placement of impediments (e.g., berms, boulders, debris, etc.) to restrict public access.

## **2.6.4 Compliance**

Manitoba Hydro Environmental Officers/Inspectors will regularly inspect all aspects of the clearing and construction work to ensure compliance with the Environment Act licence, work permits, regulations, applicable guidelines and the applicable CEnvPP. Manitoba Hydro and its' contractor personnel will limit/restrict non-project related vehicles and personnel on the construction site with particular emphasis on the active construction site. Information about safety, firearms/weapons rules will be distributed, as required, through:

- Signage at access points and on the construction site.
- Orientation of all workers.

Breach of stated employment conditions (e.g., ORV, weapons, fishing) by Manitoba Hydro employees or contractor staff will result in disciplinary action, including potential dismissal from employment.

Clear communication of restrictions and safety measures, included in the construction access management plan, to workers, resource harvesters, stakeholders and local Aboriginal communities will contribute to safe work practices and the prevention of conflicts.

## **2.7 Education and training**

Training and communication form a critical component of the implementation plan. Manitoba Hydro will hold a Contractor Environmental Pre-Construction Orientation meeting to review Project specifics and key environmental requirements with all of its Contractors at a supervisory level. A summary of this Access Management Plan, implementation requirements, roles and responsibilities, and Manitoba Hydro's expectations will be presented at that time.

## 2.8 Access rehabilitation

Transmission development on the landscape often requires the creation of or improving of existing access roads and trails to facilitate construction and operation of the development. Manitoba Hydro's preference is to utilize existing roads and trails to the extent possible prior to development of any new access routes. The use of existing access routes may result in vegetation removal and road base improvements. Where access is not required for operations those access routes may require decommissioning activities such as trenching and mounding and/or vegetation rehabilitation to ensure that areas previously inaccessible are returned back to that state. Prior to access route development the route will be assessed for existing access restrictions, including details such as trail width, vegetation, presence of previous decommissioning activity.

