

Appendix 3

Summary of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge used in the Bipole III Transmission Project Aquatic Environment Assessment

Local knowledge regarding fish, fish habitat, and aquatic resource use in the Bipole III study area was obtained from nine Community Councils (Barrows, Camperville, Cormorant, Dawson Bay, Duck Bay, Herb Lake, Pikwitonei, Pelican Rapids, and Thicket Portage) six First Nation communities (Opaskwayak Cree Nation [OCN], Fox Lake Cree Nation [FLCN], Tataskweyak Cree Nation [TCN], Long Plain First Nation [LPFN], Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation [WSFN], Swan Lake First Nation [SLFN]), and the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF). This information was taken into account in the assessment of all waterbodies potentially affected by project components.

Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) and local knowledge from communities provided information regarding fish habitat and spawning locations as well as identifying areas of concern regarding the Bipole III transmission project. Waterbodies identified as supporting important types of fish habitat, primarily spawning areas, within the Bipole III project component areas include:

- Goose, Swift, Tiny, and CN creeks (brook trout spawning; Ross and FLCN 2011);
- Limestone River (brook trout, pickerel, whitefish, suckers and pike spawning; Ross and FLCN 2011);
- Red Deer River (fish spawning; Barrows, 63C13, 63C14, Bipole III Transmission Project, Bipole III EIS Technical Report, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge)
- Mossy River (fish spawning; Camperville, 62N16, Bipole III Transmission Project, Bipole III EIS Technical Report, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge);
- Garland River (fish spawning; Camperville, 62N15, 62N16, 63C01, Bipole III Transmission Project);
- Pine River (fish spawning; Camperville, 62N15, 62N16, 63C01, Bipole III Transmission Project);
- Sclater River (fish spawning; Pine Creek, 63C01, Bipole III Transmission Project);
- Swan River (fish spawning; Pine Creek, 63C08, Bipole III Transmission Project); and
- Whitemud River (fish spawning; Dakota Plains, 62J02, Bipole III Transmission Project).

Many of waterbodies in the Bipole III project area were identified as important for domestic fishing. Those in proximity to Bipole III Project components include:

- Nelson River, Limestone River, McMillan Creek, Goose Creek, Tiny Creek, and Swift Creek (Ross and FLCN 2011);
- Stephens Lake, Grass River, Paint Lake, Wekusko Lake, Setting Lake, Reed Lake, Clearwater Lake, Cormorant Lake, Lake Athapapuskow, Goose Lake, Duck Mountain lakes and streams, Assiniboine River (MMF 2011);
- Red Deer Lake and River, Lake Winnipegosis (Bipole III EIS Technical Report, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge); and
- Assiniboine River (LPFN 2011, Dakota Plains, 62G15, Bipole III Transmission Project).

Areas where concerns were raised regarding potential effects from the Bipole III project were also gathered through the ATK interviews. Fox Lake Cree Nation members expressed concern about increased access to FLCN traditional land and overharvesting of fish by Bipole III workers. Concerns about erosion of stream banks where the transmission line crosses rivers and streams were raised and the Red Deer River crossing was specifically highlighted (TCN 2011, Bipole III EIS Technical Report, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge). Other concerns included effects from chemical use on the RoW and, in general, how Bipole III infrastructure would affect water and fish (Ross and FLCN 2011, TCN 2011, LPFN 2011, Bipole III EIS Technical Report, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge).

References

- Bipole III EIS Technical Report, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge. Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Technical Report for the Bipole III Transmission Project. June 2011. Prepared by Northern Lights Heritage Services for Manitoba Hydro.
- LONG PLAIN FIRST NATION (LPFN). 2011. Long Plain First Nation Traditional Knowledge Report prepared for Manitoba Hydro Bipole III Transmission Project.
- MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION (MMF). 2011. Manitoba Metis Traditional Use and Knowledge of the Bipole III Area. Interim Report.
- TATASKWEYAK CREE NATION (TCN). 2011. Tataskweyak Cree Nation Report on Bipole III and Expected Impacts.
- ROSS, W, and FOX LAKE CREE NATION. 2011. Keewatinoow Converter Station & Bipole III Traditional Knowledge Interim Report.