Birtle Transmission Project

Appendix B

Public Engagement Information

Transmission Planning & Design Division

Licensing & Environmental Assessment

January 2018

Prepared for:

Environmental Approvals Branch

Manitoba Hydro

Birtle Transmission Project

Appendix B

Public Engagement Summary Tables

Type of concern	Summary of Concern and Comments	Summary of Manitoba Hydro Response
Agricultural	There will be a loss of farmable land due to tower presence.	While routing considers the value of these lands based on crop production and soil classification, avoidance is not always possible. To reduce the potential effects when routing on agricultural lands, the preference is to align the route on the half-mile line or parallel to other linear features.
Agriculture	Farm equipment is difficult to manoeuvre around the towers.	Feedback heard throughout the engagement process preferred alignments along road allowances.
Agriculture	There will be increased liability for landowners who have a tower on their property.	Damages to a tower would not default to the property owner solely on account of the presence of the tower on their property. The individual is only liable if they caused the damage. The damage would first be investigated to determine fault and to estimate replacement / repair costs. Fault would be borne by the individual/entity that caused the damage and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If an individual accidentally damages a tower and has liability insurance, the damage could be covered by the insurance company subject to terms and conditions of the policy.
Compensation	Landowners were interested in understanding how Manitoba Hydro compensates landowners when they house a transmission line on their property.	A land compensation policy has been developed for land required for the transmission line ROW. The policy offers landowners 150 percent of the current market value for the easement and additional structure payments for agriculturally zoned lands.
Construction	Participants indicated a concern that there may be damages to the landscape due to construction.	Damages incurred as a result of construction, maintenance or repair work for the transmission line, would be repaired by Manitoba Hydro or discussed with the landowner to take appropriate action, where appropriate.
Construction	Landowners requested that construction should not occur during growing season.	Manitoba Hydro will attempt to work in winter months where possible. If damages were to occur to crops during spring-fall, Manitoba Hydro would

Type of concern	Summary of Concern and Comments	Summary of Manitoba Hydro Response
		compensate the landowner for the loss in crop.
Cost	Some participants were interested to understand how export projects benefit Manitoba Hydro and the rate payers.	Manitoba Hydro maintains some of the lowest electricity rates in North America and exports surplus power to neighbouring provinces and US states as part of revenue generation. The Public Utilities Board regulates rates charged by Manitoba Hydro to its customers.
Health	Participants indicated they had concerns with the proximity of the lines to people and feared it may negatively affect their health.	Informational sources including Health Canada, the World Health Organization and other international health entities state that no scientific evidence suggests that exposure to EMF will cause any negative health effects on humans, vegetation and wild or domestic animals. Manitoba Hydro will design and maintain exposure levels from the transmission lines within the guidelines set forth by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, which have been adopted by the World Health Organization and Health Canada.
Infrastructure	Some concerns were brought forward outlining locations where slumping is affecting the use of provincial roads.	Damages incurred as a result of construction, maintenance or repair work for the transmission line, would be repaired by Manitoba Hydro, where appropriate.
Ongoing engagement	Some participants indicated that there should be one point of contact into Manitoba Hydro as the project progresses.	Manitoba Hydro has assigned staff to provide direct liaison with affected landowners to serve as the primary contact into the corporation as the project progresses. The landowner liaison acts as a conduit to provide information and to collect information from potentially affected landowners. They share information during Project milestones such as opportunities to participate in the regulatory review, the easement acquisition process, and documenting specific landholding

Type of concern	Summary of Concern and Comments	Summary of Manitoba Hydro Response
		concerns that will be used by construction teams if the Project is approved.
Property	Participants indicated that there is a potential for decreased property values due to the placement of the transmission line on the property.	During the PEP, Manitoba Hydro indicated that current research suggests that property values have shown no significant change due to transmission development. Manitoba Hydro continues to monitor property values around other transmission projects.
Recreation	Participants wanted natural areas to stay natural and to continue using them for recreational activities such as skiing and hiking.	Following construction, the right-of-way on crown lands will not be restricted for use by any individual for resource use or recreation. Safety is Manitoba Hydro's primary concern and will therefore limit access for recreational activities for a short duration of time in active construction areas.
Residential	Manitoba Hydro should avoid residences when determining a preferred route.	Locations of urban centres and rural residential areas were a consideration in developing and evaluating routes.
Routing	Many participants indicated that the transmission line should follow road allowances/mile lines.	This feedback was considered in routing and 52.5% of the final preferred route is located on a mile alignment.
Routing	Many participants indicated that the route should travel through the southern pasture and avoid agricultural and residential lands.	A route segment was drawn based on the feedback received from participants to cross the Spy Hill Community Pasture south of St. Lazare. The segment was considered but not accepted as part of the preferred route as it did not balance the various perspectives on the landscape as well as other options.
Wildlife	Many participants indicated that the area under consideration is home to a variety of wildlife like moose, deer, bears, coyotes and eagles.	The environmental assessment process identified potential sensitivities and has recommended mitigation measures for various species. Field studies conducted as part of the assessment, including on private lands when permitted, were used to locate species and assess potential effects.

Birtle Transmission Project

Appendix B

Public Engagement Summary Report

Manitoba Hydro

Manitoba Hydro

BIRTLE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Public Engagement Summary

Prepared for: Manitoba Hydro I Prepared by: WSP Canada Group Limited I June 2017

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APPENDICES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

WSP Canada Group Limited (WSP), formerly MMM Group Ltd., was retained by Manitoba Hydro to assist with the Public Engagement Process (PEP) for the Birtle Transmission Project. The report contained herein provides a summary of the PEP, which included two rounds of public engagement.

This summary report summarizes the complete PEP for the Birtle Transmission Project, including the following:

- A project description.
- Anticipated project timelines.
- A description of the complete PEP.
- A summary of the public feedback gathered during Round 1 and Round 2 of the PEP.
- Project next steps.

Manitoba Hydro is investigating the construction of a 230-kilovolt transmission line from Birtle Station, south of the community of Birtle, to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border (**Figure 1**). This transmission line is needed to fulfill a 20-year agreement to sell 100 megawatts (equivalent to powering 40,000 homes) of renewable hydroelectricity to SaskPower, beginning in 2020–2021. SaskPower will be responsible for the portion of the transmission line in Saskatchewan that will connect to their station in Tantallon, Saskatchewan.

Manitoba Hydro undertakes public and Indigenous engagement processes to collect feedback to assist in the determination of a final preferred route for the project and to enhance the environmental assessment work being undertaken. The route selection process aims to balance potential effects to human, technical and natural environments. Data gathering, on the ground fieldwork, and the input of numerous technical specialists, the public, Indigenous communities/organizations, and stakeholders are taken into account when determining the final placement of the transmission line. The public engagement process included two rounds to collect feedback from potentially affected landowners, stakeholders and local community members.

The purpose of Round 1 was to:

- Introduce the project.
- Present alternative routes and proposed border crossings.
- Answer questions.
- Identify and document concerns.
- Utilize the feedback gathered from the session to incorporate into the environmental assessment.
- Utilize the feedback gathered from the sessions to guide the selection of a preferred route and border crossing.

The purpose of Round 2 was to:

- Present summarized feedback and findings from Round 1.
- Present the preferred route and the preferred border crossing to the public and affected landowner.
- Answer questions and address concerns about the project.
- Identify and document concerns.
- Utilize the feedback gathered from the sessions to incorporate into the environmental assessment.
- Utilize the feedback gathered from the sessions to assist in determining the placement of the final route.

The activities included in Round 1 of the PEP were held in the R.M. of Prairie View, R.M. of Ellice Archie, and R.M. of Russell-Binscarth. The Round 2 PEP activities were held in the community of St Lazare, in the R.M. of Ellice-Archie, over a span of three days.

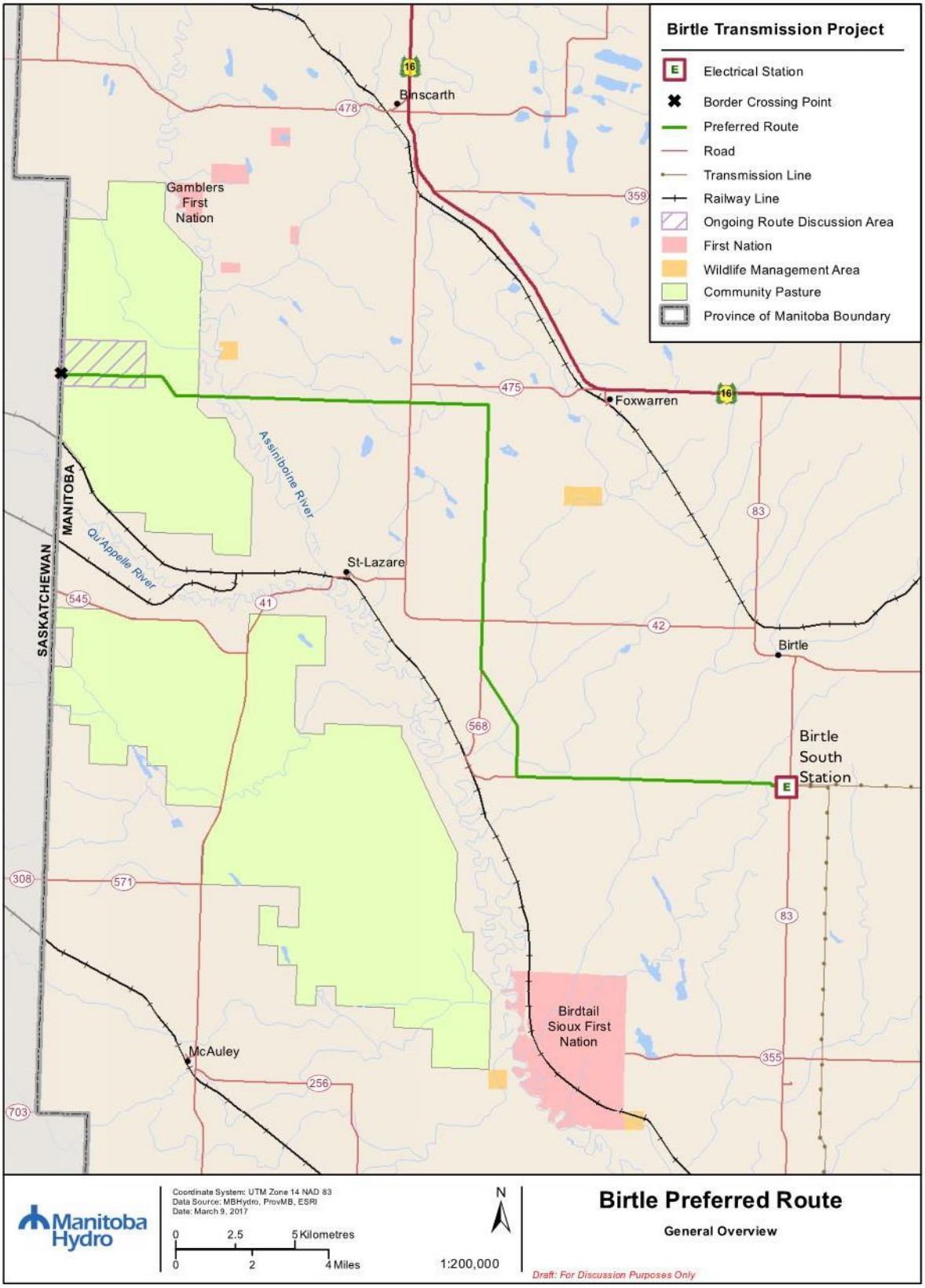


Figure 1: Preferred Route

2.0 ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINE

The anticipated Birtle Transmission Project timeline is as follows:

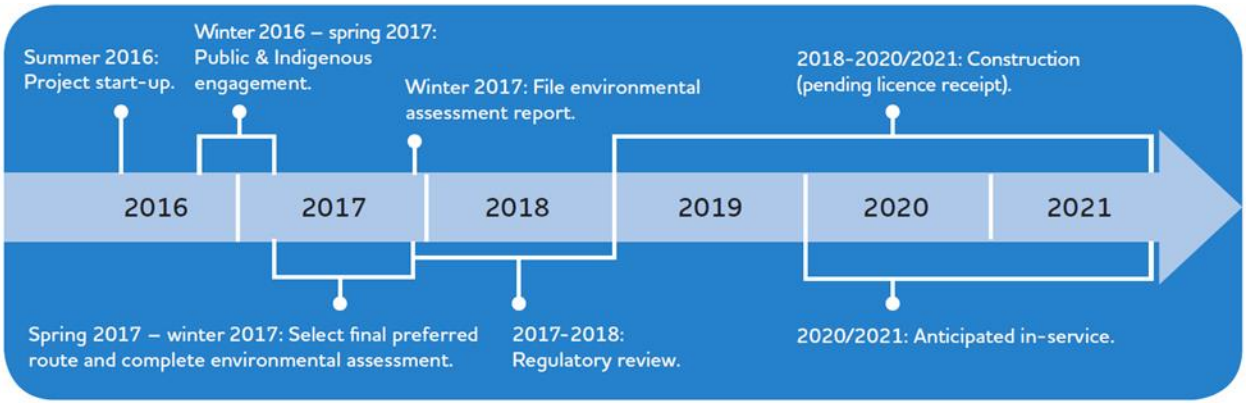


Figure 2: Anticipated Project Timeline

This schedule is subject to change as progress is made through the transmission line and environmental assessment processes.

3.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

This PEP process included two rounds. Round 1 of the PEP occurred during November 2016, and Round 2 occurred in April 2017. The PEP engagement activities for the Birtle Transmission Project attracted approximately 140 participants over the course of the two Rounds of PEP.

- Round 1 of the PEP introduced the project to the public, community members, and potentially affected landowners, presented a wide range of route segments, and border crossings, captured feedback regarding concerns and questions pertaining to the project, and answered additional questions in regards to the project. The input derived from Round 1 was summarized and delivered to Manitoba Hydro to be used to advise the project's environmental assessment process and to guide the selection of the preferred route and border crossing.
- Round 2 of the PEP presented the findings of the Round 1 PEP, the preferred route and preferred border crossing and captured feedback from affected landowners, stakeholder groups, and members of the public. The feedback obtained from Round 2 will be used to enhance the environmental assessment and will be considered to determine the final route placement.

3.1 Public Engagement Process Methodology

The Birtle Transmission Project's PEP was guided by the following methodology:

1. **Project Advertising/Communication:** Prior to each round of public engagement events, a range of communication materials was developed and distributed to community members, stakeholders, and potentially affected landowners.

   Project advertising/communication materials included project postcards, project newsletters, project posters, newspaper print advertisements, and letter invitations mailed directly to landowners. Project stakeholders, such as municipal and provincial departments were communicated with via telephone and email. Posters were distributed through the respective communities, which provided information about the project and events, and directed individuals to the project's website, which included project information. These advertising/communication materials were released approximately two weeks prior to the commencement of each round of engagement.

2. **Public Engagement Event Facilitation:** The two public engagement rounds included various methods of engagement. Round 1 included a combination of three public open houses and three landowner workshops. Round 2 included three Landowner Information Centres (LICs) with a public open house component. Round 1 events were held in various community centres throughout the project's study area and the Round 2 events were held in St-Lazare, Manitoba.

   Feedback was collected through surveys, mapping activities, workbooks, and facilitated group discussions. Furthermore, comments and feedback were entered into Manitoba Hydro's digital mapping tool for easy reference. In addition to feedback being collected through the public engagement events, landowners and other community members were provided with the option to contact Manitoba Hydro's project representative directly to ask questions or provide additional feedback after the events.

3. **Summary of Feedback:** Following the facilitation of the public engagement events, feedback collected was compiled, reviewed, and summarized in a report.

3.2 Project Advertising/Communication

This section details the variety of advertising/communication methods used to promote both the Round 1 and Round 2 public engagement activities.

3.2.1 Round 1 Project Advertising/Communication

3.2.1.1 Newspaper

Newspaper print materials were developed by Manitoba Hydro to advertise the project and its public open house events. They were placed in the 'Russell Banner' and the 'Crossroads This Week' newspaper. The advertisement ran in the 'Crossroads This Week' newspaper on November 10th and 18th, 2016, and in the 'Russell Banner' on November 8th and 15th, 2016.

The newspaper print advertisements were designed to be consistent with the project posters and postcards as described in the Sections 3.2.1.2 and 3.2.1.3 of this report. See **Figure 3** for a sample of the project postcard.

3.2.1.2 Poster

Posters were used to advertise the Round 1 public engagement activities. Posters were placed in the following locations:

- The post office in Foxwarren, Binscarth, Russell, and St-Lazare;
- Municipal Offices, in Birtle, Binscarth, Russell, and McAuley;
- Vanguard Bank, Birtle, MB;
- 83 N' Main, Birtle, MB;
- Esso, Binscarth, MB; and
- Co-Op Gas Bar, Russell, MB.

These posters were distributed approximately two weeks prior to the first open house event on November 22, 2016. The posters had the same layout and information as the postcard (**Figure 3**).

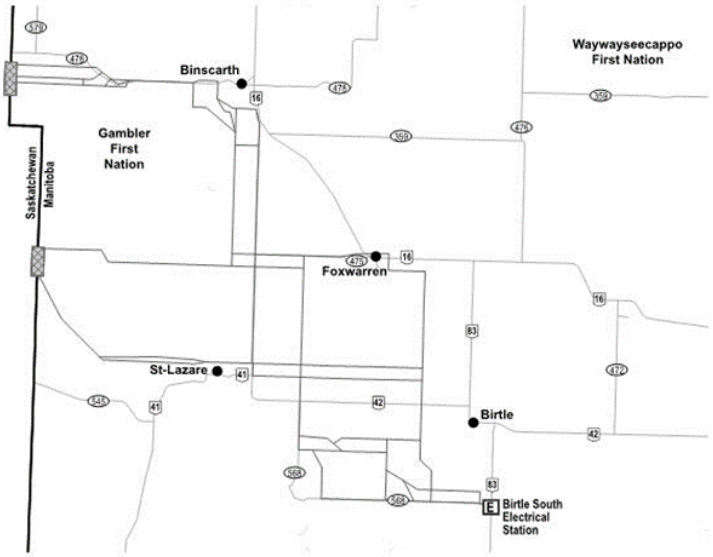
3.2.1.3 Postcard

A postcard advertising the project and the public open house events (**Figure 3**), was sent to 1,059 addresses in the R.M. of Russell-Binscarth, R.M. of Ellice-Archie, and R.M. of Prairie View. These postcards were mailed out approximately two weeks prior to the first open house event, which occurred at the Birtle Community Hall on November 22, 2016.

Birtle Transmission Project

We want to hear from you.

Alternative routes and potential border crossings



Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct a transmission line from Birtle Station to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border to deliver electricity to SaskPower as part of a 20-year agreement beginning in 2020/2021.

You are invited to a drop-in open house to learn about the proposed project and share your local knowledge of your area. Your input will help Manitoba Hydro with the route selection and environmental assessment processes. Staff will be on hand to provide project information and to answer questions.

Drop-in Public Open Houses

November 22, 2016
4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Birtle Community Hall
160 Centre Street
Birtle, MB

November 23, 2016
4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
St. Lazare Leisure Centre
319 Main Street
St. Lazare, MB

November 24, 2016
4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Binscarth Memorial Hall
230 3rd Avenue
Binscarth, MB

For more information about the Birtle Transmission Project and to sign up for email notices, please visit **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**.
If you would like further information, please contact Manitoba Hydro at **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca** or call **1-877-343-1631**.

Manitoba Hydro

Figure 3: Round 1 Poster/Postcard

3.2.1.4 Invitation to Landowners

Invitations in French and English were mailed to landowners with meter locations where the proposed alternative routes were being considered. The invitation provided an overview of the project, and invited landowners to attend a landowner workshop in their respective R.M. depending on the location of their meter. Landowners were invited to attend any, or all, of the landowner workshops if they wished. The invitation also encouraged landowners to visit the project website to sign up for email notifications and view additional information about the Birtle Transmission Project.

A total of three landowner workshops were held, one in the R.M. of Prairie View, one in the R.M. of Ellice-Archie, and one in the R.M. of Russell-Binscarth. Landowners who received this invitation were also welcomed to participate at any of the open house events.

3.2.1.5 Newsletter

A project newsletter was created containing the following information:

- A description of the project.
- A description of the types of towers that could be used with this project.
- A project timeline.
- Information about the transmission line routing process.
- Information about the environmental assessment process.
- How to get involved.
- A map of the study area.
- The website address.
- Project contact information.

This project newsletter was sent out with the mailed invitations and was provided to participants in the workshops and open house events. A sample of the Round 1 newsletter can be found in **Appendix A**.

3.2.1.6 Stakeholder Phone Calls and Emails

Representatives from Manitoba Hydro and WSP worked together to identify and confirm stakeholders for the project. Stakeholders were contacted directly by project team members via telephone and/or email and informed about the project and the open house. Stakeholders included:

- Provincial Departments.
- Municipal Authorities.
- Planning and Development Boards.
- Parks and Protected Area Agencies.
- Economic Development Agencies.
- Tourism and Recreation.
- Natural Resources and Infrastructure.

3.2.1.7 Website

A project website was developed that included a description of the project and the transmission line routing process, environmental assessment information, the project status/schedule, public engagement information, and a document library that contains project files such as maps, project notices, public engagement materials, and brochures. The project website contained a Manitoba Hydro project contact, and encouraged members of the public to call if they had any concerns or questions about the project. The project website went live on November 7, 2016, and continues to be updated and maintained.

3.2.1.8 Email Campaigns

When the website went live, an email sign up option was provided to any individual interested in signing up and receiving emails regarding the project. The following campaigns occurred during Round 1:

- November 9, 2016: An email was sent to 16 email addresses to share the alternative route segments being presented.
- November 21, 2016: An email was sent to 20 email addresses outlining the locations and dates of the public events.
- December 13, 2016: An email was sent to 64 email addresses thanking those who provided feedback at the public events.

The email also included a link to the project website, next steps, and contact information.

3.2.1.9 Phone Line and Email Address

Project communication materials included a phone number (1-877-343-1631) and email address (LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca) that interested persons and stakeholders could direct their project-related questions.

3.2.2 Round 2 Project Advertising/Communication

Many of the same communications/advertising methods were used for Round 2 of the PEP. The objective of Round 2 was to discuss the location of the preferred route with affected landowners through the facilitated Landowner Information Centres (LICs). However, project advertisements indicated that all members of the public were welcome to attend the LICs. The following is a brief description of the communication/advertising methods used.

3.2.2.1 Postcard

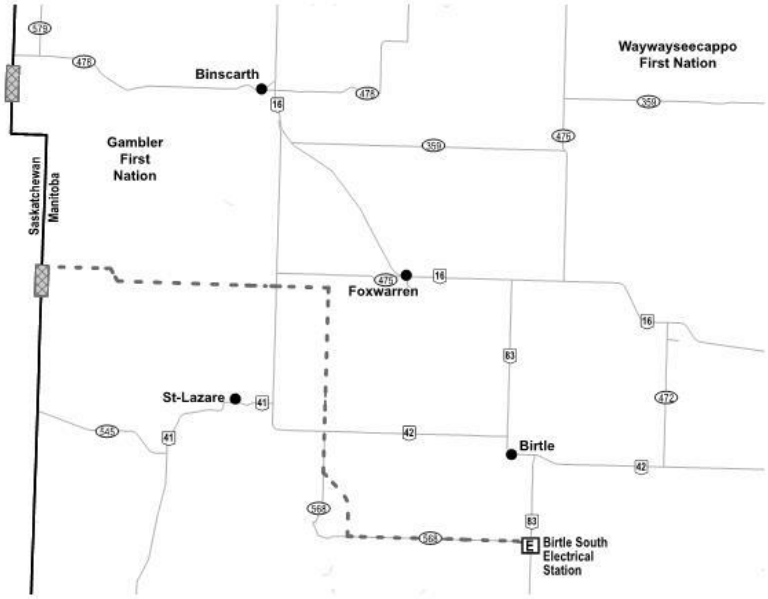
A postcard advertising the LICs (**Figure 4**), was sent to 1,059 addresses in the R.M. of Russell-Binscarth, R.M. of Ellice-Archie, and R.M. of Prairie View. These postcards were mailed out approximately two weeks prior to the LICs held on April 3, 4, and 5, 2017, at the St-Lazare Leisure Centre.

Manitoba Hydro sent the postcards to addresses with local postal codes within the proposed preferred route planning area. Although the postcard was sent to a number of households that are not directly affected by the location of the proposed preferred route, all landowners were invited to attend the LICs to stay up-to-date with the project.

Birtle Transmission Project

We want to hear from you.

Preferred Route



Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct a transmission line from Birtle Station to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border to deliver electricity to SaskPower beginning in 2020/2021.

Manitoba Hydro is presenting a preferred route for the project.

If you have any questions or concerns, please drop in to talk to us on any of the dates listed below. We will be collecting landowner information, local knowledge, answering questions and addressing concerns to assist in the finalization of the preferred route. All are welcome to attend.

St-Lazare Leisure Centre
319 Main Street, St-Lazare, MB.
April 3 and 4 from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m.
April 5 from 8:00 a.m. to noon

For more information about the Birtle Transmission Project and to sign up for email notices, please visit **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**.
If you would like further information, please contact Manitoba Hydro at **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca** or call **1-877-343-1631**.

Available in accessible formats upon request.

Manitoba Hydro

Figure 4: Round 2 Postcard

3.2.2.2 Invitation to Landowners

Affected landowners were identified as those whose property the proposed line crosses. Invitations in French and English were mailed to 38 potentially affected landowners. Letters were also sent to 125 individuals with an electrical meter within 1 mile of the preferred route.

The letter invitation provided an overview of the project, and invited landowners to attend the scheduled LICs. The LICs were held over a period of three days in the R.M. of Ellice-Archie, at the St-Lazare Leisure Centre.

The invitation also encouraged landowners to visit the project website to sign up for email notifications and view additional information about the Birtle Transmission Project. The project website contained a Manitoba Hydro project contact, and encouraged landowners and other members of the public to share any concerns or questions about the project.

3.2.2.3 Newsletter

A project newsletter was created, providing updated information about the project's progress. It contained the following information:

- A description of the project.
- A description of the types of towers that could be used with this project.
- A project timeline.
- A description of the proposed preferred route and how it was selected.
- A summary of the feedback that was collected in Round 1 of the PEP.
- Information about the environmental assessment process.
- How to get involved.
- A map of the study area.
- The website address.
- Project contact information.

This project newsletter was sent out with the mailed invitations. A sample of this newsletter can be found in **Appendix B**.

3.2.2.4 Website

The project's website was updated containing information about the preferred route. Communication/advertising materials referenced this website (www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle).

3.2.2.5 Email Campaigns

Email campaigns targeted those who signed up to receive project notifications. Throughout Round 2 the following campaigns were sent out.

- March 21, 2016: Emails were sent to 76 email addresses outlining that the preferred route had been determined.
- March 31, 2016: Emails were sent to 78 email addresses outlining the upcoming public events.

- April 17, 2017: Emails were sent to 87 contacts indicating feedback could still be provided outside of the public events.

3.2.2.6 Facebook Post

A Facebook post was public on March 30, 2017, on the Manitoba Hydro Facebook site that advertised the LICs.

3.2.2.7 Phone Line and Email Address

Project communication materials included a phone number and email address to which interested persons and stakeholders could direct their project-related questions.

3.3 Public Engagement Techniques

The PEP included five methods of engagement to communicate project information and obtain public input. The methods used were as follows:

- Stakeholder Interviews.
- Meetings with Council.
- Landowner Workshops.
- Public Open Houses.
- Landowner Information Centres (LICs).

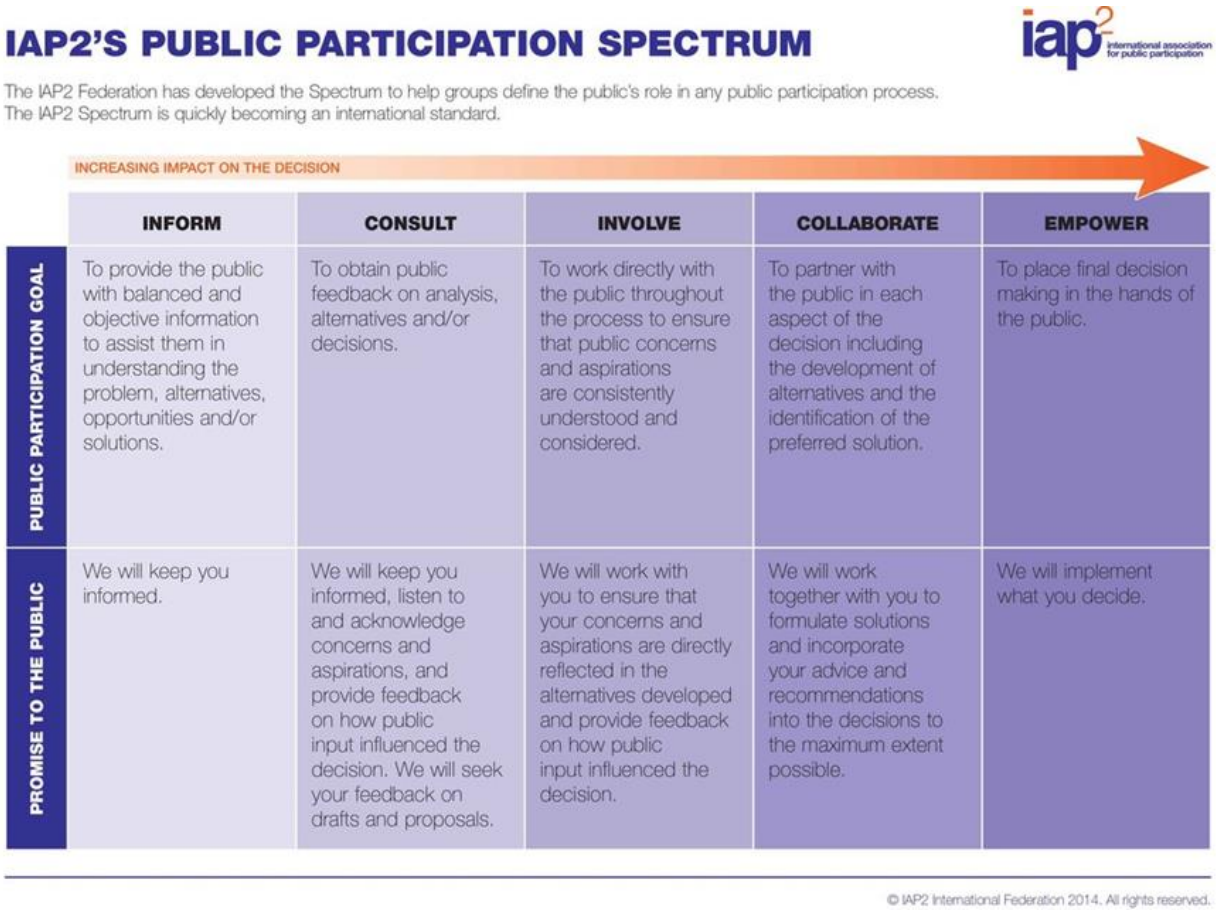
The techniques chosen for the PEP were guided by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2). IAP2 defines public participation as a “means to involve those who are affected by a decision in the decision-making process. It promotes sustainable decisions by providing participants with the information they need to be involved in a meaningful way, and it communicates to participants how their input affects the decision.”

IAP2’s core values for public participation are as follows:

1. Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public’s contribution will influence the decision.
3. Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
4. Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

IAP2's public participation spectrum (**Figure 5**) was also used to guide the project's public engagement techniques. The PEP strategically utilized techniques that follow the 'consult' and 'involve' levels of impact identified on the public participation spectrum. These levels are described as follows:

- Consult: To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
- Involve: To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations and consistently understood and considered.



IAP2'S PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SPECTRUM

iap2 international association for public participation

The IAP2 Federation has developed the Spectrum to help groups define the public's role in any public participation process. The IAP2 Spectrum is quickly becoming an international standard.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Figure 5: IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

The public open house events served as a method to 'consult' the public of the project, while the landowner workshops and LICs were used to 'involve' the community and affected landowners.

3.3.1 Round 1 Public Engagement Techniques

3.3.1.1 Landowner Workshops

Landowners were invited to attend one of three landowner workshops. Workshops were held from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on November 22, 23, and 24, 2016, respectively. One workshop was held in each R.M. to ensure that the landowners had easy access to the workshops. The locations of the workshops were at the Birtle Community Hall in the R.M. of Prairie View, the St-Lazare Leisure Centre in the R.M. of Ellice-Archie, and the Binscarth Memorial Hall in the R.M. of Russell-Binscarth.

The aim of the workshop was to present project information, including the proposed alternative routes, and to understand local values and concerns of landowners in relation to routing and the environment. Input collected from the workshop will be used to assist in determining a preferred route for the project and help inform the environmental assessment work being done.

The workshop in the R.M. of Prairie View was attended by 19 landowners, the workshop in the R.M. of Ellice-Archie was attended by 22 landowners, and the workshop in the R.M. of Binscarth was attended by 11 landowners.

The workshop began with an introduction of the project team, followed by a presentation to introduce the project. Following the presentation, participants worked through three tasks that were described in a workbook that was provided to all participants. Participants were asked to utilize table maps to help complete the tasks. The first two tasks were completed in small groups and the third task was completed individually. The first task was to gain an understanding of the community's values and identify community characteristics on a map. The second task examined the proposed alternative routes and identified issues and opportunities related to the segments that make up the alternative routes. During each task, participants were encouraged to mark maps with alternative segments and locations of interest. The last task asked questions related to the landowner's property and personal points of view.

Each participant was provided with an exit survey. This exit survey asked participants to provide feedback on the current use of their land, additional comments they had pertaining to the proposed location of the transmission lines, border crossings, proposed tower structures, and any other details they felt the project team should consider. Complete exit surveys were collected, and the information was compiled.

In total, 35 workbooks were collected as well as 17 landowner surveys, see Section 4.1.1 of this report for more detail of the items collected.

3.3.1.2 Open Houses

Three open house events were hosted during Round 1 of the PEP. The purpose of the open house events was to share information about the project with the broader community. All open houses were organized as 'drop-in' events and were hosted from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The events were held at the Birtle Community Hall in the R.M. of Prairie View, the St-Lazare Leisure Centre in the R.M. of Ellice-Archie, and the Binscarth Memorial Hall in the R.M. of Russell-Binscarth on November 22, 23, and 24, 2016, respectively. In the R.M. of Prairie View, twelve people signed into the open house, however, it is estimated that approximately 15 – 20

people attended. In the R.M. of Ellice-Archie, 17 people attended the open house, and in the R.M. of Russell-Binscarth, nine people signed-in to the open house, however, it is estimated that approximately 10 – 15 people attended.

The open house displayed project information on a series of storyboards, maps, and informational brochures throughout the room. The storyboards provided project details with maps and graphics (**Appendix C**). The storyboards also included a prioritization activity, where participants were provided with stickers to identify which routing criteria is most important to them, i.e., avoiding agricultural land, separation from existing communities, project cost, avoiding public lands, etc. In addition to any maps shown on the storyboards, there were two mapping stations, a community mapping station and a natural feature mapping station.

Participants viewed the information and had discussions with each other and with project team members. Feedback was collected on note pads and more formally with an exit survey that was provided for participants to complete. In total, 29 exit surveys were collected; please see Section 4.1.1 of this report for further detail of the items collected. Information collected will be used to assist in determining a preferred route for the project and the environmental assessment work that is being done.

3.3.1.3 Analysis of Round 1 Feedback

Public feedback obtained during Round 1 of the PEP was collected through the landowner's workshop workbook, landowner's workshop exit survey, open house exit survey, prioritization activity and mapping exercises. This feedback was compiled by WSP, and summarized into three Round 1 Public Feedback Summary Reports. One report was created for each of the Rural Municipalities that the project proposes to cross. The Summary reports focus on the feedback obtained from landowners and members of the public through the landowner workshop and the public open house.

Comments and feedback identified on the maps used at the open houses and workshops were also entered into Manitoba Hydro's digital mapping tool which was used during the route selection process.

3.3.2 Round 2 Public Engagement Techniques

3.3.2.1 Landowner Information Centres (LICs)

The LICs for Round 2 were held over a three day period, on April 3rd (1:00 – 7:00 p.m.), 4th (1:00 – 7:00 p.m.), and 5th (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.), 2016, at the St-Lazare Leisure Centre in St-Lazare. This location was chosen due to the location of the preferred route (**Figure 6**). The majority of affected landowners are located in the R.M. of Ellice-Archie.

The LICs were structured as drop-in events. Each landowner who attended the LIC met one-on-one with a representative. Each landowner had the opportunity to pose questions and express concerns about the preferred route. Landowner discussions were documented using the Landowner Questionnaire (**Appendix D**). The questionnaire aimed to collect site specific information such as:

- The proximity of their land to the preferred route.

- Any potential obstructions existing on their property along the preferred route.
- Any property details that could impact the proposed route, such as an air strip/communication tower, the current use of the property, i.e., cropping, grazing, livestock production, rural residential farmstead, woodlot, commercial, wetland, etc., any approved subdivisions on the property, any sensitive species on the property, such as vegetation or wildlife, etc.
- Any specific concerns about the transmission that the landowner may have, or any other additional comments they want to express to Manitoba Hydro.
- If the landowner is willing to provide Manitoba Hydro with permission to conduct a field study on their land if required.

Landowners were provided with the opportunity to illustrate on maps provided the location of their property, and other property details.

In total 38 individuals attended the LICs, and 23 Landowner Questionnaires were collected.

The feedback collected from the Landowner Questionnaires was summarized and the mapping feedback was input into Manitoba Hydro's digital mapping tool.

Individuals who attended the LICs that were not landowners still had the opportunity to learn more about the project and share their input. A number of project information boards were displayed around the venue, presenting information about the purpose of the project, its timeline, other project details, and next steps (**Appendix E**).

Contact information from a Manitoba Hydro representative was provided to the landowners who attended the LICs in case they had any follow up questions regarding the project. Landowners were also notified that Manitoba Hydro would be in contact with them in the future.

3.3.2.2 Analysis of Round 2 Feedback

The feedback obtained from Round 2 of the PEP was collected and summarized in this report.

Feedback collected during Rounds 1 and 2 of the PEP was considered by Manitoba Hydro, in the development of the Environmental Assessment Report.

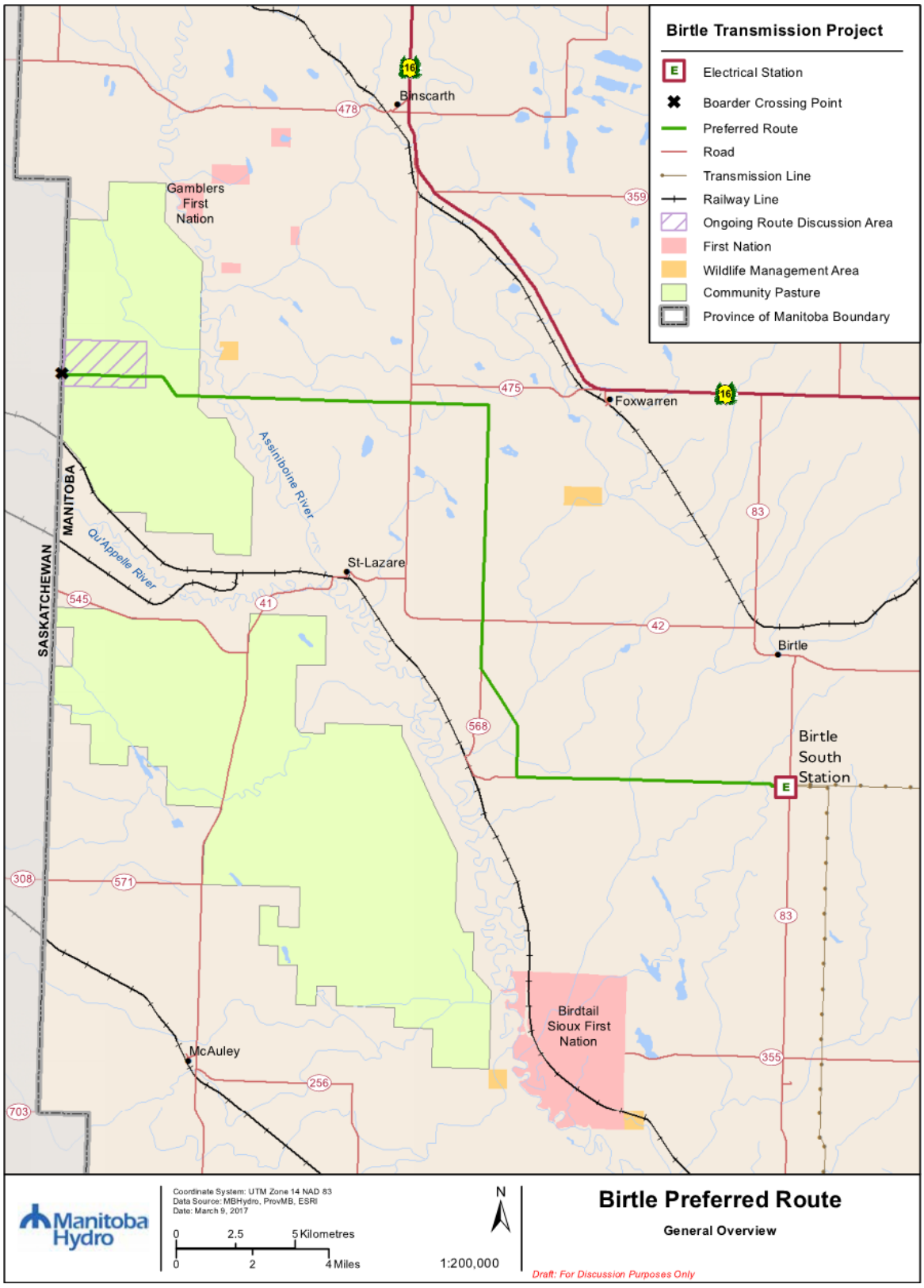


Figure 6: Preferred Route

4.0 PEP Feedback

4.1 Round 1 Public Feedback

4.1.1 Participation Summary

The following is a participation summary of the Round 1 PEP:

- Landowner Workshop participation:
  - R.M. of Prairie View:
    - 19 participants
    - 20 workbooks collected
  - R.M. of Ellice-Archie:
    - 22 participants
    - 11 workbooks collected
    - 7 landowner surveys collected
  - R.M. of Binscarth:
    - 11 participants
    - 4 workbooks collected
    - 10 landowner surveys collected
- Open House participation:
  - R.M. of Prairie View:
    - Between 15 - 20 participants
    - 8 exit surveys collected
  - R.M. of Ellice-Archie:
    - 17 participants
    - 20 exit surveys collected
  - R.M. of Binscarth:
    - 9 participants
    - 1 exit survey collected
- Number of follow-up emails and calls with potentially affected landowners and stakeholders:
  - Emails – 29
  - Telephone calls - 2

4.1.2 Key Issues

From the information collected by participants during Round 1 of the PEP, we understand that the most prominent issues are as follows:

- Avoiding Homes;
- Agricultural Land;
- Natural, Wildlife and, Recreation Areas;
- Views/Scenery;
- Community Pasture Route;
- Project Cost and Impact to Ratepayers;

- Avoiding the School Yard in St. Lazare; and
- Several Other Issues.

4.1.2.1 Avoiding Homes

Workshop and open house attendees preferred segment options that avoided the most number of homes and yard sites. Participants felt that locating the corridor close to homes could potentially negatively impact the homeowners view, their enjoyment of their property, and potentially devalue the property. Participants suggested that the corridor should travel, where possible, along road allowances that have the fewest homes and/or the most homes and farm yards setback from the road allowance, such as going through the southern community pasture.

4.1.2.2 Agricultural Land

As an agricultural community, workshop and open house participants raised a number of concerns regarding the transmission corridor travelling through the middle of agricultural lands. Participants indicated a concern for the loss of farmable land to tower structures. Participants believe that the presence of tower structures will also have a significant impact on farming operations and the mobility of farm equipment and planes used for spraying and monitoring pastureland; a number of comments reflect that impacts to farming operations is a greater concern than the loss of farmable land. Farmers said they would prefer to see the transmission corridor stay along the existing roads.

Participants also expressed concern that the presence of tower structures in agricultural lands could potentially result in increased liability for farmers, believing that the size of the farming equipment and the experience of operators can result in farming equipment hitting and damaging the tower and/or equipment that farmers could be responsible to then pay for the damage. Additionally, participants felt that there is an increased risk to their safety with the towers going through agricultural lands, potentially leading to fatality.

Land resale value was also a concern raised, and that the requirement of farming around these tower structures is viewed as an inconvenience and there is a fear that this will result in less interest for land with tower structures. The follow-up stakeholder emails received that related to agricultural land, expressed concerns about biosecurity and the aerial application of crops in proximity to airstrips in the study area.

4.1.2.3 Natural, Wildlife, and Recreation Areas

There was a strong contingent of workshop and open house participants that want to protect the natural and wildlife areas in all three of the R.M.s that may be impacted by the Birtle Transmission Project. Workshop and open house participants described all three of the R.M.s as having natural areas interspersed with prime agricultural lands. These natural lands are used for a wide variety of recreational activities, such as quading, cross-country skiing, hiking, sledding, and paintball, and are home to a variety of wildlife. It was noted that the valley, which runs through the R.M. of Russell-Binscarth is home to wildlife such as moose, white-tailed deer, mule deer, bears, coyotes, and bald eagles. Participants from all three of the R.M.s commented that they would like the area to remain the same, and are concerned that the presence of a transmission corridor could affect

their enjoyment of these natural areas. However, participants felt that the transmission corridor would provide easier access to some natural areas that could be used for recreation.

A number of the follow-up emails from stakeholders concerned the impact of the transmission line on ecologically sensitive sites, such as grasslands and areas with sensitive flora and fauna.

4.1.2.4 Views/Scenery

Many participants said that they were grateful for the beautiful scenery of the Qu'Appelle Valley. It is important to many of the participants to maintain an unobstructed view of the beautiful scenery that the area provides.

4.1.2.5 Community Pasture Route

Many of the participants believe that a route through the Spy Hill and Ellice-Archie Community Pasture is the best way to avoid homes and agricultural land and that this route should be considered in the selection process. Specifically, in the R.M. of Ellice-Archie, participants felt that the ideal route through the community pasture would follow PR 568 and continue west (through the Spy Hill Community Pasture).

A number of workshop participants requested to be provided with additional information regarding the disadvantages of the route being located within the community pasture, in comparison to the route being located near existing communities, on agricultural lands, etc.

In contrast to the comments received by workshop participants, feedback from a number of the stakeholders expressed concern with the transmission line being routed through the community pasture, and were not in favour of this potential route.

4.1.2.6 Project Cost and Impact to Rate Payers

Questions and comments regarding the cost of the Birtle Transmission Project and how it will impact rate payers was raised at the open house. Participants showed an interest in learning the project cost and how it compares to income from sales, and how exporting energy will benefit Manitobans. One comment indicated that Manitoba Hydro should take the shortest and more economical route.

4.1.2.7 Avoiding the School Yard in St-Lazare

Participants felt that the transmission lines should avoid the school yard in St-Lazare. They believe that the transmission corridor could potentially have visual, noise, and health impacts on the school yard.

4.1.2.8 Other

Other areas that were discussed, but did not appear as often were:

- Concerns with route segments travelling through areas where land is unstable and prone to slumping and landslides (i.e. in the river valleys).
- Future development potential.

- Economic activity related to the mine and transportation.
- Type, location, and 'aesthetics' of tower structure.
- The concern that although many participants voiced that the route should located in the community pasture, that their voices and opinions will be ignored.
- Historical features and cemeteries; the Zion Cemetery and the Pumpkin Patch School site were specifically mentioned.
- Family life, health, and wellbeing.
- Removing bush.
- Damage to landscape from construction.

4.1.3 Community Characteristics

A component of understanding the important issues in the three potentially affected R.M.s is to understand which community characteristics participants would like to see preserved, and how participants would like to see the area change in the upcoming years.

The following is a list of community characteristics participants contributed to. In certain cases, the responses were similar for both 'preserve' and 'change'.

4.1.3.1 PRESERVE

Participants identified, in no particular order, the following characteristics as what they value most and would like to see preserved:

- Workability of Crop Land and Prime Agricultural Land – "it's how we make a living".
- Minimize Wildlife Habitat Damage - once it is gone it is gone forever.
- Family Life.
- Maintain Economic Diversity – manufacturing, agriculture, and mining.
- Natural Areas & Beautiful Scenery.
- Forested land – needed for a wind break and for wildlife.
- Wildlife.
- Family Wellbeing.
- Residents.
- Crown Land.
- Open Range of View – no obstructions.
- Residents' current way of life.

4.1.3.2 CHANGE

When participants were asked how they would like to see the area change in the upcoming years, the following were the responses that were provided:

- Remain the same.
- More trees.
- More small holdings/livestock operations.
- More residential development – growing mines.
- Commercial growth in towns – keep the towns alive.

- Continue ongoing development.
- Continued growth of the Potash Mines.
- Retaining and attracting residents – more young people and young families.
- More tourism - wildlife, bird watching, etc.
- Commercial
- Keep pristine landscape.
- Oil boom.
- Divided highway.
- Irrigation.
- Future of remote equipment.
- Maintain agricultural land.
- Scenery.
- Waterways.

4.2 Round 2 Feedback

Feedback during Round 2 of the PEP was collected during the LICs, through the Landowner Questionnaires.

4.2.1 Participation Summary

The following is a quick participation summary of the Round 2 PEP:

- LIC participation:
  - 38 individuals attended.
  - 23 Landowner Questionnaires collected.
- Number of follow-up emails with potentially affected landowners and stakeholders:
  - Emails – 5.

4.2.2 Key Issues

The most prominent issues raised during the LICs Included:

- Hydro Tower Location;
- Hydro Tower Type;
- Community Pasture;
- Transmission Line Placement;
- Compensation;
- Liability/Insurance;
- Construction Timing;
- Stray Voltage;
- Health Concerns;
- Manitoba Hydro Point of Contact/Hydro Contractors; and
- Several Other Issues.

4.2.2.1 Hydro Tower Location

A number of landowners were concerned about the location of the tower on their land. Many residents mentioned that it is highly inconvenient to farm around these towers, and it would be more convenient if Manitoba Hydro placed the towers further away from the road right-of-way so that farm equipment manoeuver around the tower. However, on the contrary, many landowners mentioned that the tower should be set right against the road right-of-way.

It was also mentioned that the towers should be placed in wet/poorly drained areas.

4.2.2.2 Hydro Tower Type

A number of landowners mentioned that the steel lattice tower type was preferred, as they can be placed further apart.

4.2.2.3 Community Pasture

A large number of landowners questioned the location of the preferred route, challenging why it was not located through the Spy Hill Community Pasture. Many of the landowners who attended the LICs are farmers, and cultivate the land for their livelihood. Many of these farmers wanted to understand why parts of the transmission line are being placed on land that is being used for agricultural purposes, rather than land that is not 'used' for any specific purpose. Concerns were also raised as to why the preferred route was placed near homes, rather than placed through the pasture where no one lives. Landowners requested that they be provided with clear reasoning as to why more of the route was not placed within the community pasture.

In contrast, the follow-up stakeholder emails received expressed concern regarding the preferred route being placed within the community pasture, due to the sensitive flora and fauna contained within the community pasture.

4.2.2.4 Transmission Line Placement

A number of landowners mentioned that they prefer the transmission line not to be placed on an angle across property, and that the lines should run north-south or east-west, ideally along mile road right-of-ways, and if not, along the half-mile line. It was mentioned that placing the tower along the half-mile-line will minimize its impact on agricultural operations.

One landowner expressed concerns about the clearance distance under the wires, pertaining to farming equipment. They mentioned that their combine would not fit under the Tubular Steel Structure (H-frame) lines during the summer months when the lines sag due to heat.

4.2.2.5 Compensation

A significant number of landowners were interested in understanding how they would be compensated for their land that is impacted by the project.

4.2.2.6 Liability/Insurance

Similar to Round 1 of the PEP, a number of landowners mentioned their concern in regards to issues of liability if they were to hit a tower with their farming equipment. Questions were posed such as: what are the insurance costs?, what is the increased insurance coverage that would be required?, and is more coverage required if more of the transmission line is located on one's property?

4.2.2.7 Construction Timing

One landowner expressed their concern with the timing of construction of the transmission line, and that it should not be done during crop season.

4.2.2.8 Stray Voltage

A few landowners mentioned their concern with the possibility of stray voltage potentially harming their cattle. Questions were also posed whether the transmission line could mitigate the efficacy of electric fences.

4.2.2.9 Health Concerns

A few of the landowners raised concerns regarding the potential impact the transmission line could have on nearby residents' health. Specific health concerns were not raised, however one landowner mentioned that his daughter, who also lives near the proposed preferred route, is pregnant, and had inquired whether there was any literature available confirming the impacts of transmission lines on pregnant women/newborn babies.

Landowners who expressed concern regarding the health impacts of the transmission line were provided with health-impact related literature and studies published by Health Canada available at the LICs.

4.2.2.10 Manitoba Hydro Point of Contact/Hydro Contractors

One of the landowners that attended the LIC expressed how important it is to have a reliable point of contact at Manitoba Hydro during the process of having a tower constructed on their land. This landowner experienced this process with Manitoba Hydro a number of years ago, and was very pleased that they were provided with one point of contact who was easily accessible via telephone. The landowner was able to contact this same Hydro representative throughout the project with questions and concerns.

This landowner also expressed how important it is for Manitoba Hydro to hire reliable contractors who are well-known to Hydro and have a positive working history. It was noted that there were concerns about the contractors not following the construction drawings they were provided with from Manitoba Hydro.

4.2.2.11 Other

Other items that were mentioned, however not as often were:

- Weed control and maintenance.
- Drainage and the potential impact the project may cause.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

Information collected through Round 1 and Round 2 of the PEP has been included for consideration for final route selection, and will be considered in the development of the Environmental Assessment Report.

The final preferred route will be filed with the environmental assessment report for regulatory review and approval. The report will be filed late 2017.

Following submission, Manitoba Hydro will continue to notify landowners and local community members as to how they can become involved in the regulatory review process. Manitoba Hydro will continue working with landowners to understand their property to lessen any potential effects from construction or operation.

APPENDIX A: ROUND 1 NEWSLETTER

Birtle Transmission Project

Round 1
Alternative routes and potential border crossings

What is it and why do we need it?

Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct a 230-kilovolt transmission line to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border. This transmission line is needed to fulfill a 20-year agreement to sell 100 megawatts (equivalent to powering 40,000 homes) of renewable hydroelectricity to SaskPower, beginning in 2020–2021.

Why does Manitoba Hydro export power?

In 2013–14, Manitoba Hydro export sales totaled $439 million. These export sales to neighbouring provinces and the United States produce additional revenue for Manitoba Hydro. They offset the revenue needed from Manitoba customers and keep electricity rates lower than they would otherwise be.

Why do we have surplus electricity to export?

We have surplus energy because the construction of new hydroelectric generating stations adds a lot of additional electricity supply to our system all at once. Exports provide an interim outlet for this surplus electricity and an important source of additional revenue as the province's usage catches up.

In addition, Manitoba Hydro's hydroelectric system is designed to meet Manitoba's electricity demand even during years of low water flows. Most years our water supply has produced more electricity than is required in the province. Export sales provide an outlet for this excess electricity and therefore a revenue stream that helps keep energy prices lower for Manitobans.

For more information on the value of exports, see our video on the project website **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**

Why does Saskatchewan want our power?

SaskPower announced last year it plans to double the percentage of its renewable electricity generation capacity up to 50 per cent by 2030. Meeting this target will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions – about 40 per cent below 2005 levels. The plan calls for an expansion of wind power and other renewables, to go along with the Boundary Dam 3 carbon capture project and natural gas generation.

Where is the project located?

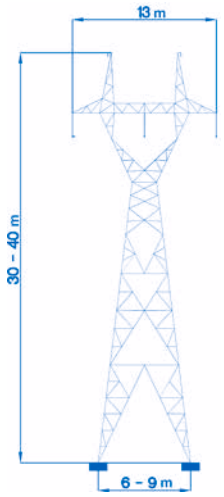
The Birtle Transmission Project will originate at the Birtle Station, south of the community of Birtle, to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border. A map of the alternative routes can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.

Manitoba Hydro

What will the line look like?

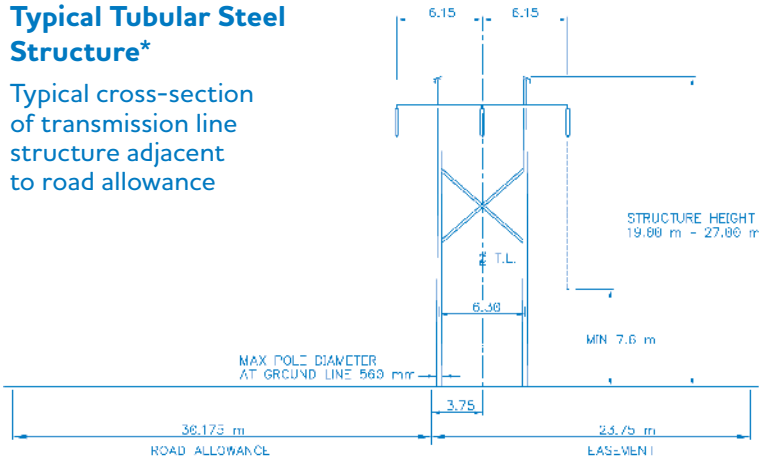
Depending on terrain and the location of the final preferred route, the following tower designs will be used if the project is approved.

Self Supporting Suspension Lattice Steel Structure*



Typical Tubular Steel Structure*

Typical cross-section of transmission line structure adjacent to road allowance



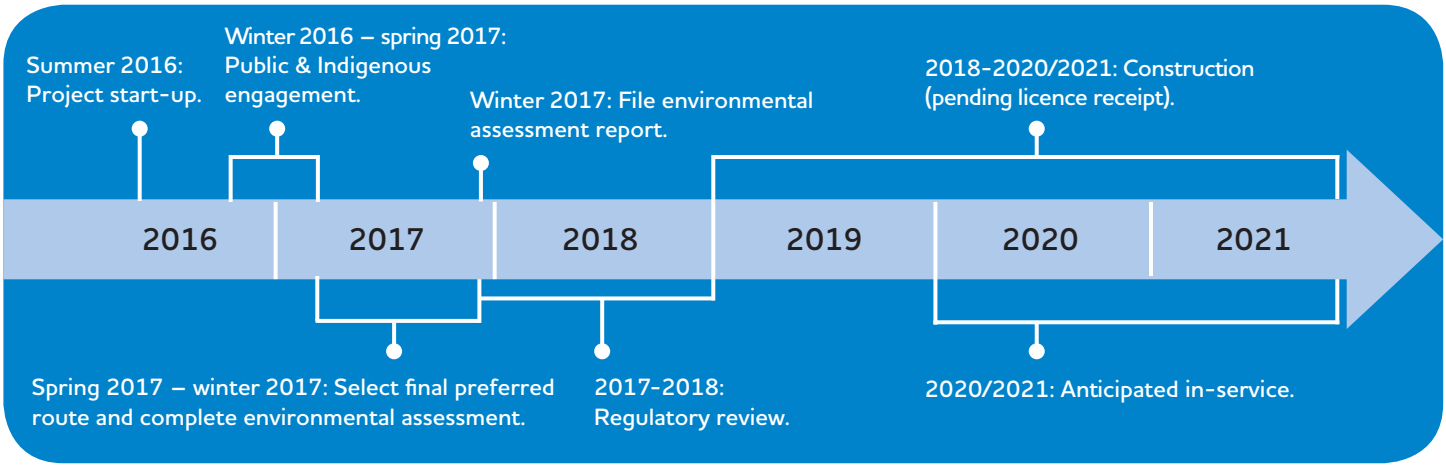
* Tower height and design are estimations and are dependent on terrain and final placement of the transmission line.

Transmission line routing

Feedback received through the engagement and environmental assessment processes will assist in determining a final preferred route for the project. The route selection process considers how well routes balance potential effects to human, technical and natural environments. Data gathering, on the ground fieldwork, and the input of numerous technical specialists, the public, Indigenous communities/organizations, and stakeholders will be taken into account when determining the final placement of the transmission line.

Project timelines

The proposed Birtle Transmission Project schedule (anticipated):



The schedule is subject to change as we progress through the routing and environmental assessment processes.

Environmental assessment

An environmental assessment (EA) report will be developed and submitted to the Environmental Approvals Branch of Manitoba Sustainable Development for review. The project is classified as a Class 2 Project under *The Environment Act*.

The EA report for the project will include:

- a description of the project, through construction, operation, and maintenance;
- study area characterization through fieldwork and background investigation;
- an outline of the public and Indigenous engagement processes, and the feedback received;
- identification and assessment of potential environmental and socio-economic effects; and
- development of mitigation measures to minimize negative effects while enhancing positive effects on people and the environment.

We would like to hear from you.

For more information about the Birtle Transmission Project and to sign up for email notices, please visit **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**.

If you would like further information please contact us at **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca** or call **1-877-343-1631**.

How can I be involved?

We welcome feedback as it helps inform the environmental assessment and the routing processes for the project.

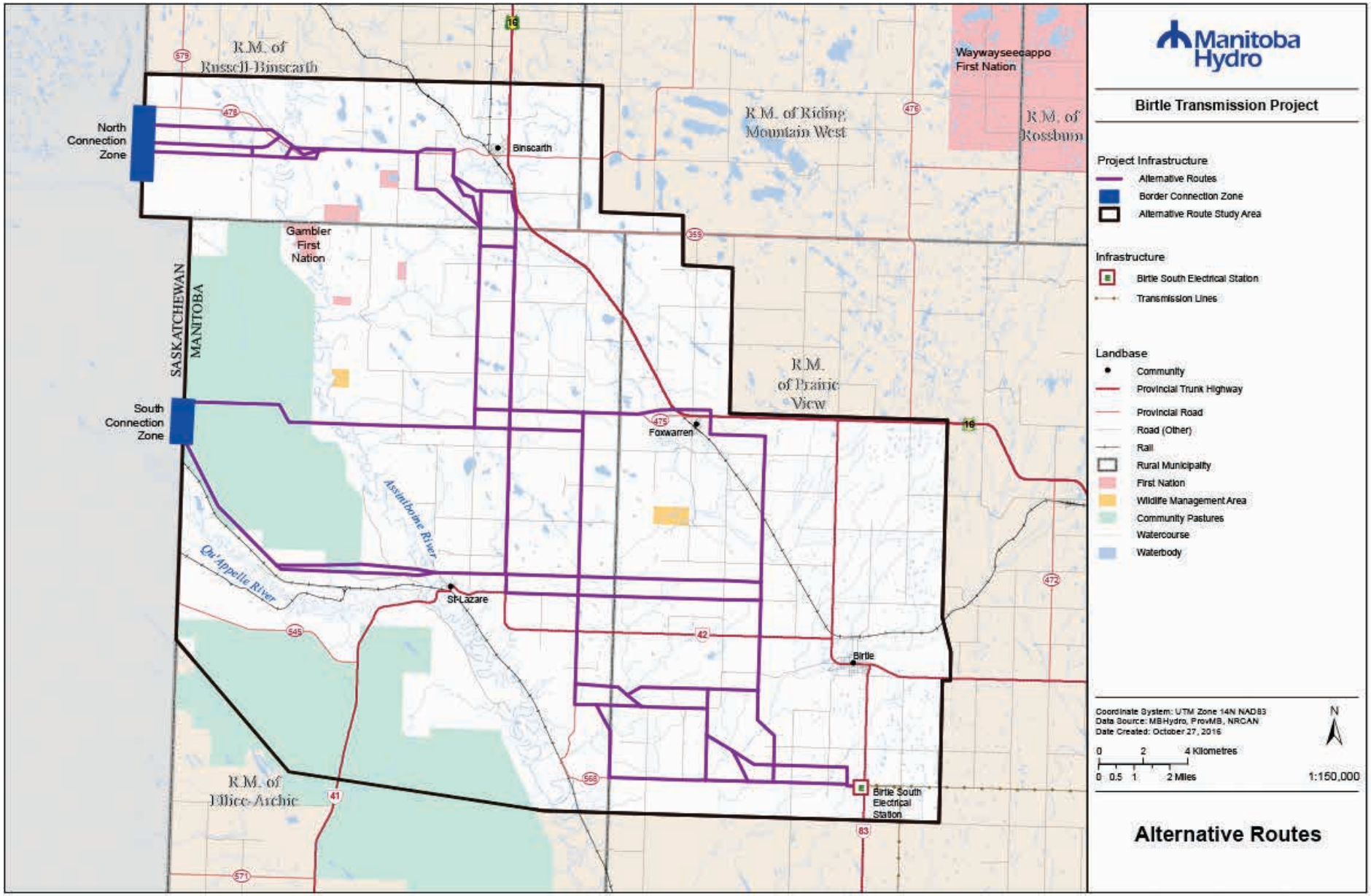
The engagement goals for the Birtle Transmission Project include:

- sharing information;
- learning about and understanding local interests;
- integrating interests and concerns into the assessment process; and
- discussing potential mitigation measures.

These goals will be met by:

- involving the public and Indigenous communities and organizations throughout the routing and environmental assessment stages;
- providing clear, timely, and relevant information and responses;
- delivering engagement processes that are adaptive and inclusive;
- informing the public and Indigenous communities as to how their feedback influenced the project; and
- documenting and reporting on feedback received.

We will use a variety of notification methods to inform Indigenous communities and the public of upcoming project activities.


R.M. of Russell-Binscarth
Waywayseecappo First Nation
R.M. of Riding Mountain West
R.M. of Rossburn
North Connection Zone
Binscarth
Gambler First Nation
SASKATCHEWAN
MANITOBA
R.M. of Prairie View
South Connection Zone
Foxwarren
Assiniboine River
Qu'Appelle River
St-Lazare
Birtle
R.M. of Ellice-Archie
Birtle South Electrical Station
Manitoba Hydro
Birtle Transmission Project
Project Infrastructure
Alternative Routes
Border Connection Zone
Alternative Route Study Area
Infrastructure
Birtle South Electrical Station
Transmission Lines
Landbase
Community
Provincial Trunk Highway
Provincial Road
Road (Other)
Rail
Rural Municipality
First Nation
Wildlife Management Area
Community Pastures
Watercourse
Waterbody
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 14N NAD83
Data Source: MBHydro, ProvMB, NRCAN
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Alternative Routes

APPENDIX B: ROUND 2 NEWSLETTER

Birtle Transmission Project

Round 2
Preferred Route

What is it and why do we need it?

Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct a 230-kilovolt transmission line to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border. This transmission line is needed to fulfill a 20-year agreement to sell 100 megawatts (equivalent to powering 40,000 homes) of renewable hydroelectricity to SaskPower, beginning in 2020–2021.

Where is the project located?

The Birtle Transmission Project will originate at the Birtle Station, south of the community of Birtle, to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border.

What's new?

During the first round of engagement, a number of alternative segments and a north and south border crossing option were presented. Feedback on these segments and border crossings was collected from participants and study team specialists. Once all the feedback was collected, routes made up of segments to each border crossing were evaluated and compared. Based on feedback received through the engagement and environmental assessment processes, a preferred route has been determined. This preferred route aims to balance different interests on the landscape.

Manitoba Hydro is presenting this preferred route to the public and Indigenous communities and organizations to gather feedback that will assist in determining a final preferred route and help to complete an environmental assessment to present to regulators at the end of 2017. Feedback received as we progress will assist in:

- Further assessments undertaken by discipline specialists;
- Determining the final placement of the transmission line;
- Determining mitigation measures to minimize the potential impacts on people and the environment.

What's next?

Following the selection of the final preferred route and the development of the environmental assessment (EA) report, Manitoba Hydro will submit the EA report to the Environmental Approvals Branch of Manitoba Sustainable Development.

The EA report for the Project will include:

- a description of the Project, through construction, operation, and maintenance;
- study area characterization through fieldwork and background investigation;
- an outline of the public and Indigenous engagement processes, and the feedback received;
- identification and assessment of potential environmental and socio-economic effects; and
- development of mitigation measures to minimize negative effects while enhancing positive effects on people and the environment.

Following the submission of the environmental assessment to regulators, a public review period will be provided for interested parties to share their concerns and ask questions about the report.

Manitoba Hydro will continue to contact potentially affected landowners as these processes progress.

Manitoba Hydro

What we heard – Round 1

Manitoba Hydro has gathered feedback on the Project through open houses, workshops and meetings, as well as phone calls, emails and letters. The following table lists the key issues that were received during the first round of the engagement processes.

Feedback from participants	How was the feedback considered?
"The transmission line will impact agricultural operations."	Manitoba Hydro avoided half-mile (quarter section) alignments where possible and followed existing mile lines and road rights-of-way when available. Tower design and placement will also assist in reducing potential agricultural impact.
"There will be a loss of productive farm land."	Based on feedback, the line will be routed adjacent to road allowances, where possible, to reduce potential agricultural impacts. Class of land and current land use were considered in determining a preferred route for the Project.
"Routing through the southern Community Pasture (Ellice-Archie) should be considered."	A route through the southern community pasture was developed and considered in the route selection process but was not selected as the preferred route.
"Follow existing infrastructure."	Participants identified existing corridors and linear features as possible routing opportunities and they were taken advantage of where possible.
"Homes should be avoided as much as possible."	Proximity to homes is a consideration in the transmission line routing process. The current route has eight homes between 100-400 metres away from the line.
"Natural and recreation areas are important to my community."	Participants outlined many areas for recreational use in the area and they were considered when determining a preferred route for the Project. Manitoba Hydro will identify sensitive sites and will consider specific mitigation or construction scheduling to minimize potential effects on natural areas.
"Stay out of natural, intact wilderness."	Manitoba Hydro considered the intactness of the area when selecting the preferred route.
"Will this project affect water?"	Surface and groundwater quality will not be degraded. The project will use buffers and setbacks, erosion and sedimentation control measures as well as stream crossing measures.
"Stay off of Crown lands."	A preference Manitoba Hydro often heard was for the route to be located on Crown lands, whereas this routing option was raised as a concern from First Nations, the MMF and other stakeholders. The preferred route aims to balance different interests on the landscape.
"Cultural and burial heritage sites are important and should be avoided."	Manitoba Hydro acknowledges the need for careful protection and respect for culture and heritage resources and implements a number of measures to safeguard these resources. A Cultural and Heritage Resources Protection Plan will be developed that describes processes and protocols to protect discovered cultural and heritage resources during construction.
"Native grasslands and grassland birds are very important. Priority species to be considered include Sprague's Pipit and the Chestnut Collared Longspurs."	Manitoba Hydro will continue to consider native grassland and grassland bird species in route refinement, the environmental assessment, and mitigation planning.

Why does Manitoba Hydro involve our communities?

We actively seek feedback as it helps inform the environmental assessment and the routing processes for the Project.

Engagement goals were developed for the Birtle Transmission Project to encourage and involve local community members. These goals include:

- sharing information;
- learning about and understanding local interests;
- integrating interests and concerns into the assessment process; and
- discussing potential mitigation measures.

These goals will be met by:

- involving the public and Indigenous communities and organizations throughout the routing and environmental assessment stages;
- providing clear, timely, and relevant information and responses;
- delivering engagement processes that are adaptive and inclusive;
- informing the public and Indigenous communities as to how their feedback influenced the Project; and
- documenting and reporting on feedback received.

Why does Manitoba Hydro export power?

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For more information on the value of exports, see our video on the Project website www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle

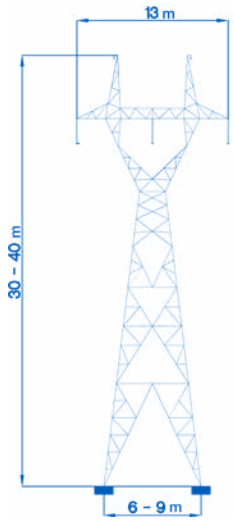
Why does Saskatchewan want our power?

SaskPower announced last year that it plans to double the percentage of its renewable electricity generation capacity up to 50 per cent by 2030. Meeting this target will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions – about 40 per cent below 2005 levels. Importing power from Manitoba is attractive environmentally because there are almost zero emissions associated with hydropower.

What will the line look like?

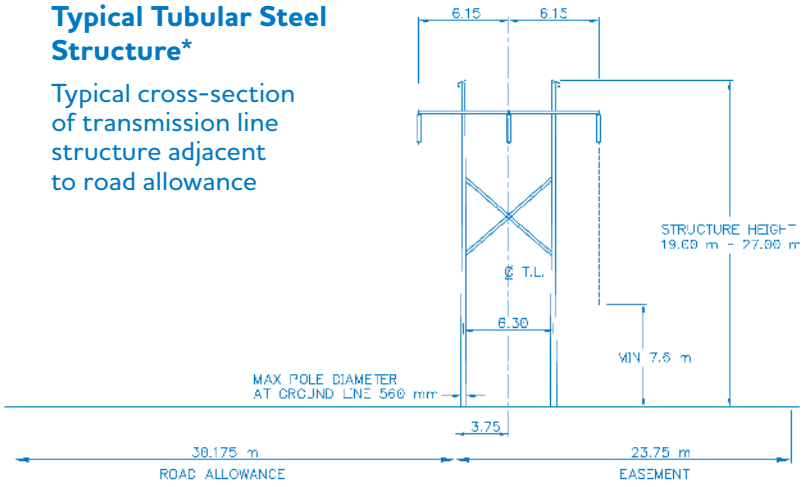
Depending on terrain and the location of the final preferred route, the following tower designs will be used if the Project is approved.

Self Supporting Suspension Lattice Steel Structure*



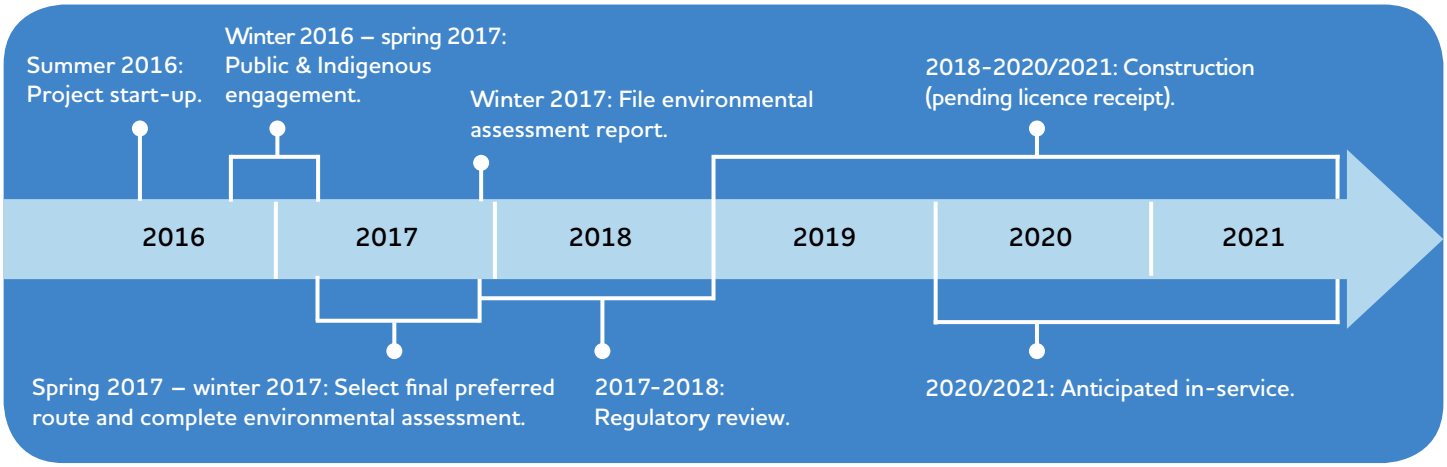
Typical Tubular Steel Structure*

Typical cross-section of transmission line structure adjacent to road allowance



* Tower height and design are estimations and are dependent on terrain and final placement of the transmission line.

Anticipated project timelines



The schedule is subject to change as we progress through the routing and environmental assessment processes.

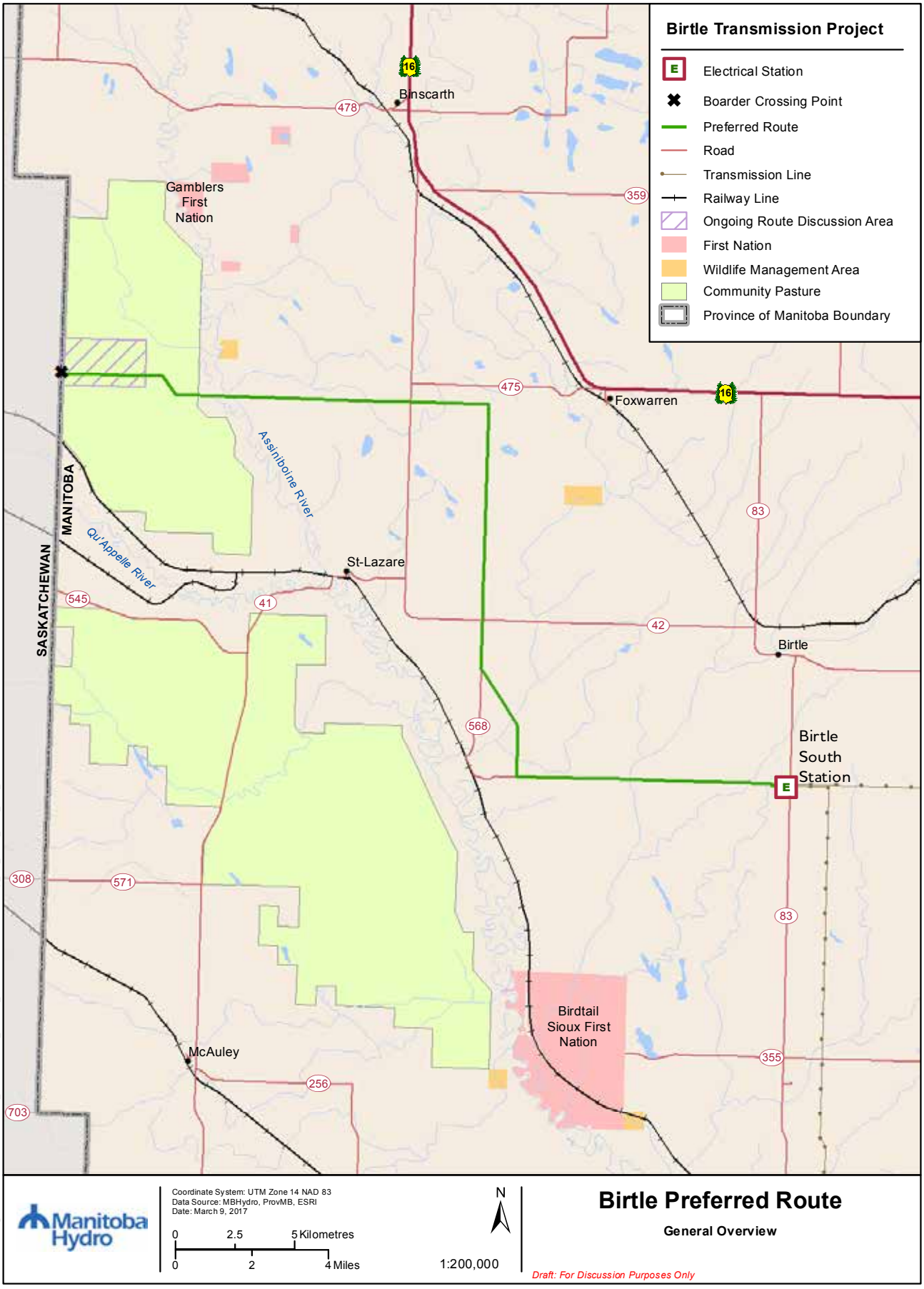
What happens after a final preferred route is selected

- Manitoba Hydro will notify Indigenous communities and organizations and other interested parties;
- Manitoba Hydro will notify potentially affected landowners by letter which will outline the upcoming regulatory review process;
- Manitoba Hydro will continue to notify potentially affected landowners of key project milestones;
- Manitoba Hydro will continue to maintain a project information line and email address to address project-related questions.

We would like to hear from you.

For more information about the Birtle Transmission Project and to sign up for email notices, please visit **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**.

If you would like further information please contact us at **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca** or call **1-877-343-1631**.



Available in accessible formats upon request.

APPENDIX C: ROUND 1 OPEN HOUSE STORYBOARDS

Welcome

Birtle Transmission Project public open house

Manitoba Hydro

Purpose of the open house

- Provide information about the proposed Birtle Transmission Project.
- Gather feedback on alternative routes and border crossings.
- Identify interests, opportunities and constraints to inform routing and environmental assessment processes.
- Answer questions and address concerns.

Manitoba Hydro

Project Need

- 20-year agreement with SaskPower
- Sale of 100 megawatts of renewable hydroelectricity

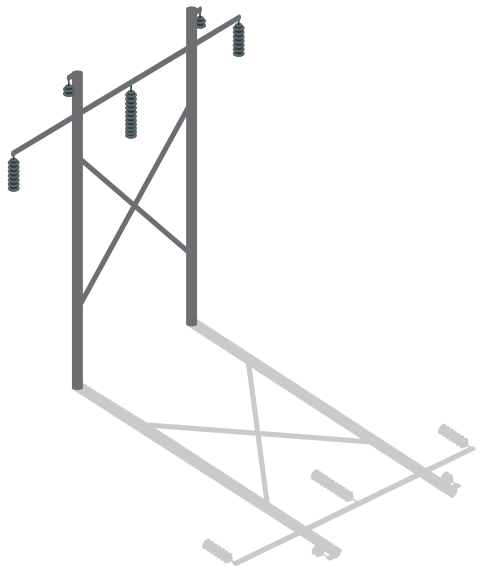
The income from export sales help keep Manitoba Hydro's electricity rates among the lowest in North America.

Manitoba Hydro

Project Description

- 230-kV transmission line from Birtle Station to the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border
- Minor upgrades at various stations
- Tower design – anticipate use of steel lattice towers and “H” frame structures
- In-service 2020–2021

SaskPower will be responsible for the portion of the transmission line in Saskatchewan that will connect to their station in Tantallon, SK.



Manitoba Hydro

Why do we export power?

- Export sales to neighbouring provinces and to the United States produce revenue for Manitoba Hydro. This offsets revenue needed from Manitoba customers and keeps electricity rates lower than they would otherwise be.
- In 2013–14, Manitoba Hydro's export sales totaled $439 million.
- The agreement between Manitoba Hydro and SaskPower will support SaskPower's goal to double the percentage of its renewable electricity supply up to 50 per cent by 2030.

Manitoba Hydro

Engagement processes

- Involving public/Indigenous communities and organizations throughout routing and environmental assessment processes;
- Providing clear, timely, and relevant information and responses;
- Delivering engagement processes that are adaptive and inclusive;
- Informing the public/Indigenous communities and organizations as to how their feedback is influencing the project ; and
- Documenting and reporting on feedback received.

The engagement processes are coordinated with the routing process to provide information and gather feedback at key stages of routing.

Manitoba Hydro

Engagement activities

Round 1 – fall 2016

- Introduce the project
- Present alternative routes and proposed border crossings
- Answer questions
- Identify and document concerns
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment
- Use feedback to guide selection of preferred route and border crossing

Round 2 – early 2017

- Present Round 1 findings
- Present preferred route to preferred border crossing
- Answer questions
- Identify and document concerns
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment
- Use feedback to assist in determining final route placement

Manitoba Hydro

What are we evaluating?

Manitoba Hydro will review different potential social and biophysical effects of the project.

Aspects being evaluated include, but are not limited to:

- Wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Vegetation
- Infrastructure
- Agriculture
- Ground and surface water
- Heritage resources
- Traditional land and resource use
- Health (noise and air emissions)

Manitoba Hydro

What is an Environmental Assessment?

The environmental assessment for the project will:

- Characterize the environment;
- Identify potential effects on people and the environment;
- Determine ways to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects while enhancing benefits of the project.

Feedback received from the public, Indigenous communities and organizations will enhance the evaluation of the project.

Manitoba Hydro

Two border crossings

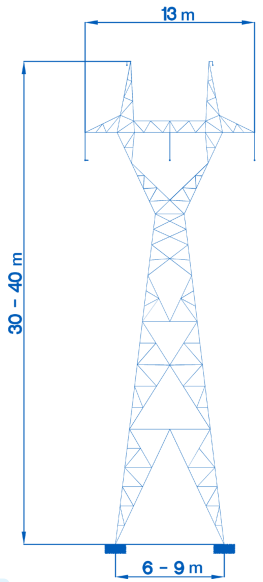
- Border crossings determined based on preliminary constraint and opportunity mapping.
- Worked with SaskPower to determine locations where both groups could potentially cross.
- Will negotiate final provincial boundary crossing.

Manitoba Hydro

Tower structures

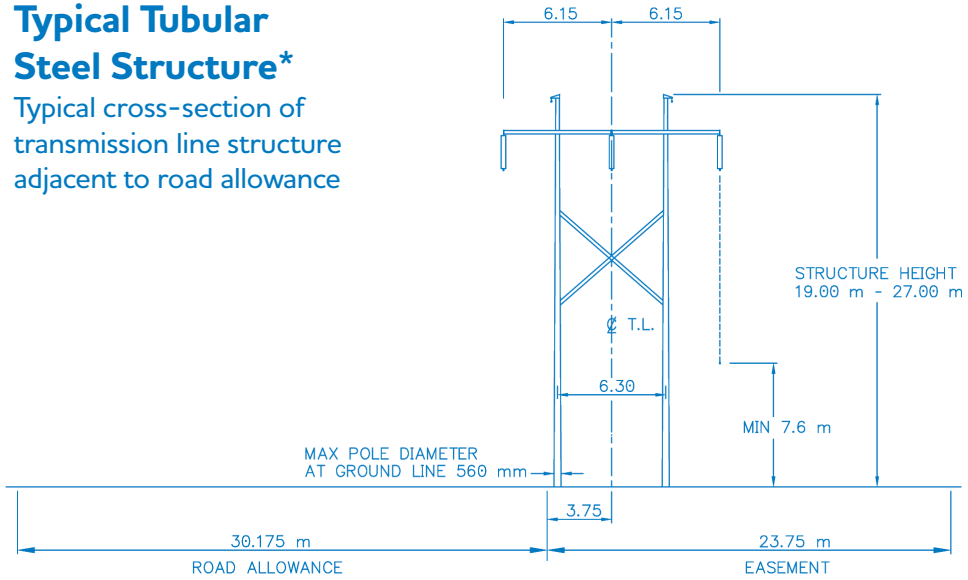
These tower designs will be used depending on terrain and location of the final preferred route.

Self Supporting Suspension Lattice Steel Structure*



Typical Tubular Steel Structure*

Typical cross-section of transmission line structure adjacent to road allowance



* Tower height and design are estimations and are dependent on terrain and final placement of the transmission line.

Manitoba Hydro

Community mapping

Please take a few minutes to consider the following questions and provide your input at the Community Mapping Station.

This will help us identify and understand the valued components or concerns in your community.

Manitoba Hydro

Community mapping

- What and where are the features, historic sites or other areas of importance in your community?
- Are there natural resources or areas of particular economic value in your community?
- Are there areas or sites of particular value to tourism or recreation in your community?
- Are there lands or areas traditionally used by the community for events, gatherings, or other important social or economic activities?
- Are there unique or important sites that contribute to the community identity?
- Do you have other local or historic knowledge that we should consider in the corridor routing process?
- Are there infrastructure (eg: roads, water) or service (eg: fire, ambulance) concerns?

Manitoba Hydro

Prioritizing local considerations

With regard to placing a transmission line, please prioritize your considerations.

You can place all of your dots next to one criteria or spread them out among several criteria.

If you have not received dots, please ask one of the project representatives.

Manitoba Hydro

Natural feature mapping

To help us identify and understand the important natural features of your community, please take a few minutes to consider the following questions and provide your input at the Natural Features Mapping Station.

Manitoba Hydro

Natural feature mapping

- Are there sites in the project area with special importance regarding plants, animals, birds, and reptiles? What kinds of species are located there? Are there endangered species?
- Are there specific locations in the project area where people gather plants and berries? Which plants and berries?
- Are there natural areas/wetlands in the project area? Where are they located?
- Are there areas where bird/animal hunting or trapping occurs? What species are hunted/trapped? What time of year?
- Do you have other knowledge we should consider in the corridor routing process?

Manitoba Hydro

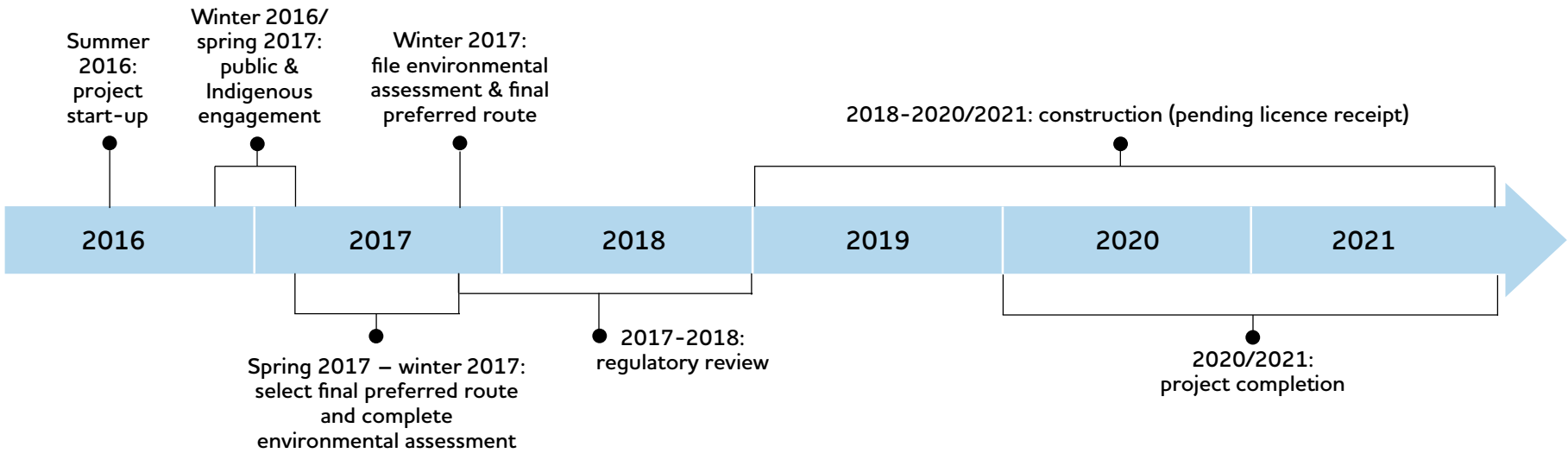
Local criteria

Economic/agricultural land
Following existing corridors (transmission/transportation/service)
Distance from existing communities/residences
Forested/natural areas
Distance from cultural/heritage assets
Vistas/view corridors
Public lands (Crown land/community pastures)
Project cost
Other

Manitoba Hydro

Anticipated timelines and next steps

- Determine a preferred route;
- Continue environmental assessment work;
- Present the preferred route in early 2017 for feedback.



Manitoba Hydro

Thank you

The project team wants to hear from you.

- Manitoba Hydro representatives are available to answer your questions.
- Please take a moment to complete a comment sheet so the project team can document your concerns.
- Visit the map station to show us where you may have any information or additional considerations regarding alternative routes.

Please contact: **1-877-343-1631** or **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca**

Visit the project webpage at **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle** for up-to-date information, and register to receive project updates.

Manitoba Hydro

APPENDIX D: LANDOWNER INFORMATION CENTRE QUESTIONNAIRE

Birtle Transmission Project
Landowner Questionnaire

April 2017

Name of Landowner: _____

Name of Manitoba Hydro Rep.: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Follow up required:	☐ Yes	☐ No	Tower spotting:	☐ Yes	☐ No
Mitigation measure:	☐ Yes	☐ No	Attachment:	☐ Yes	☐ No
Route modification:	☐ Yes	☐ No			

Residence

	Yes	No
Is there any residence on the parcel of land?	☐	☐

If so, how close is it to an Alternative Route Segment?

☐ 75 to 100 m ☐ 100 to 400 m ☐ more than 400 m

Are there any potential obstructions (such as shelterbelts, trees (woodlot), structures, retention ponds) along the Preferred Route through your property?	☐	☐

_____

_____

Land Use

Are you the sole owner or do you lease the property in question?

☐ Own _____ ☐ Lease _____

☐ Other _____

How is the land currently being used?

☐ Annual Cropping ☐ Hayland/Forage ☐ Pasture/Grazing ☐ Livestock Production

☐ Woodlot ☐ Farmstead ☐ Rural Residential ☐ Commercial Plant Nursery ☐ Market Garden

☐ Commercial/Industrial (Type) _____

☐ Other: _____

If applicable, please provide more details on your agricultural production system:

- If crop production, what types of crops are you growing? _____

  _____

- If livestock production, what types of animals are you raising? _____

  _____

Manitoba Hydro

	Yes	No
• Do you use GPS guidance systems in your operation?	☐	☐
• Are any of your crops dependant on aerial application?	☐	☐
• Are your farming practices on the property in question organically certified?	☐	☐
• Is this an Intensive Livestock Operation?	☐	☐
• Are you spreading manure on the property?	☐	☐

If yes, what method of application?

☐ Solid spreading ☐ Liquid – tank ☐ Liquid – drag line

• Is your land irrigated?	☐	☐
• Is your land tile drained?	☐	☐

- If applicable, what are your main concerns with a transmission line on agricultural land?

☐ Loss of agricultural land ☐ Diagonal crossing of farm land

☐ Interference with farm practice or crop selection

- Aerial spraying
- Working around structures
- Other

☐ Interference with GPS equipment ☐ Property Value ☐ Subdivision potential

☐ Other:

_____

_____

_____

- If you have any recommendations for reducing the potential effects of the transmission line on agricultural land, please explain:

_____

_____

_____

Atmospheric Environment

- How would you describe the existing noise on your property? ☐ Low ☐ Medium ☐ High
- What is the source of the noise? (e.g. farm machinery) _____

_____

Ground Water Resources

	Yes	No
• Are there existing wells on your property?	☐	☐
• Are they active?	☐	☐

Fish and Fish Habitat

- Are there fish habitats on your property? (e.g., stream, creek, pond) Yes ☐ No ☐

  If so:

- Which species of fish are found on your property? _____

  _____

- Do you fish or bait trap on your property? _____
- Do you allow members of the public to fish or bait trap on your property? _____

Vegetation and Wetlands

- Do you know of any rare, or low occurring, plant species on your property? Yes ☐ No ☐

  If yes, please explain:

  _____

  _____

- Do you know of any weeds on your property? Yes ☐ No ☐

  If yes, please explain:

  _____

  _____

- Are there wetlands/sloughs on your property? Yes ☐ No ☐

  If yes, please explain:

  _____

  _____

Wildlife (Birds, Mammals, Reptiles)

- Does your property support wildlife habitat (e.g. uncultivated lands)? Yes ☐ No ☐
- What kinds of wildlife do you see or hear on your property? _____

  _____

- Do you know of any wildlife species-at-risk (i.e. endangered species) on _____ your property? (i.e. Baird's sparrow, burrowing owl, chestnut-ferruginous ____hawk, mule deer, bats, Canada warbler, common nighthawk, red-headed woodpecker, etc.) Yes ☐ No ☐
- If yes, please explain what time of year and any other important details:

  _____

  _____

- Do frogs breed on your property in the spring? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Do you know of any snake dens, turtle observations, turtle nesting sites, or areas with large number of salamanders on your property? Yes ☐ No ☐

  If yes, please explain:

  _____

  _____

- If you have a wetland or slough on your land, would you be willing to have it surveyed to understand what wildlife are using it? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Have you seen moose, elk, bear, wolves or coyotes on your property? Yes ☐ No ☐

  If yes, what time of year? _____
- Do you feed wildlife on your property? Yes ☐ No ☐

  If yes, which animals do you attract (deer, elk, birds)? _____

Resource Use

- Do you use your land for hunting and/or trapping? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Do you allow members of the public to use your land for hunting and/or trapping? Yes ☐ No ☐

  If yes, how often and to whom?

  _____

  _____

  If yes to one of both of the questions, please explain what species are hunted and/or trapped, approximately how many, and at what time of year?

  _____

  _____
- Is your land used for outdoor recreational activities? (e.g., hiking, snowmobiling, ATV) Yes ☐ No ☐
- Do you use your land for local resource gathering purposes? (e.g., berry picking, plants) Yes ☐ No ☐

  If yes, please explain. _____

  _____

Heritage Resources

- Have you ever found artifacts such as arrowheads, hammerstones, broken dishes, broken bottles, metal fragments, etc. on your property? Yes ☐ No ☐

  If yes, please explain: _____

  _____
- Have you ever heard of historic grave locations relating to early homestead settlers in the immediate area of your property? Yes ☐ No ☐

Additional comments:

_____

_____

_____

For more information about the Birtle Transmission Project and to sign up for email notices, please visit **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**.

If you would like further information please contact us at **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca** or call **1-877-343-1631**..

Manitoba Hydro

APPENDIX E: LANDOWNER INFORMATION CENTRE STORYBOARDS

Welcome to the Birtle Transmission Project Landowner Information Centre

Purpose of the Landowner Information Centre:

- Provide information about the proposed Birtle Transmission Project.
- Gather feedback on the preferred route.
- Gather information to enhance the environmental assessment work being undertaken.
- Gather local knowledge to assist in determining the final placement of the transmission line.
- Discuss possible mitigation measures to minimize potential impacts.

These boards present an overview of the project. For more detailed information, please see the documents provided and visit the project website: www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle.

Available in accessible formats upon request.

Manitoba Hydro

Project Description

- The Birtle Transmission Project includes:
  - Construction of a 230-kV transmission line from Birtle Station to the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border;
  - Minor upgrades at various stations;
  - Tower design – anticipate use of steel lattice towers and “H” frame structures.
  - In-service 2020-2021.

- The preferred route will cross through the RM of Ellice-Archie, RM of Prairie View and the Spy Hill community pasture to connect to Saskatchewan at the preferred border crossing.

Available in accessible formats upon request.

Manitoba Hydro

Project Need

- The Birtle Transmission Project is required to:
    - Fulfill a 20-year agreement with SaskPower to sell 100 megawatts (equivalent to powering 40,000 homes) of renewable hydroelectricity.

SaskPower will be responsible for the portion of the transmission line in Saskatchewan that will connect to their station in Tantallon, SK.

Available in accessible formats upon request.

Manitoba Hydro

Engagement Process

Round 1 – Fall 2016

- Introduce the project
- Present alternative routes and proposed border crossings
- Answer questions
- Identify and document concerns
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment
- Use feedback to guide selection of preferred route and border crossing

Round 2 – Spring 2017 **WE ARE HERE**

- Present what we heard in Round 1
- Present preferred route to preferred border crossing
- Answer questions
- Identify and document concerns
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment
- Use feedback to assist in determining final route placement

Available in accessible formats upon request.

Manitoba Hydro

What We Heard

Feedback from participants	How was the feedback considered?
“The transmission line will impact agricultural operations.”	Manitoba Hydro avoided half-mile (quarter section) alignments where possible and followed existing mile lines and road rights-of-way when available. Tower design and placement will also assist in reducing potential agricultural impact.
“There will be a loss of productive farm land.”	Based on feedback, the line will be routed adjacent to road allowances, where possible, to reduce potential agricultural impacts. Class of land and current land use were considered in determining a preferred route for the Project.
“Routing through the southern Community Pasture (Ellice-Archie) should be considered.”	A route through the southern community pasture was evaluated in the route selection process but was not selected as the preferred route.
“Follow existing infrastructure.”	Participants identified existing corridors and linear features as possible routing opportunities and they were incorporated where possible.
“Homes should be avoided as much as possible.”	Proximity to homes is a consideration in the transmission line routing process. The current route has eight homes between 100-400 metres from the line.
“Natural and recreation areas are important to my community.”	Participants outlined many areas for recreational use in the area and they were considered when determining a preferred route for the Project. Manitoba Hydro will identify sensitive sites and will consider specific mitigation or construction scheduling to minimize potential effects on natural areas.
“Stay out of natural, intact wilderness.”	Manitoba Hydro considered the intactness of the area when selecting the preferred route.

Available in accessible formats upon request.

Manitoba Hydro

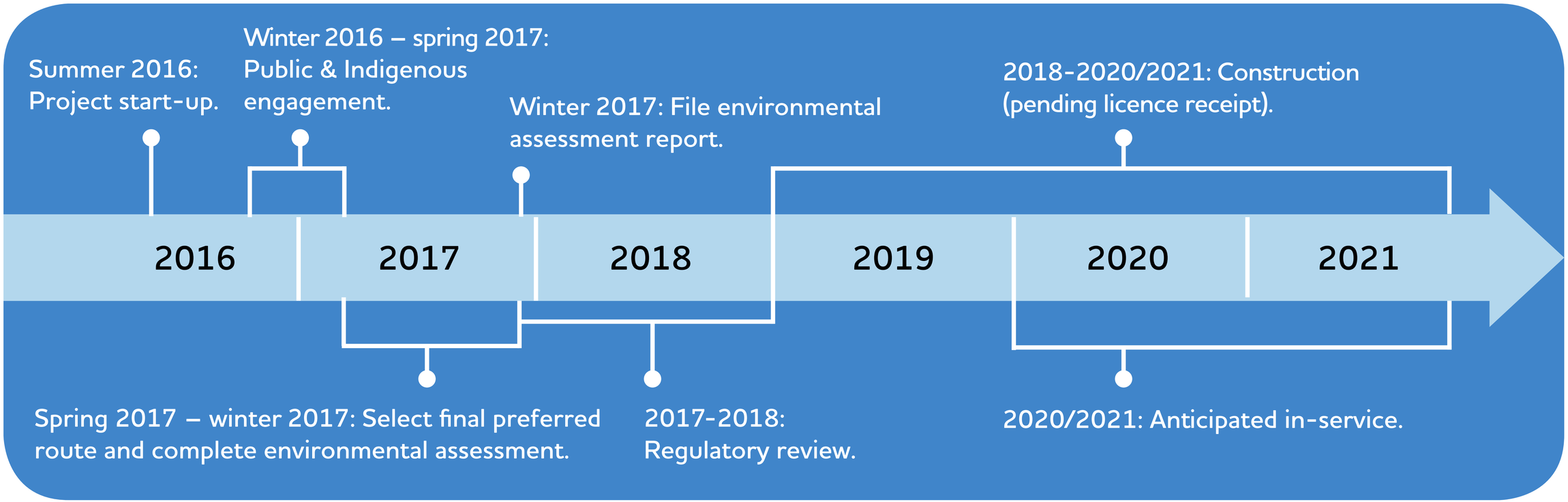
What We Heard (continued)

Feedback from participants	How was the feedback considered?
“Will this project affect water?”	Surface and groundwater quality will not be degraded. The project will use buffers and setbacks, erosion and sedimentation control measures as well as stream crossing measures.
“Stay off of Crown lands.”	A preference Manitoba Hydro often heard was for the route to be located on Crown lands, whereas this routing option was raised as a concern from First Nations, the MMF and other stakeholders. The preferred route aims to balance different interests on the landscape.
“Cultural and burial heritage sites are important and should be avoided.”	Manitoba Hydro acknowledges the need for careful protection and respect for culture and heritage resources and implements a number of measures to safeguard these resources. A Cultural and Heritage Resources Protection Plan will be developed that describes processes and protocols to protect discovered cultural and heritage resources during construction.
“Native grasslands and grassland birds are very important. Priority species to be considered include Sprague’s Pipit and the Chestnut Collared Longspurs.”	Manitoba Hydro will continue to consider native grassland and grassland bird species in route refinement, the environmental assessment, and mitigation planning.

Available in accessible formats upon request.

Manitoba Hydro

Anticipated Project Timeline

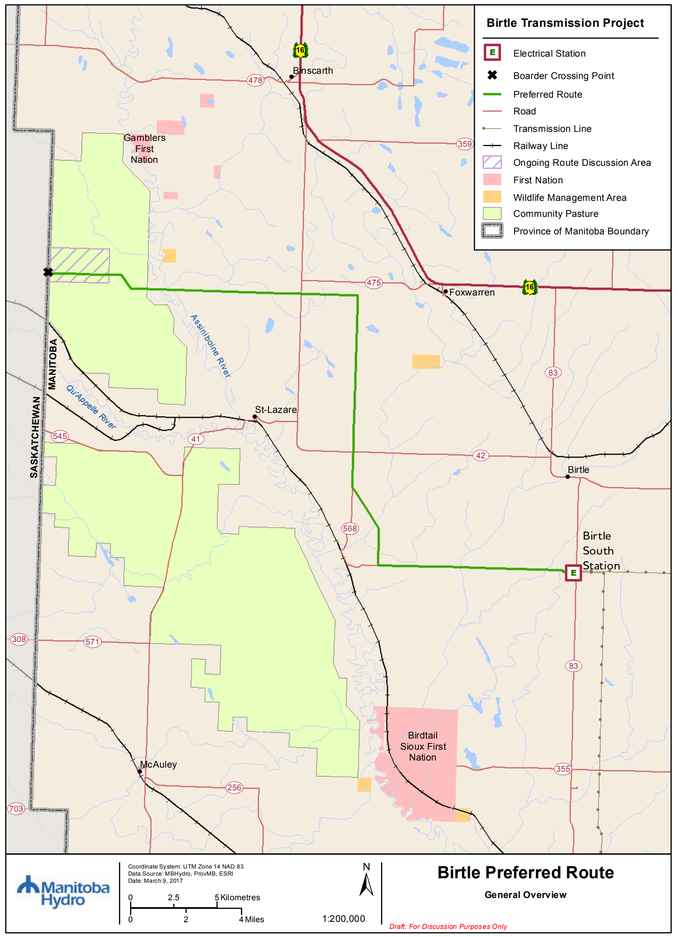


The schedule is subject to change as we progress through the routing and environmental assessment processes.

Available in accessible formats upon request.

Manitoba Hydro

Preferred Route



- During the first round of engagement, a number of alternative segments and a north and south border crossing were presented.
- Feedback was collected from participants and study team specialists.
- Routes to each border crossing were evaluated and compared.
- Based on feedback received through the engagement and environmental assessment processes, a preferred route has been determined.

This preferred route aims to balance different interests on the landscape.

Available in accessible formats upon request.

Manitoba Hydro

Next Steps

- Review input from the public engagement and the environmental assessment processes.
- Determine a Final Preferred Route.
- Complete and submit the Environmental Assessment Report.
- Continue to answer questions and address concerns.

Available in accessible formats upon request.

Manitoba Hydro

Thank you

The project team wants to hear from you.

For more information about the Birtle Transmission Project and to sign up for email notices, please visit **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**.

If you would like further information please contact us at **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca** or call **1-877-343-1631**.

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Manitoba Hydro

Manitoba Hydro

BIRTLE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

RM of Ellice-Archie: Round 1 Public Feedback Summary

Prepared for: **Manitoba Hydro** I Prepared by: **MMM Group Limited** I **January 2017**

Table of Contents

STANDARD LIMITATIONS

This report was prepared by MMM Group Limited (MMM) for the account of Manitoba Hydro (the Client). The disclosure of any information contained in this report is the sole responsibility of the Client. The material in this report reflects MMM's best judgment in light of the information available to it at the time of preparation. Any use which a third party makes of this report, or any reliance on or decisions to be made based on it, are the responsibility of such third parties. MMM accepts no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by a third party as a result of decisions made or actions based on this report.

MMM Group Limited (MMM) was retained by Manitoba Hydro to assist with the Public Engagement Process (PEP) for the Birtle Transmission Project. The report contained herein provides a summary of the PEP in the RM of Ellice-Archie, including the following:

- Project description
- Anticipated project timelines
- Round 1 Public Engagement Process (PEP)
- Public feedback
- Next steps

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Manitoba Hydro is investigating the construction of a 230-kilovolt transmission line from Birtle Station, south of the community of Birtle, to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border (**Figure 1**). This transmission line is needed to fulfill a 20-year agreement to sell 100 megawatts (equivalent to powering 40,000 homes) of renewable hydroelectricity to SaskPower, beginning in 2020–2021. SaskPower will be responsible for the portion of the transmission line in Saskatchewan that will connect to their station in Tantallon, Saskatchewan.

Manitoba Hydro undertakes public and Indigenous engagement processes to collect feedback to assist in the determination of a preferred route for the project and to enhance the environmental assessment work being undertaken. The route selection process aims to balance potential effects to human, technical and natural environments. Data gathering, on the ground fieldwork, and the input of numerous technical specialists, the public, Indigenous communities/organizations, and stakeholders are taken into account when determining the final placement of the transmission line.

This public engagement process includes two rounds of engagement. Round 1 was to:

- Introduce the project.
- Present alternative routes and proposed border crossings.
- Answer questions.
- Identify and document concerns.
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment.
- Use feedback to guide selection of preferred route and border crossing.

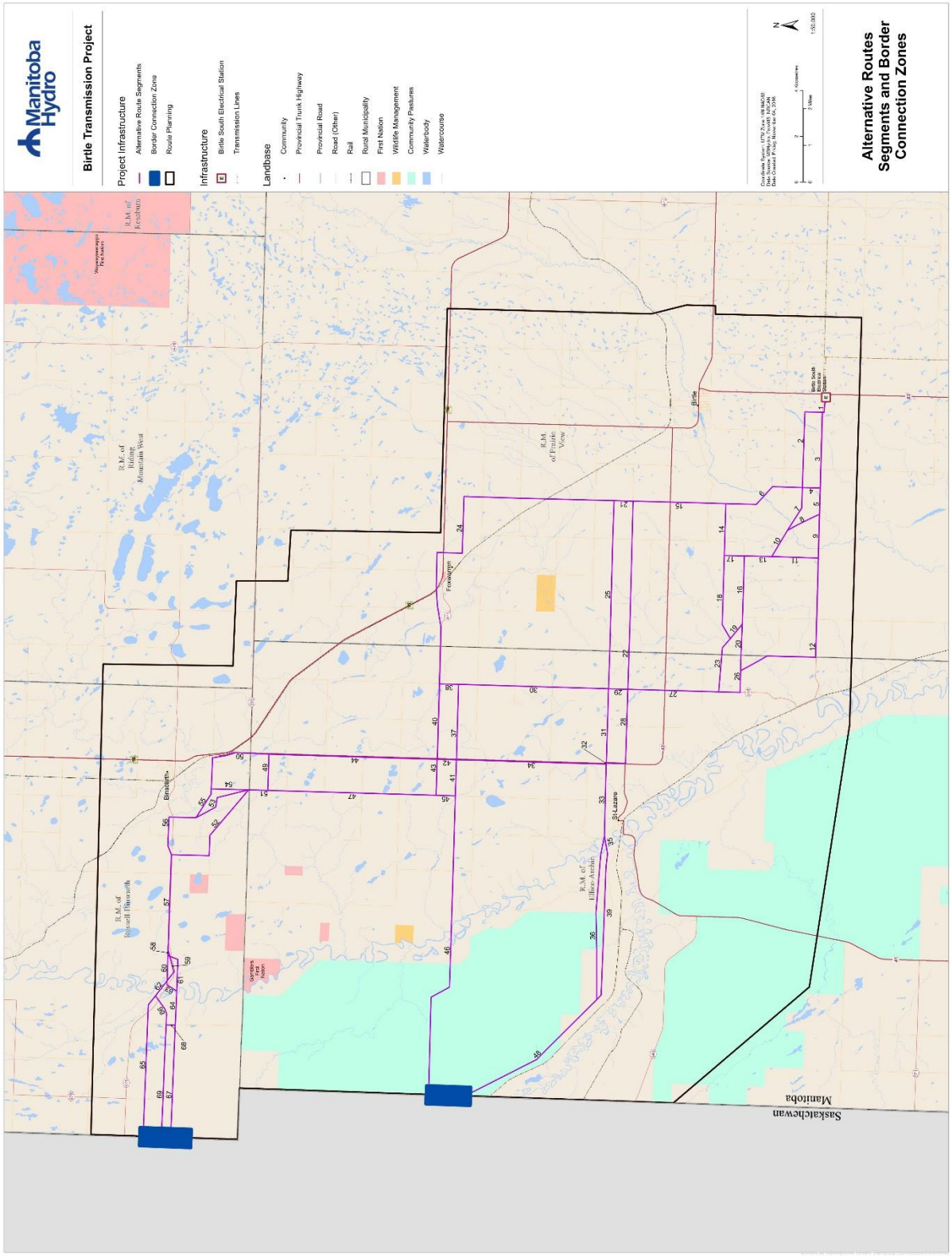


Figure 1: Project Location

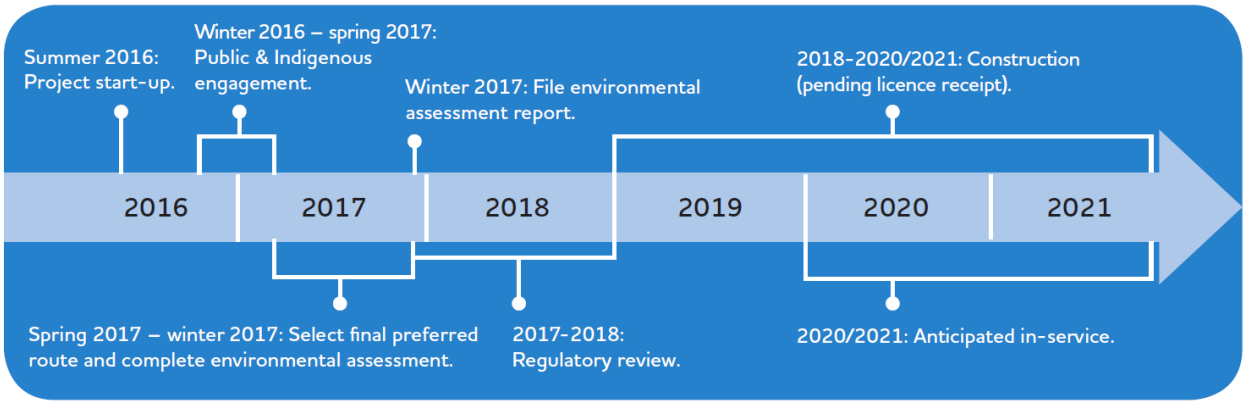
Round 2 will:

- Present Round 1 findings.
- Present preferred route to preferred border crossing.
- Answer questions.
- Identify and document concerns.
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment.
- Use feedback to assist in determining final route placement.

Round 1 had public engagement activities in the RM of Ellice-Archie, RM of Prairie View, and RM of Russell-Binscarth. This report was prepared to summarize the feedback from the public engagement activities in the RM of Ellice-Archie.

2.0 ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINES

The anticipated Birtle Transmission Project timeline is as follows:



The schedule is subject to change as progress is made through the transmission line and environmental assessment processes.

3.0 ROUND 1 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Round 1 public engagement activities included the following:

- Stakeholder Interviews.
- Meeting with Council.
- Landowner Workshop.
- Public Open House.

This summary report focuses on feedback from landowners and members of the public through the landowner workshop and open house.

3.1 COMMUNICATION

A range of communication materials were developed to inform the public of the proposed project, including the following:

3.1.1 POSTCARD

A postcard advertising the project and the public open houses (**Figure 2**), was sent to 1,059 addresses in the RM of Russell-Binscarth, RM of Ellice-Archie, and RM of Prairie View.

3.1.2 NEWSLETTER

The project newsletter (**Appendix A**) was included in the mail invites and included:

- A description of the project.
- A description of the types of towers that could be used with this project.
- A project timeline.
- Information about the transmission line routing process.
- Information about the environmental assessment process.
- How to get involved.
- A map of the study area.
- The website address.
- Project contact information.

3.1.3 POSTERS

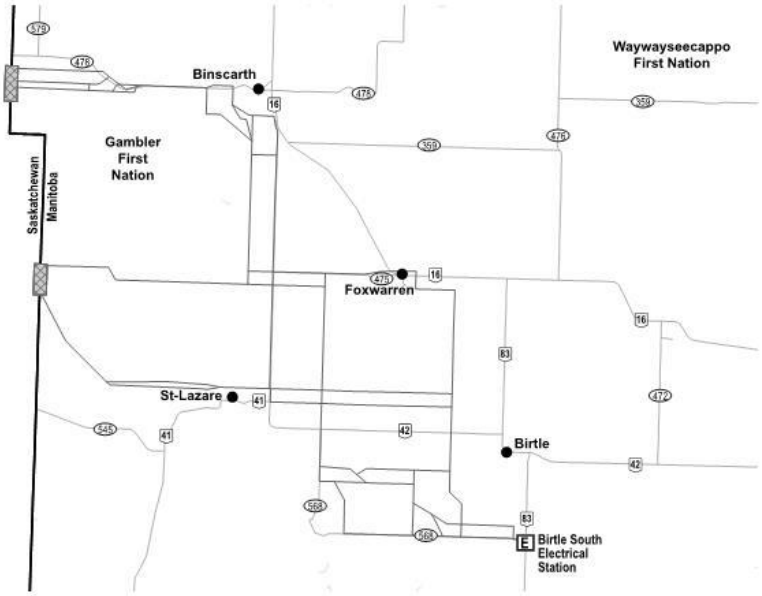
Posters were used to advertise the three open houses (**Figure 2**). In the RM of Ellice-Archie, the posters were posted at the post office in St-Lazare and at the municipal office in McAuley.

In addition to the posters in the RM of Ellice-Archie, posters advertising the open houses were posted in Binscarth, Russell, Foxwarren, and Birtle.

Birtle Transmission Project

We want to hear from you.

Alternative routes and potential border crossings



Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct a transmission line from Birtle Station to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border to deliver electricity to SaskPower as part of a 20-year agreement beginning in 2020/2021.

You are invited to a drop-in open house to learn about the proposed project and share your local knowledge of your area. Your input will help Manitoba Hydro with the route selection and environmental assessment processes. Staff will be on hand to provide project information and to answer questions.

Drop-in Public Open Houses

November 22, 2016	**November 23, 2016**	**November 24, 2016**
4:30 to 7:30 p.m.	4:30 to 7:30 p.m.	4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Birtle Community Hall	St. Lazare Leisure Centre	Binscarth Memorial Hall
160 Centre Street	319 Main Street	230 3rd Avenue
Birtle, MB	St. Lazare, MB	Binscarth, MB

For more information about the Birtle Transmission Project and to sign up for email notices, please visit **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**.
If you would like further information, please contact Manitoba Hydro at **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca** or call **1-877-343-1631**.

Manitoba Hydro

Figure 2: Poster/Postcard

3.1.4 INVITATION TO LANDOWNERS

Invites, in French and English, were mailed to landowners with meter locations where proposed alternative routes were being considered. The notification letter provided an overview of the project, invited landowners to attend a landowner workshop in the RM of Ellice-Archie, as well as one of three open houses in the RM of Prairie View, RM of Ellice-Archie, and RM of Russell-Binscarth. Landowners were encouraged to visit the project website to sign up for email notices, view more information about the Birtle Transmission Project, and encouraged anyone with project related questions to contact Manitoba Hydro.

3.1.5 STAKEHOLDER PHONE CALLS AND EMAILS

Representatives from Manitoba Hydro and MMM worked together to identify and confirm stakeholders for the project. Stakeholders were contacted directly by project team members via telephone and/or email and informed about the project and the open house. Stakeholders included:

- Provincial Departments
- Municipal Authorities
- Planning and Development Boards
- Parks and Protected Area Agencies
- Economic Development Agencies
- Tourism and Recreation
- Natural Resources and Infrastructure

3.1.6 PHONE LINE AND EMAIL ADDRESS

Project communication materials included a phone number and email address to which interested persons and stakeholders could direct their project-related questions.

3.1.7 WEBSITE

A project website was developed that included information on the project description, transmission line routing process, environmental assessment information, the project status/schedule, public engagement information, and a document library with project files such as maps, project notices, public engagement material, brochures, and contact information. The website went live on November 7, 2016, and the website address was included on all of the project communication materials.

3.1.8 NEWSPAPER

The project and open house were advertised in the 'Russell Banner' and the 'Crossroads This Week' newspapers. The advertisement ran in the 'Crossroads This Week' newspaper on November 10 and 18, 2016 and in the 'Russell Banner' on November 8 and 15, 2016.

3.1.9 FOLLOW UP EMAIL

Following the first round PEP, a follow up email was sent to 64 individuals that attended the first round public engagement activities and provided their email address for contact. The email was sent on December 13, 2016 and thanked participants for providing their input. The email also included a link to the project website, next steps, and contact information.

3.2 WORK SHOP

Landowners with meter locations in the RM of Ellice-Archie, where proposed alternative routes are being considered, were invited to a landowner workshop on November 23, 2016 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the St-Lazare Leisure Centre. The aim of the workshop was to present project information, including the proposed alternative routes, and to understand local values and concerns of landowners in relation to routing and the environment. Input collected from the workshop will be considered in determining a preferred route for the project and the environmental assessment work being done.

The workshop was attended by twenty-two landowners and was facilitated by Manitoba Hydro and MMM. The workshop began with an introduction of the project team followed by a presentation to introduce the project. Following the presentation, participants worked through three tasks in a work book and using maps. The first two tasks were completed in small groups and the third task was completed individually. The first task was to gain an understanding of the community's values and identify community characteristics on a map. The second task examined the proposed alternative routes and identified issues and opportunities related to the segments that make up the alternative routes. Participants were encouraged during the task to mark maps with alternative segments and locations of interest. The last task asked questions related to the landowner's property and personal points of view.

3.3 OPEN HOUSE

On November 23, 2016, an open house for the Birtle Transmission Project was held at the St. Lazare Leisure Centre to share information about the project with the broader community. It was a drop in event from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Seventeen people signed into the open house. In addition to members from the public, three representatives from Manitoba Hydro and four representatives from MMM were in attendance.

The open house displayed project information on a series of storyboards, maps, and informational brochures throughout the room. The storyboards provided project details with maps and graphics (**Appendix B**). In addition to any maps shown on the storyboards, there were two mapping stations; community mapping and natural feature mapping. Participants viewed the information and had discussions with each other and with project team members. Feedback was collected on note pads and more formally with an exit survey that was provided for participants to complete. Information collected will be used to assist in determining a preferred route for the project and the environmental assessment work that is being done.

4.0 PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Feedback from the public was collected through the landowner's workshop workbook, landowner's workshop exit survey, open house exit survey, prioritization activity and mapping exercises. All of the public feedback provided throughout the PEP will be considered by Manitoba Hydro and documented and reported in the Environmental Assessment Report, to be submitted by Manitoba Hydro.

4.1 KEY ISSUES

From the information shared by participants, we understand the most prominent concerns/ preferrences in the RM of Ellice-Archie are in no particular order:

Avoid Homes

Workshop and open house attendees preferred segment options that avoided the most number of homes and yard sites. Participants felt that locating the corridor close to homes could potentially negatively impact the homeowners view and the enjoyment of their property. Participants suggested that the corridor should travel, where possible, along road allowances that have the fewest homes and/or the most homes and farm yards setback from the road allowance, such as going through the southern community pasture.

Agricultural Land

Workshop and open house participants raised a number of concerns regarding the transmission corridor travelling through agricultural lands. Participants indicated a concern for the loss of farmable land to tower structures and believe that the presence of tower structures will also have a significant impact on farming operations. A number of comments reflect that impacts to farming operations is a greater concern than the loss of farmable land. Participants have concerns that the presence of tower structures in agricultural lands could potentially result in increased liability and safety

concerns for farmers. They believe that the size of farming equipment and the experience of operators can result in farming equipment hitting and damaging the tower and/or equipment and that farmers could be responsible to then pay for the damage. Additionally, and of a more serious nature, participants felt that there is an increased risk to their safety with the towers going through agricultural lands.

Natural and Wildlife Areas

Workshop and open house participants described the RM of Ellice-Archie as natural with prime agricultural and forested land with lots of wildlife. The valleys are used for recreation and is home to a variety of wildlife. Participants commented that they would like the area to remain the same and have concerns that the presence of a transmission corridor will potentially affect their enjoyment of the municipality's natural areas.

Views/Scenery

Participants shared that the beautiful scenery of the Qu'Appelle valley was of high value to the community. It was important to participants to maintain an unobstructed view of the beautiful scenery that the area provides.

Avoid the School Yard

Participants felt that the transmission lines should avoid the school yard in St-Lazare. They believe that the transmission corridor could potentially have visual, noise, and health impacts on the school yard.

Community Pasture Route

Participants believe that a route through the Spy Hill-Ellice and Ellice-Archie Community Pasture is the best way to avoid homes and agricultural land and that this route should be considered in the route selection process. In the RM of Ellice-Archie, participants felt that the ideal route through the community pasture would follow segment 12 and head straight west.

Other

Other areas that were discussed, but did not appear as often were the following:

- A belief that the proposed route located along the valley could see issues such as landslides.
- Historical features, such as the Zion Cemetery and the Pumpkin Patch School site.
- A belief that tower structures are not aesthetically pleasing.
- The concern that although many of the participants in the meeting preferred the route being located within the community pasture, that their voices will not be heard.
- The request for more information pertaining to the reasons the line will not likely be routed through the community pasture.

- The concern that a number of proposed routes would require a significant removal of trees and bush.

4.2 COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

A component of understanding the important issues in the RM of Ellice-Archie was to understand which community characteristics participants would like to see preserved and how participants would like to see the area change in the upcoming years. In some cases the responses were similar.

4.2.1 PRESERVE

Participants identified, in no particular order, the following characteristics as what they value most and would like to see preserved:

- Open Range of View – no obstructions
- Beautiful Scenery
- Quietness
- Prime Agricultural Land – “it’s how we make a living”
- Forested Land - needed for wind break and wildlife
- Wildlife
- Residents
- Crown Land

4.2.2 CHANGE

When participants were asked how they would like to see the area change in the upcoming years, the following were the responses that were provided:

- Divided Highway
- Irrigation
- Future of Remote Equipment
- Remain the Same – it is good the way it is now
- Maintain Agricultural Land
- Smaller Farms
- Scenery
- Waterways
- Commercial Growth in Towns – keep the town alive
- More Residential Development

5.0 NEXT STEPS

Information collected from the Round 1 PEP have been included for consideration in the route selection process. Where possible, additional segments were drawn that could mitigate issues, as well as an additional segment through the southern community pasture was drawn as desired by the public and landowners. Manitoba Hydro will work with a range of specialists while striving to balance concerns and feedback from the public, stakeholder groups and Indigenous communities and organizations. Manitoba Hydro aims to reach consensus amongst a project team with a range of specialists in the determination of a preferred route.

A preferred route is anticipated to be selected in early 2017 and the second round of public engagement to share the preferred route will be shortly after. As timelines finalize, information will be shared through email notices, as well as other methods of notification.

APPENDIX A: NEWSLETTER

Birtle Transmission Project

Round 1
Alternative routes and potential border crossings

What is it and why do we need it?

Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct a 230-kilovolt transmission line to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border. This transmission line is needed to fulfill a 20-year agreement to sell 100 megawatts (equivalent to powering 40,000 homes) of renewable hydroelectricity to SaskPower, beginning in 2020–2021.

Why does Manitoba Hydro export power?

In 2013–14, Manitoba Hydro export sales totaled $439 million. These export sales to neighbouring provinces and the United States produce additional revenue for Manitoba Hydro. They offset the revenue needed from Manitoba customers and keep electricity rates lower than they would otherwise be.

Why do we have surplus electricity to export?

We have surplus energy because the construction of new hydroelectric generating stations adds a lot of additional electricity supply to our system all at once. Exports provide an interim outlet for this surplus electricity and an important source of additional revenue as the province's usage catches up.

In addition, Manitoba Hydro's hydroelectric system is designed to meet Manitoba's electricity demand even during years of low water flows. Most years our water supply has produced more electricity than is required in the province. Export sales provide an outlet for this excess electricity and therefore a revenue stream that helps keep energy prices lower for Manitobans.

For more information on the value of exports, see our video on the project website **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**

Why does Saskatchewan want our power?

SaskPower announced last year it plans to double the percentage of its renewable electricity generation capacity up to 50 per cent by 2030. Meeting this target will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions – about 40 per cent below 2005 levels. The plan calls for an expansion of wind power and other renewables, to go along with the Boundary Dam 3 carbon capture project and natural gas generation.

Where is the project located?

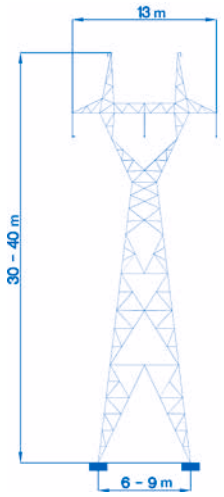
The Birtle Transmission Project will originate at the Birtle Station, south of the community of Birtle, to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border. A map of the alternative routes can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.

Manitoba Hydro

What will the line look like?

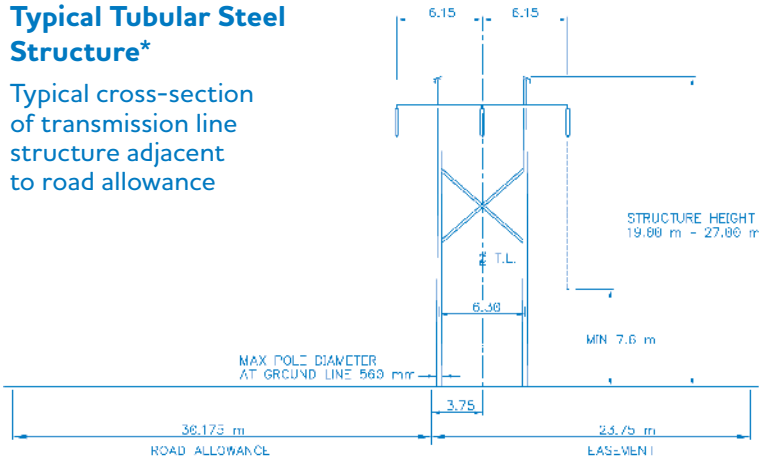
Depending on terrain and the location of the final preferred route, the following tower designs will be used if the project is approved.

Self Supporting Suspension Lattice Steel Structure*



Typical Tubular Steel Structure*

Typical cross-section of transmission line structure adjacent to road allowance



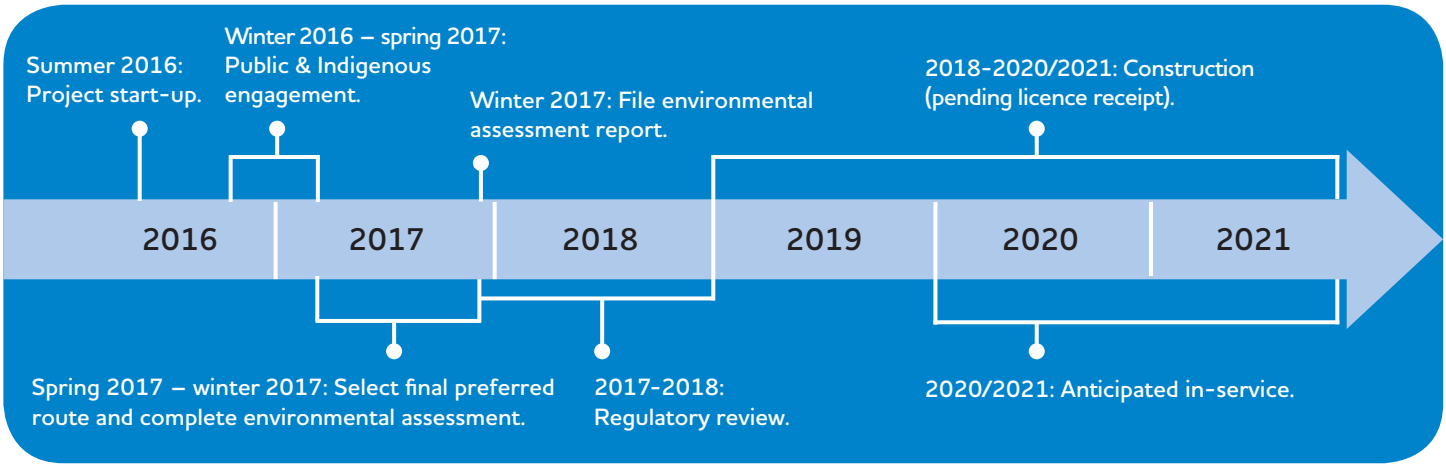
* Tower height and design are estimations and are dependent on terrain and final placement of the transmission line.

Transmission line routing

Feedback received through the engagement and environmental assessment processes will assist in determining a final preferred route for the project. The route selection process considers how well routes balance potential effects to human, technical and natural environments. Data gathering, on the ground fieldwork, and the input of numerous technical specialists, the public, Indigenous communities/organizations, and stakeholders will be taken into account when determining the final placement of the transmission line.

Project timelines

The proposed Birtle Transmission Project schedule (anticipated):



The schedule is subject to change as we progress through the routing and environmental assessment processes.

Environmental assessment

An environmental assessment (EA) report will be developed and submitted to the Environmental Approvals Branch of Manitoba Sustainable Development for review. The project is classified as a Class 2 Project under *The Environment Act*.

The EA report for the project will include:

- a description of the project, through construction, operation, and maintenance;
- study area characterization through fieldwork and background investigation;
- an outline of the public and Indigenous engagement processes, and the feedback received;
- identification and assessment of potential environmental and socio-economic effects; and
- development of mitigation measures to minimize negative effects while enhancing positive effects on people and the environment.

We would like to hear from you.

For more information about the Birtle Transmission Project and to sign up for email notices, please visit **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**.

If you would like further information please contact us at **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca** or call **1-877-343-1631**.

How can I be involved?

We welcome feedback as it helps inform the environmental assessment and the routing processes for the project.

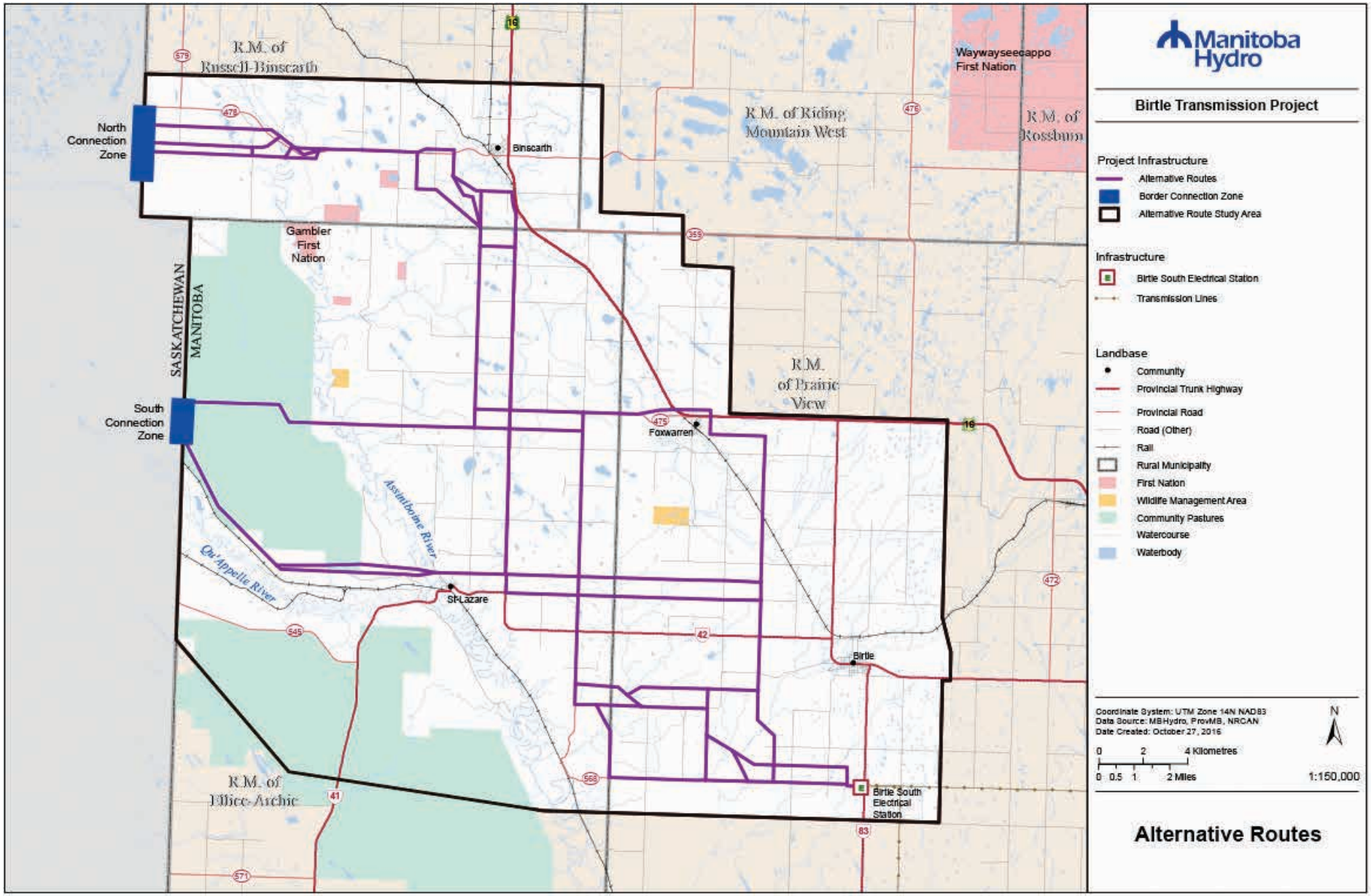
The engagement goals for the Birtle Transmission Project include:

- sharing information;
- learning about and understanding local interests;
- integrating interests and concerns into the assessment process; and
- discussing potential mitigation measures.

These goals will be met by:

- involving the public and Indigenous communities and organizations throughout the routing and environmental assessment stages;
- providing clear, timely, and relevant information and responses;
- delivering engagement processes that are adaptive and inclusive;
- informing the public and Indigenous communities as to how their feedback influenced the project; and
- documenting and reporting on feedback received.

We will use a variety of notification methods to inform Indigenous communities and the public of upcoming project activities.


R.M. of Russell-Binscarth
Waywayseecappo First Nation
R.M. of Riding Mountain West
R.M. of Rossburn
North Connection Zone
Binscarth
Gambler First Nation
SASKATCHEWAN
MANITOBA
R.M. of Prairie View
South Connection Zone
Foxwarren
Assiniboine River
Qu'Appelle River
St-Lazare
Birtle
R.M. of Ellice-Archie
Birtle South Electrical Station
Manitoba Hydro
Birtle Transmission Project
Project Infrastructure
Alternative Routes
Border Connection Zone
Alternative Route Study Area
Infrastructure
Birtle South Electrical Station
Transmission Lines
Landbase
Community
Provincial Trunk Highway
Provincial Road
Road (Other)
Rail
Rural Municipality
First Nation
Wildlife Management Area
Community Pastures
Watercourse
Waterbody
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 14N NAD83
Data Source: MBHydro, ProvMB, NRCAN
Date Created: October 27, 2016
N
0 2 4 Kilometres
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Alternative Routes

APPENDIX B: OPEN HOUSE STORYBOARDS

Welcome

Birtle Transmission Project public open house

Manitoba Hydro

Purpose of the open house

- Provide information about the proposed Birtle Transmission Project.
- Gather feedback on alternative routes and border crossings.
- Identify interests, opportunities and constraints to inform routing and environmental assessment processes.
- Answer questions and address concerns.

Manitoba Hydro

Project Need

- 20-year agreement with SaskPower
- Sale of 100 megawatts of renewable hydroelectricity

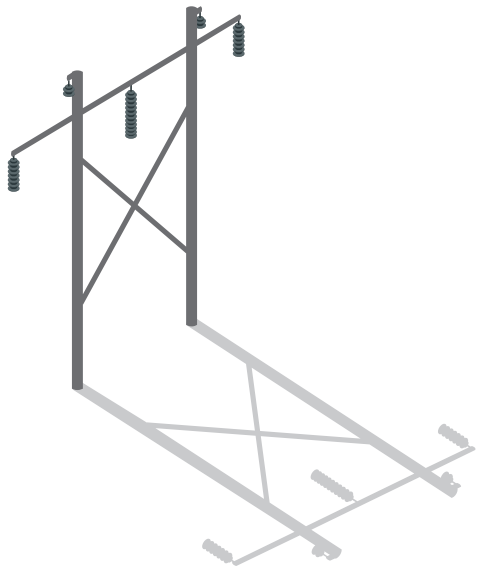
The income from export sales help keep Manitoba Hydro's electricity rates among the lowest in North America.

Manitoba Hydro

Project Description

- 230-kV transmission line from Birtle Station to the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border
- Minor upgrades at various stations
- Tower design – anticipate use of steel lattice towers and “H” frame structures
- In-service 2020–2021

SaskPower will be responsible for the portion of the transmission line in Saskatchewan that will connect to their station in Tantallon, SK.



Manitoba Hydro

Why do we export power?

- Export sales to neighbouring provinces and to the United States produce revenue for Manitoba Hydro. This offsets revenue needed from Manitoba customers and keeps electricity rates lower than they would otherwise be.
- In 2013–14, Manitoba Hydro's export sales totaled $439 million.
- The agreement between Manitoba Hydro and SaskPower will support SaskPower's goal to double the percentage of its renewable electricity supply up to 50 per cent by 2030.

Manitoba Hydro

Engagement processes

- Involving public/Indigenous communities and organizations throughout routing and environmental assessment processes;
- Providing clear, timely, and relevant information and responses;
- Delivering engagement processes that are adaptive and inclusive;
- Informing the public/Indigenous communities and organizations as to how their feedback is influencing the project ; and
- Documenting and reporting on feedback received.

The engagement processes are coordinated with the routing process to provide information and gather feedback at key stages of routing.

Manitoba Hydro

Engagement activities

Round 1 – fall 2016

- Introduce the project
- Present alternative routes and proposed border crossings
- Answer questions
- Identify and document concerns
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment
- Use feedback to guide selection of preferred route and border crossing

Round 2 – early 2017

- Present Round 1 findings
- Present preferred route to preferred border crossing
- Answer questions
- Identify and document concerns
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment
- Use feedback to assist in determining final route placement

Manitoba Hydro

What are we evaluating?

Manitoba Hydro will review different potential social and biophysical effects of the project.

Aspects being evaluated include, but are not limited to:

- Wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Vegetation
- Infrastructure
- Agriculture
- Ground and surface water
- Heritage resources
- Traditional land and resource use
- Health (noise and air emissions)

Manitoba Hydro

What is an Environmental Assessment?

The environmental assessment for the project will:

- Characterize the environment;
- Identify potential effects on people and the environment;
- Determine ways to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects while enhancing benefits of the project.

Feedback received from the public, Indigenous communities and organizations will enhance the evaluation of the project.

Manitoba Hydro

Two border crossings

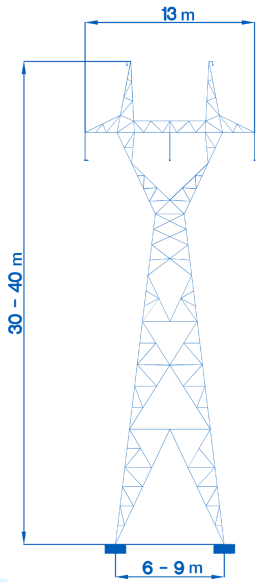
- Border crossings determined based on preliminary constraint and opportunity mapping.
- Worked with SaskPower to determine locations where both groups could potentially cross.
- Will negotiate final provincial boundary crossing.

Manitoba Hydro

Tower structures

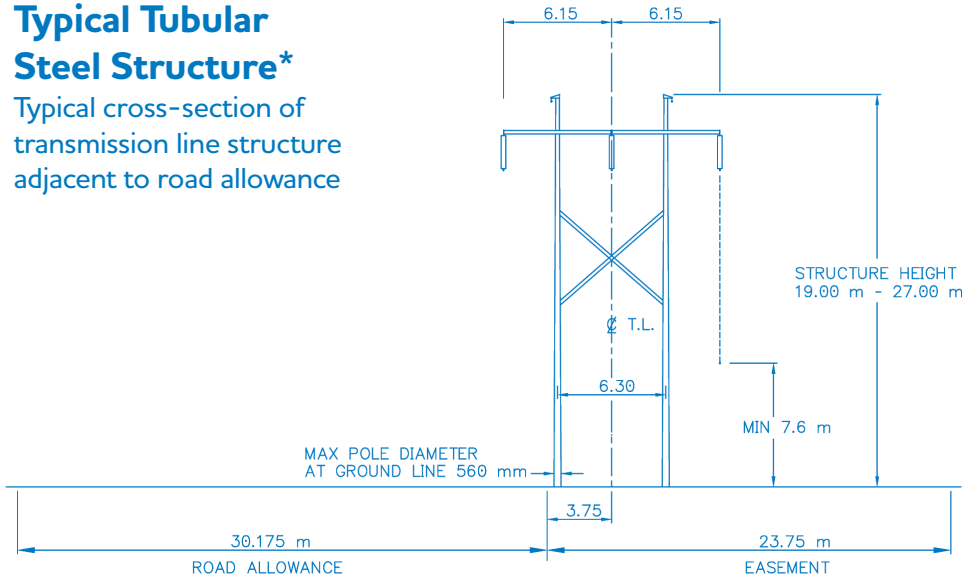
These tower designs will be used depending on terrain and location of the final preferred route.

Self Supporting Suspension Lattice Steel Structure*



Typical Tubular Steel Structure*

Typical cross-section of transmission line structure adjacent to road allowance



* Tower height and design are estimations and are dependent on terrain and final placement of the transmission line.

Manitoba Hydro

Community mapping

Please take a few minutes to consider the following questions and provide your input at the Community Mapping Station.

This will help us identify and understand the valued components or concerns in your community.

Manitoba Hydro

Community mapping

- What and where are the features, historic sites or other areas of importance in your community?
- Are there natural resources or areas of particular economic value in your community?
- Are there areas or sites of particular value to tourism or recreation in your community?
- Are there lands or areas traditionally used by the community for events, gatherings, or other important social or economic activities?
- Are there unique or important sites that contribute to the community identity?
- Do you have other local or historic knowledge that we should consider in the corridor routing process?
- Are there infrastructure (eg: roads, water) or service (eg: fire, ambulance) concerns?

Manitoba Hydro

Prioritizing local considerations

With regard to placing a transmission line, please prioritize your considerations.

You can place all of your dots next to one criteria or spread them out among several criteria.

If you have not received dots, please ask one of the project representatives.

Manitoba Hydro

Natural feature mapping

To help us identify and understand the important natural features of your community, please take a few minutes to consider the following questions and provide your input at the Natural Features Mapping Station.

Manitoba Hydro

Natural feature mapping

- Are there sites in the project area with special importance regarding plants, animals, birds, and reptiles? What kinds of species are located there? Are there endangered species?
- Are there specific locations in the project area where people gather plants and berries? Which plants and berries?
- Are there natural areas/wetlands in the project area? Where are they located?
- Are there areas where bird/animal hunting or trapping occurs? What species are hunted/trapped? What time of year?
- Do you have other knowledge we should consider in the corridor routing process?

Manitoba Hydro

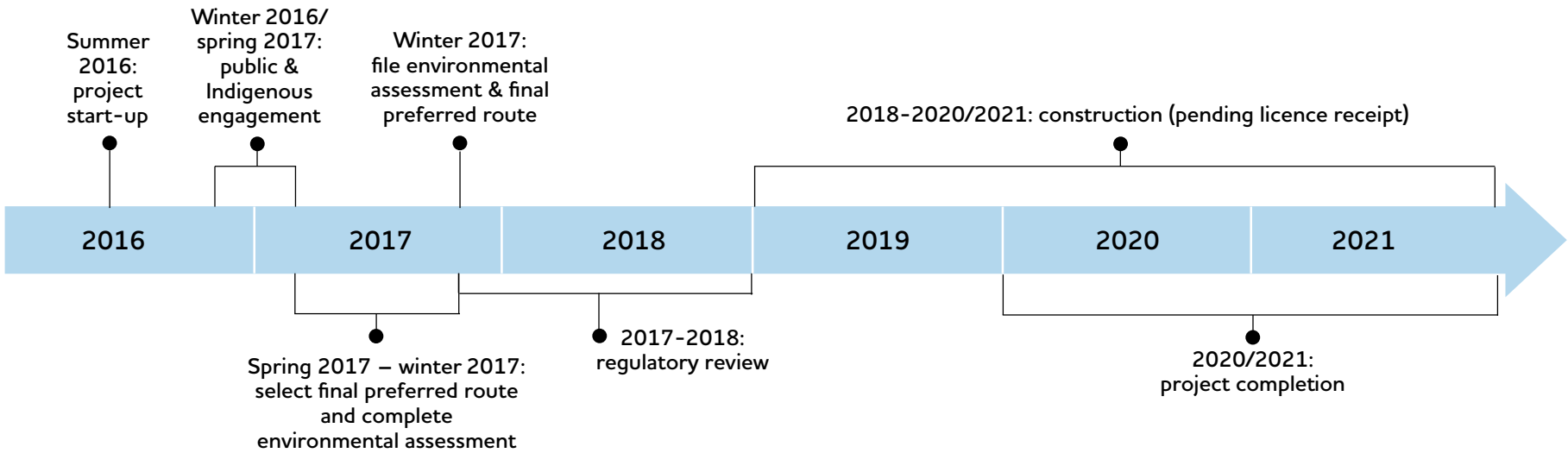
Local criteria

Economic/agricultural land
Following existing corridors (transmission/transportation/service)
Distance from existing communities/residences
Forested/natural areas
Distance from cultural/heritage assets
Vistas/view corridors
Public lands (Crown land/community pastures)
Project cost
Other

Manitoba Hydro

Anticipated timelines and next steps

- Determine a preferred route;
- Continue environmental assessment work;
- Present the preferred route in early 2017 for feedback.



Manitoba Hydro

Thank you

The project team wants to hear from you.

- Manitoba Hydro representatives are available to answer your questions.
- Please take a moment to complete a comment sheet so the project team can document your concerns.
- Visit the map station to show us where you may have any information or additional considerations regarding alternative routes.

Please contact: **1-877-343-1631** or **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca**

Visit the project webpage at **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle** for up-to-date information, and register to receive project updates.

Manitoba Hydro

Manitoba Hydro

BIRTLE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

RM of Prairie View: Round 1 Public Feedback Summary

Prepared for: **Manitoba Hydro** I Prepared by: **MMM Group Limited** I **January 2017**

Table of Contents

STANDARD LIMITATIONS

This report was prepared by MMM Group Limited (MMM) for the account of Manitoba Hydro (the Client). The disclosure of any information contained in this report is the sole responsibility of the Client. The material in this report reflects MMM's best judgment in light of the information available to it at the time of preparation. Any use which a third party makes of this report, or any reliance on or decisions to be made based on it, are the responsibility of such third parties. MMM accepts no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by a third party as a result of decisions made or actions based on this report.

MMM Group Limited (MMM) was retained by Manitoba Hydro to assist with the Public Engagement Process (PEP) for the Birtle Transmission Project. The report contained herein provides a summary of the PEP in the RM of Prairie View, including the following:

- Project description.
- Anticipated project timelines.
- Round 1 Public Engagement Process (PEP).
- Public feedback.
- Next steps.

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Manitoba Hydro is investigating the construction of a 230-kilovolt transmission line from Birtle Station, south of the community of Birtle, to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border (**Figure 1**). This transmission line is needed to fulfill a 20-year agreement to sell 100 megawatts (equivalent to powering 40,000 homes) of renewable hydroelectricity to SaskPower, beginning in 2020–2021. SaskPower will be responsible for the portion of the transmission line in Saskatchewan that will connect to their station in Tantallon, Saskatchewan.

Manitoba Hydro undertakes public and Indigenous engagement processes to collect feedback to assist in the determination of a preferred route for the project and to enhance the environmental assessment work being undertaken. The route selection process aims to balance potential effects to human, technical and natural environments. Data gathering, on the ground fieldwork, and the input of numerous technical specialists, the public, Indigenous communities/organizations, and stakeholders are taken into account when determining the final placement of the transmission line.

This public engagement process includes two rounds of engagement. Round 1 was to:

- Introduce the project.
- Present alternative routes and proposed border crossings.
- Answer questions.
- Identify and document concerns.
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment.
- Use feedback to guide selection of preferred route and border crossing.

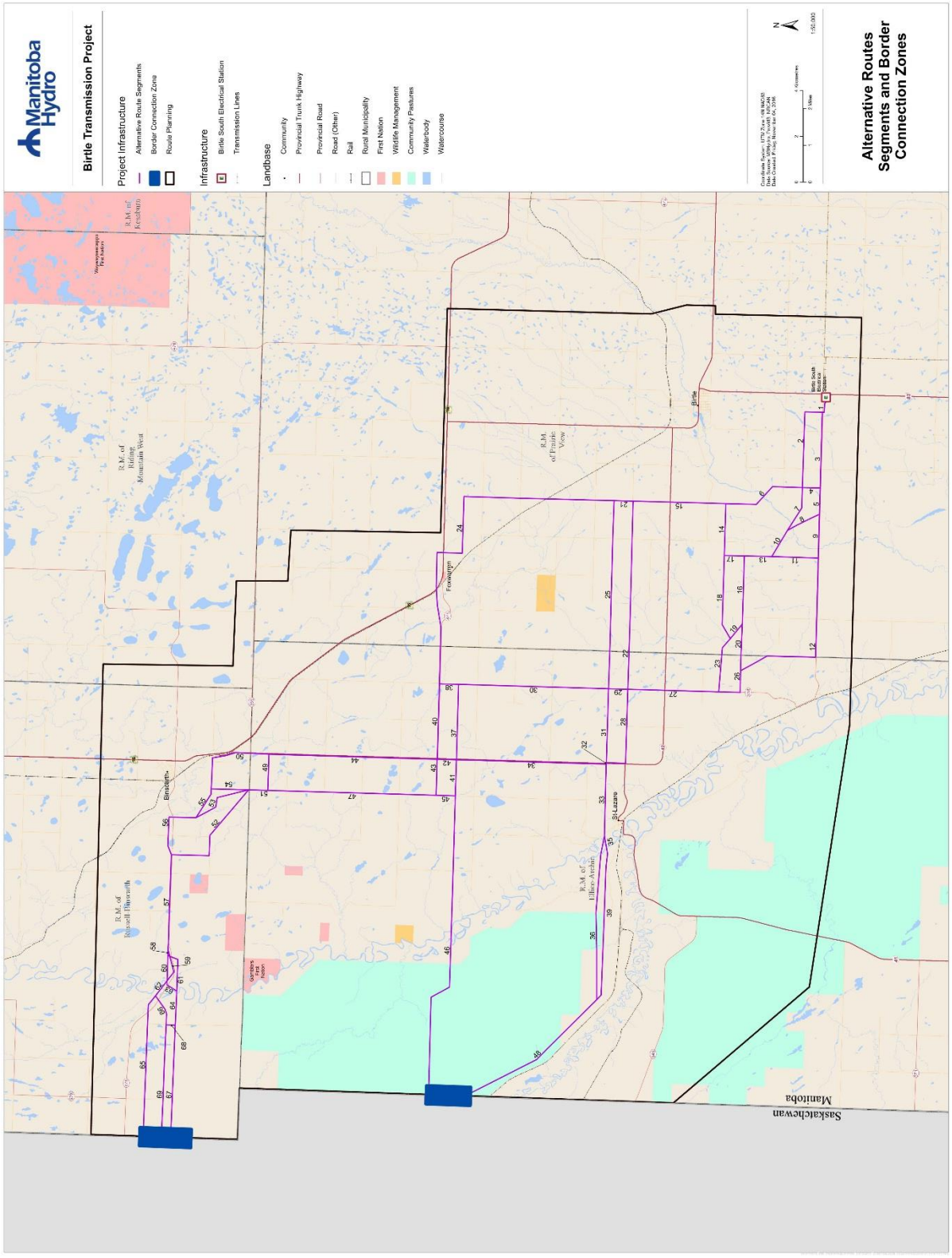


Figure 1: Project Location

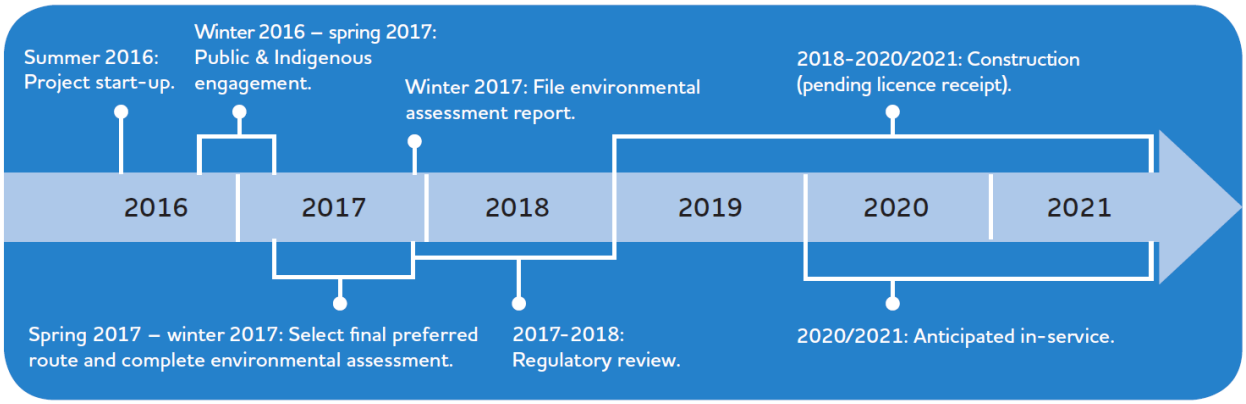
Round 2 will:

- Present Round 1 findings.
- Present preferred route to preferred border crossing.
- Answer questions.
- Identify and document concerns.
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment.
- Use feedback to assist in determining final route placement.

Round 1 had public engagement activities in the RM of Prairie View, RM of Ellice-Archie, and RM of Russell-Binscarth. This report was prepared to summarize the feedback from the public engagement activities in the RM of Prairie View.

2.0 ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINES

The anticipated Birtle Transmission Project timeline is as follows:



The schedule is subject to change as progress is made through the transmission line and environmental assessment processes.

3.0 ROUND 1 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Round 1 public engagement activities included the following:

- Stakeholder Interviews.
- Meeting with Council.
- Landowner Workshop.
- Public Open House.

This summary report focuses on feedback from landowners and members of the public through the landowner workshop and open house.

3.1 COMMUNICATION

A range of communication materials were developed to inform the public of the proposed project, including the following:

3.1.1 POSTCARD

A postcard advertising the project and the public open houses (**Figure 2**), was sent to 1,059 addresses in the RM of Russell-Binscarth, RM of Ellice-Archie, and RM of Prairie View.

3.1.2 NEWSLETTER

The project newsletter (**Appendix A**) was included in the mail invites and included:

- A description of the project.
- A description of the types of towers that could be used with this project.
- A project timeline.
- Information about the transmission line routing process.
- Information about the environmental assessment process.
- How to get involved.
- A map of the study area.
- The website address.
- Project contact information.

3.1.3 POSTERS

Posters were used to advertise the three open houses (**Figure 2**). In the RM of Prairie View, the posters were located at the post office in Foxwarren and at the following locations in Birtle:

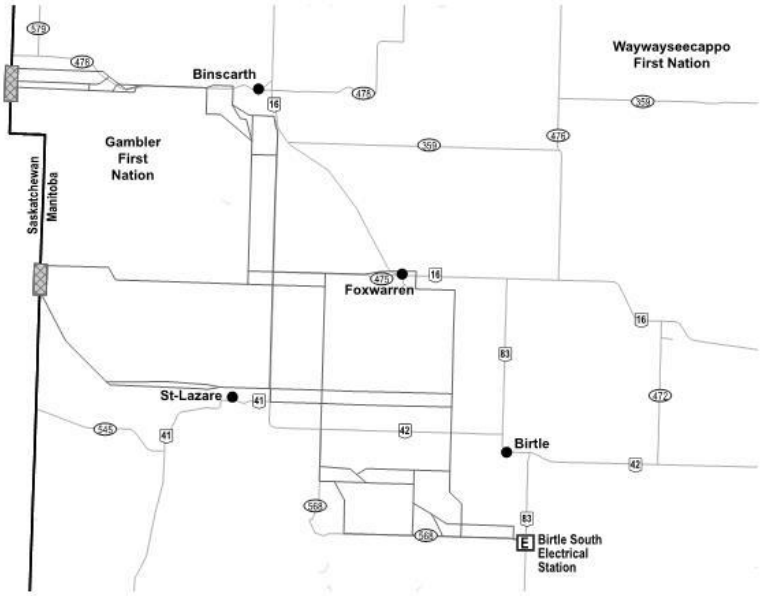
- Municipal Office
- MASC Office
- Vanguard Bank
- 83 N' Main

In addition to the posters in the RM of Prairie View, posters advertising the open houses were also posted in Binscarth, Russell, St-Lazare, and McAuley.

Birtle Transmission Project

We want to hear from you.

Alternative routes and potential border crossings



Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct a transmission line from Birtle Station to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border to deliver electricity to SaskPower as part of a 20-year agreement beginning in 2020/2021.

You are invited to a drop-in open house to learn about the proposed project and share your local knowledge of your area. Your input will help Manitoba Hydro with the route selection and environmental assessment processes. Staff will be on hand to provide project information and to answer questions.

Drop-in Public Open Houses

November 22, 2016	**November 23, 2016**	**November 24, 2016**
4:30 to 7:30 p.m.	4:30 to 7:30 p.m.	4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Birtle Community Hall	St. Lazare Leisure Centre	Binscarth Memorial Hall
160 Centre Street	319 Main Street	230 3rd Avenue
Birtle, MB	St. Lazare, MB	Binscarth, MB

For more information about the Birtle Transmission Project and to sign up for email notices, please visit **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**.
If you would like further information, please contact Manitoba Hydro at **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca** or call **1-877-343-1631**.

Manitoba Hydro

Figure 2: Poster/Postcard

3.1.4 INVITATION TO LANDOWNERS

Invites, in French and English, were mailed to landowners with meter locations where proposed alternative routes were being considered. The notification letter provided an overview of the project, invited landowners to attend a landowner workshop in the RM of Prairie View, as well as one of three open houses in the RM of Prairie View, RM of Ellice-Archie, and RM of Russell-Binscarth. Landowners were encouraged to visit the project website to sign up for email notices, view more information about the Birtle Transmission Project, and encouraged anyone with project related questions to contact Manitoba Hydro.

3.1.5 STAKEHOLDER PHONE CALLS AND EMAILS

Representatives from Manitoba Hydro and MMM worked together to identify and confirm stakeholders for the project. Stakeholders were contacted directly by project team members via telephone and/or email and informed about the project and the open house. Stakeholders included:

- Provincial Departments
- Municipal Authorities
- Planning and Development Boards
- Parks and Protected Area Agencies
- Economic Development Agencies
- Tourism and Recreation
- Natural Resources and Infrastructure

3.1.6 PHONE LINE AND EMAIL ADDRESS

Project communication materials included a phone number and email address to which interested persons and stakeholders could direct their project-related questions.

3.1.7 WEBSITE

A project website was developed that included information on project description, transmission line routing process, environmental assessment information, the project status/schedule, public engagement information, and a document library with project files such as maps, project notices, public engagement material, brochures, and contact information. The website went live on November 7, 2016, and the website address was included on all of the project communication materials.

3.1.8 NEWSPAPER

The project and open house were advertised in the 'Russell Banner' and the 'Crossroads This Week' newspapers. The advertisement ran in the 'Crossroads This Week' newspaper on November 10 and 18, 2016 and in the 'Russell Banner' on November 8 and 15, 2016.

3.1.9 FOLLOW UP EMAIL

Following the first round PEP, a follow up email was sent to 64 individuals that attended the first round public engagement activities and provided their email address for contact. The email was sent on December 13, 2016 and thanked participants for providing their input. The email also included a link to the project website, next steps, and contact information.

3.2 WORK SHOP

Landowners with meter locations in the RM of Prairie View, where proposed alternative routes are being considered, were invited to a landowner workshop on November 22, 2016 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Birtle Community Hall. The aim of the workshop was to present project information, including the proposed alternative routes, and to understand local values and concerns of landowners in relation to routing and the environment. Input collected from the workshop will be considered in determining a preferred route for the project and the environmental assessment work being done.

The workshop was attended by 19 landowners and was facilitated by Manitoba Hydro and MMM. The workshop began with an introduction of the project team followed by a presentation to introduce the project. Following the presentation, participants worked through three tasks in a work book and using maps. The first two tasks were completed in small groups and the third task was completed individually. The first task was to gain an understanding of the community's values and identify community characteristics on a map. The second task examined the proposed alternative routes and identified issues and opportunities related to the segments that make up the alternative routes. Participants were encouraged during the task to mark maps with alternative segments and locations of interest. The last task asked questions related to the landowner's property and personal points of view.

3.3 OPEN HOUSE

On November 22, 2016, an open house for the Birtle Transmission Project was held at the Birtle Community Hall to share information about the project with the broader community. It was a drop in event from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Twelve people signed into the open house; however, it is estimated that approximately 15-20 people attended, as a few individuals did not sign in or only signed one name per couple. In addition to members from the public, three representatives from Manitoba Hydro and four representatives from MMM were in attendance.

The open house displayed project information on a series of storyboards, maps, and informational brochures throughout the room. The storyboards provided project details with maps and graphics (**Appendix B**). In addition to any maps shown on the storyboards, there were two mapping stations; community mapping and natural feature mapping. Participants viewed the information and had discussions with each other and with project team members. Feedback was collected on note pads and more formally with an exit survey that was provided for participants to complete. Information collected will be used to assist in determining a preferred route for the project and the environmental assessment work that is being done.

4.0 PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Feedback from the public was collected through the landowner's workshop workbook, landowner's workshop exit survey, open house exit survey, prioritization activity and mapping exercises. All of the public feedback provided throughout the PEP will be considered by Manitoba Hydro and documented and reported in the Environmental Assessment Report, to be submitted by Manitoba Hydro.

4.1 KEY ISSUES

From the information shared by participants, we understand that the most prominent issues in the RM of Prairie View are in no particular order:

Avoid Homes

Workshop and open house attendees preferred segment options that avoided the most number of homes and yard sites. Participants felt that locating the corridor close to homes could potentially negatively impact the homeowners view and the enjoyment of their property. Participants suggested that the corridor should travel, where possible, along road allowances that have the fewest homes and/or the most homes and farm yards setback from the road allowance, such as going through the southern community pasture.

Agricultural Land

As an agricultural community, workshop and open house participants raised a number of concerns regarding the transmission corridor travelling through the middle of agricultural lands. Participants indicated a concern for the loss of farmable land to tower structures. Participants believed that the presence of tower structures could also have a significant impact on farming operations and the mobility of farm equipment and planes used for spraying and monitoring pastureland. A number of comments reflect that impacts to farming operations is a greater

concern than the loss of farmable land. Farmers would prefer to see the transmission corridor stay along the existing roads where possible.

Natural, Wildlife, and Recreation Areas

There was a strong contingent of workshop and open house participants that want to protect the natural and wildlife areas in the RM of Prairie View. These areas are used for recreation and is home to a variety of wildlife. Participants commented that they would like the area to remain the same and feel that the presence of a transmission corridor will affect their enjoyment of the municipality's natural areas. Additionally, participants felt that the transmission corridor would provide easier access to these areas which could have significant impacts on the preservation of them.

Community Pasture Route

Many of the participants believe that a route through the Spy Hill-Ellice and Ellice-Archie Community Pasture is the best way to avoid homes and agricultural land and that this route should be considered in the route selection process.

Other

Other areas that were discussed, but did not appear as often were:

- Family life.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Future development potential.
- Economic activity related to the mine and transportation.
- Historical features and cemeteries.
- Type, and location, of tower structure.
- Removing bush.
- Damage to landscape from construction.

4.2 COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

A component of understanding the important issues in the RM of Prairie View was to understand which community characteristics participants would like to see preserved and how participants would like to see the area change in the upcoming years. In some cases the responses were similar.

4.2.1 PRESERVE

Participants identified, in no particular order, the following characteristics as what they value most and would like to see preserved:

- Workability of Crop Land
- Minimize Wildlife Habitat Damage - once it is gone it is gone forever
- Family Life
- Maintain Economic Diversity – manufacturing, agriculture, mining
- Agricultural Activity
- Wildlife (Natural Areas)
- Family Wellbeing
- Residential Development

4.2.2 CHANGE

When participants were asked how they would like to see the area change in the upcoming years, the following were the responses that were provided:

- Remain the Same
- More Trees
- More Small Holdings/Livestock Operations
- More Residential Development – growing mines
- Continue Ongoing Development
- Continued Growth Of The Potash Mines
- Retaining And Attracting Residents – more young people and young families
- More Tourism - wildlife, bird watching, etc.
- Keep Pristine Landscape

5.0 NEXT STEPS

Information collected from the Round 1 PEP have been included for consideration in the route selection process. Where possible, additional segments were drawn that could mitigate issues, as well as an additional segment through the community pasture was drawn as desired by the public and landowners. Manitoba Hydro will work with a range of specialists while striving to balance concerns and feedback from the public, stakeholder groups and Indigenous communities and organizations. Manitoba Hydro aims to reach consensus amongst a project team with a range of specialists in the determination of a preferred route.

A preferred route is anticipated to be selected in early 2017 and the second round of public engagement to share the preferred route will be shortly after. As timelines finalize, information will be shared through email notices, as well as other methods of notification.

APPENDIX A: NEWSLETTER

Birtle Transmission Project

Round 1
Alternative routes and potential border crossings

What is it and why do we need it?

Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct a 230-kilovolt transmission line to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border. This transmission line is needed to fulfill a 20-year agreement to sell 100 megawatts (equivalent to powering 40,000 homes) of renewable hydroelectricity to SaskPower, beginning in 2020–2021.

Why does Manitoba Hydro export power?

In 2013–14, Manitoba Hydro export sales totaled $439 million. These export sales to neighbouring provinces and the United States produce additional revenue for Manitoba Hydro. They offset the revenue needed from Manitoba customers and keep electricity rates lower than they would otherwise be.

Why do we have surplus electricity to export?

We have surplus energy because the construction of new hydroelectric generating stations adds a lot of additional electricity supply to our system all at once. Exports provide an interim outlet for this surplus electricity and an important source of additional revenue as the province's usage catches up.

In addition, Manitoba Hydro's hydroelectric system is designed to meet Manitoba's electricity demand even during years of low water flows. Most years our water supply has produced more electricity than is required in the province. Export sales provide an outlet for this excess electricity and therefore a revenue stream that helps keep energy prices lower for Manitobans.

For more information on the value of exports, see our video on the project website **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**

Why does Saskatchewan want our power?

SaskPower announced last year it plans to double the percentage of its renewable electricity generation capacity up to 50 per cent by 2030. Meeting this target will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions – about 40 per cent below 2005 levels. The plan calls for an expansion of wind power and other renewables, to go along with the Boundary Dam 3 carbon capture project and natural gas generation.

Where is the project located?

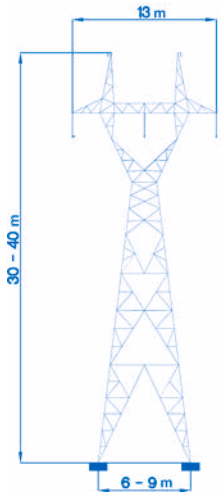
The Birtle Transmission Project will originate at the Birtle Station, south of the community of Birtle, to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border. A map of the alternative routes can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.

Manitoba Hydro

What will the line look like?

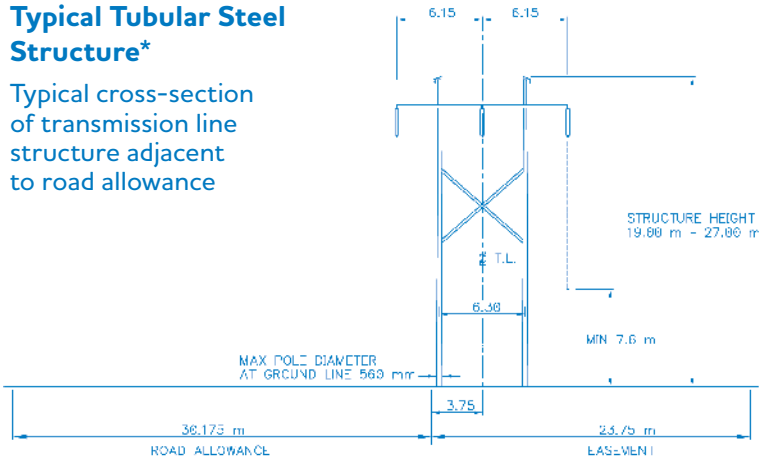
Depending on terrain and the location of the final preferred route, the following tower designs will be used if the project is approved.

Self Supporting Suspension Lattice Steel Structure*



Typical Tubular Steel Structure*

Typical cross-section of transmission line structure adjacent to road allowance



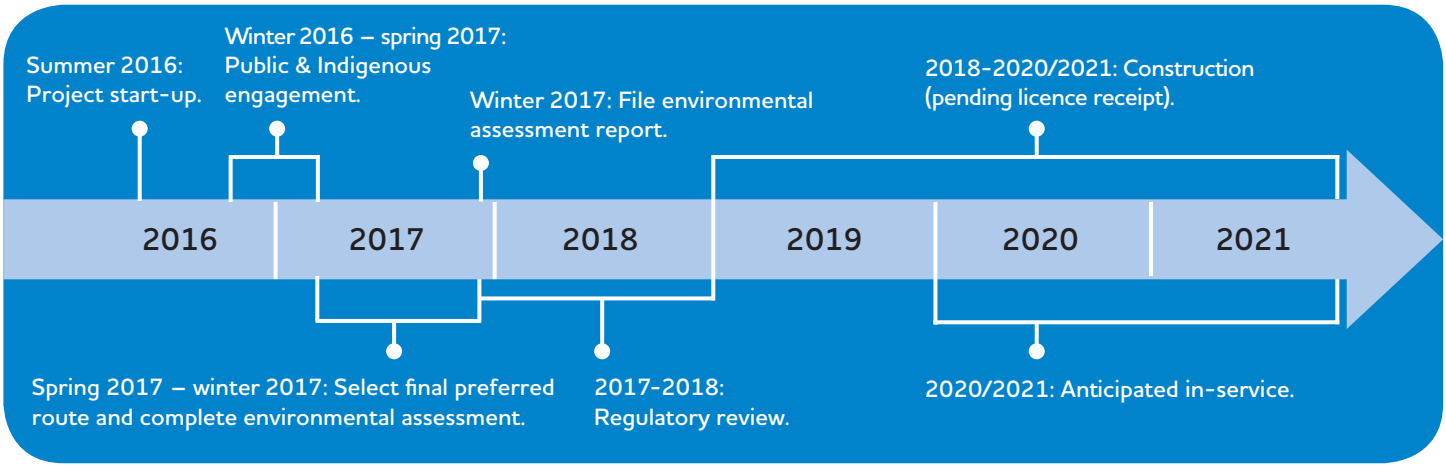
* Tower height and design are estimations and are dependent on terrain and final placement of the transmission line.

Transmission line routing

Feedback received through the engagement and environmental assessment processes will assist in determining a final preferred route for the project. The route selection process considers how well routes balance potential effects to human, technical and natural environments. Data gathering, on the ground fieldwork, and the input of numerous technical specialists, the public, Indigenous communities/organizations, and stakeholders will be taken into account when determining the final placement of the transmission line.

Project timelines

The proposed Birtle Transmission Project schedule (anticipated):



The schedule is subject to change as we progress through the routing and environmental assessment processes.

Environmental assessment

An environmental assessment (EA) report will be developed and submitted to the Environmental Approvals Branch of Manitoba Sustainable Development for review. The project is classified as a Class 2 Project under *The Environment Act*.

The EA report for the project will include:

- a description of the project, through construction, operation, and maintenance;
- study area characterization through fieldwork and background investigation;
- an outline of the public and Indigenous engagement processes, and the feedback received;
- identification and assessment of potential environmental and socio-economic effects; and
- development of mitigation measures to minimize negative effects while enhancing positive effects on people and the environment.

We would like to hear from you.

For more information about the Birtle Transmission Project and to sign up for email notices, please visit **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**.

If you would like further information please contact us at **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca** or call **1-877-343-1631**.

How can I be involved?

We welcome feedback as it helps inform the environmental assessment and the routing processes for the project.

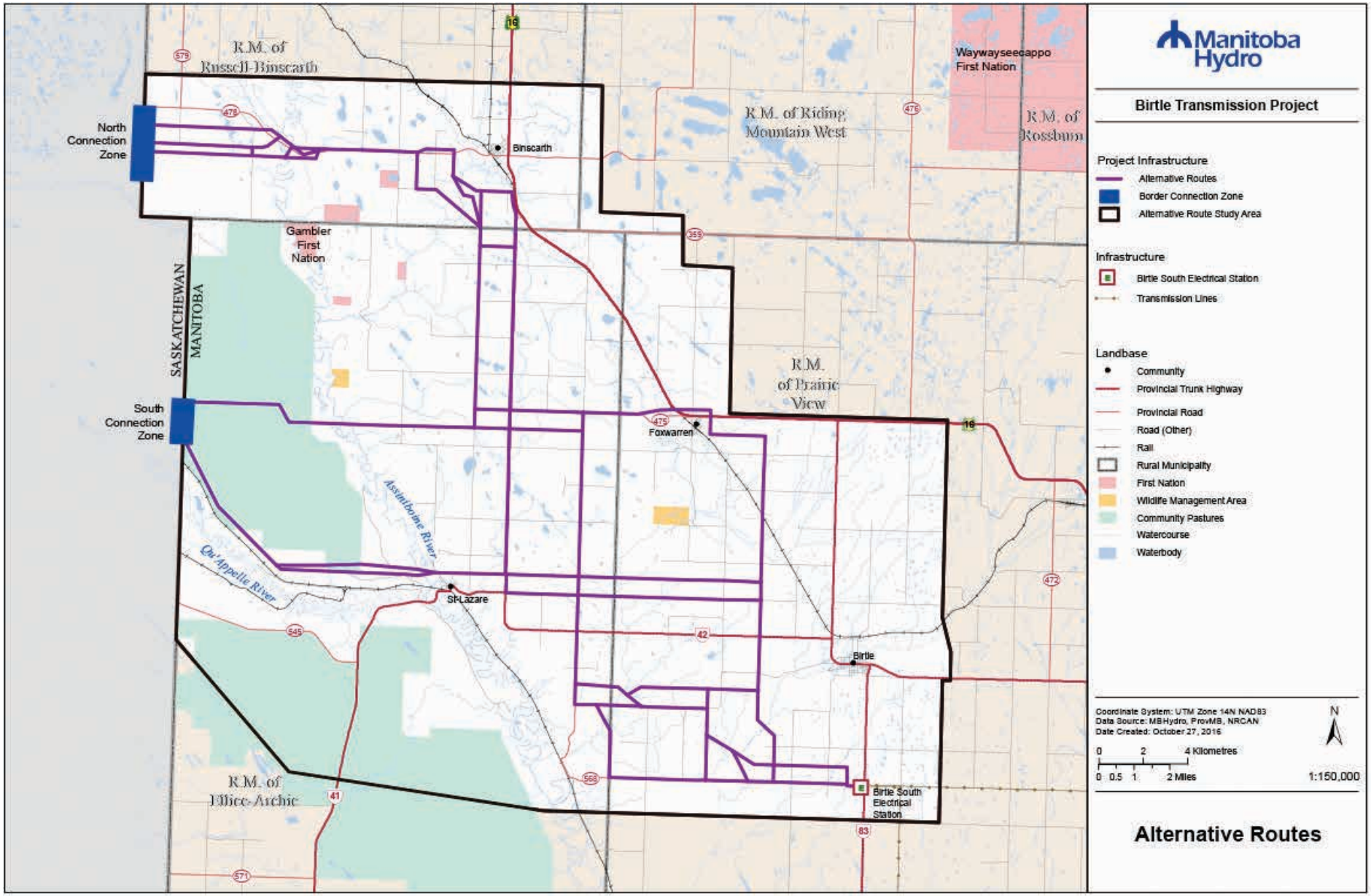
The engagement goals for the Birtle Transmission Project include:

- sharing information;
- learning about and understanding local interests;
- integrating interests and concerns into the assessment process; and
- discussing potential mitigation measures.

These goals will be met by:

- involving the public and Indigenous communities and organizations throughout the routing and environmental assessment stages;
- providing clear, timely, and relevant information and responses;
- delivering engagement processes that are adaptive and inclusive;
- informing the public and Indigenous communities as to how their feedback influenced the project; and
- documenting and reporting on feedback received.

We will use a variety of notification methods to inform Indigenous communities and the public of upcoming project activities.


R.M. of Russell-Binscarth
Waywayseecappo First Nation
R.M. of Riding Mountain West
R.M. of Rossburn
North Connection Zone
Binscarth
Gambler First Nation
SASKATCHEWAN
MANITOBA
R.M. of Prairie View
South Connection Zone
Foxwarren
Assiniboine River
Qu'Appelle River
St-Lazare
Birtle
R.M. of Ellice-Archie
Birtle South Electrical Station
Manitoba Hydro
Birtle Transmission Project
Project Infrastructure
Alternative Routes
Border Connection Zone
Alternative Route Study Area
Infrastructure
Birtle South Electrical Station
Transmission Lines
Landbase
Community
Provincial Trunk Highway
Provincial Road
Road (Other)
Rail
Rural Municipality
First Nation
Wildlife Management Area
Community Pastures
Watercourse
Waterbody
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 14N NAD83
Data Source: MBHydro, ProvMB, NRCAN
Date Created: October 27, 2016
N
0 2 4 Kilometres
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Alternative Routes

APPENDIX B: OPEN HOUSE STORYBOARDS

Welcome

Birtle Transmission Project public open house

Manitoba Hydro

Purpose of the open house

- Provide information about the proposed Birtle Transmission Project.
- Gather feedback on alternative routes and border crossings.
- Identify interests, opportunities and constraints to inform routing and environmental assessment processes.
- Answer questions and address concerns.

Manitoba Hydro

Project Need

- 20-year agreement with SaskPower
- Sale of 100 megawatts of renewable hydroelectricity

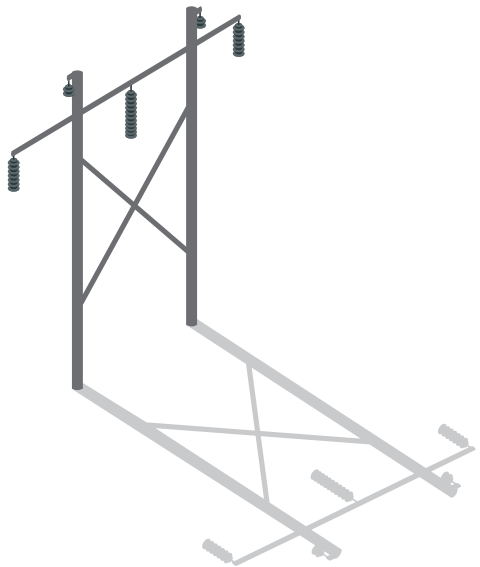
The income from export sales help keep Manitoba Hydro's electricity rates among the lowest in North America.

Manitoba Hydro

Project Description

- 230-kV transmission line from Birtle Station to the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border
- Minor upgrades at various stations
- Tower design – anticipate use of steel lattice towers and “H” frame structures
- In-service 2020–2021

SaskPower will be responsible for the portion of the transmission line in Saskatchewan that will connect to their station in Tantallon, SK.



Manitoba Hydro

Why do we export power?

- Export sales to neighbouring provinces and to the United States produce revenue for Manitoba Hydro. This offsets revenue needed from Manitoba customers and keeps electricity rates lower than they would otherwise be.
- In 2013–14, Manitoba Hydro's export sales totaled $439 million.
- The agreement between Manitoba Hydro and SaskPower will support SaskPower's goal to double the percentage of its renewable electricity supply up to 50 per cent by 2030.

Manitoba Hydro

Engagement processes

- Involving public/Indigenous communities and organizations throughout routing and environmental assessment processes;
- Providing clear, timely, and relevant information and responses;
- Delivering engagement processes that are adaptive and inclusive;
- Informing the public/Indigenous communities and organizations as to how their feedback is influencing the project ; and
- Documenting and reporting on feedback received.

The engagement processes are coordinated with the routing process to provide information and gather feedback at key stages of routing.

Manitoba Hydro

Engagement activities

Round 1 – fall 2016

- Introduce the project
- Present alternative routes and proposed border crossings
- Answer questions
- Identify and document concerns
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment
- Use feedback to guide selection of preferred route and border crossing

Round 2 – early 2017

- Present Round 1 findings
- Present preferred route to preferred border crossing
- Answer questions
- Identify and document concerns
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment
- Use feedback to assist in determining final route placement

Manitoba Hydro

What are we evaluating?

Manitoba Hydro will review different potential social and biophysical effects of the project.

Aspects being evaluated include, but are not limited to:

- Wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Vegetation
- Infrastructure
- Agriculture
- Ground and surface water
- Heritage resources
- Traditional land and resource use
- Health (noise and air emissions)

Manitoba Hydro

What is an Environmental Assessment?

The environmental assessment for the project will:

- Characterize the environment;
- Identify potential effects on people and the environment;
- Determine ways to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects while enhancing benefits of the project.

Feedback received from the public, Indigenous communities and organizations will enhance the evaluation of the project.

Manitoba Hydro

Two border crossings

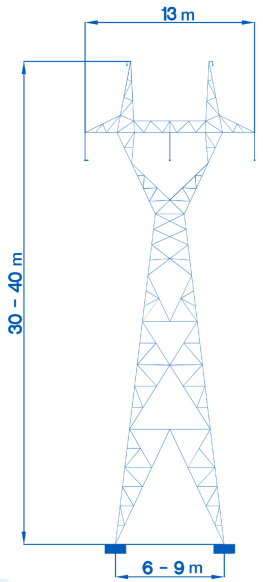
- Border crossings determined based on preliminary constraint and opportunity mapping.
- Worked with SaskPower to determine locations where both groups could potentially cross.
- Will negotiate final provincial boundary crossing.

Manitoba Hydro

Tower structures

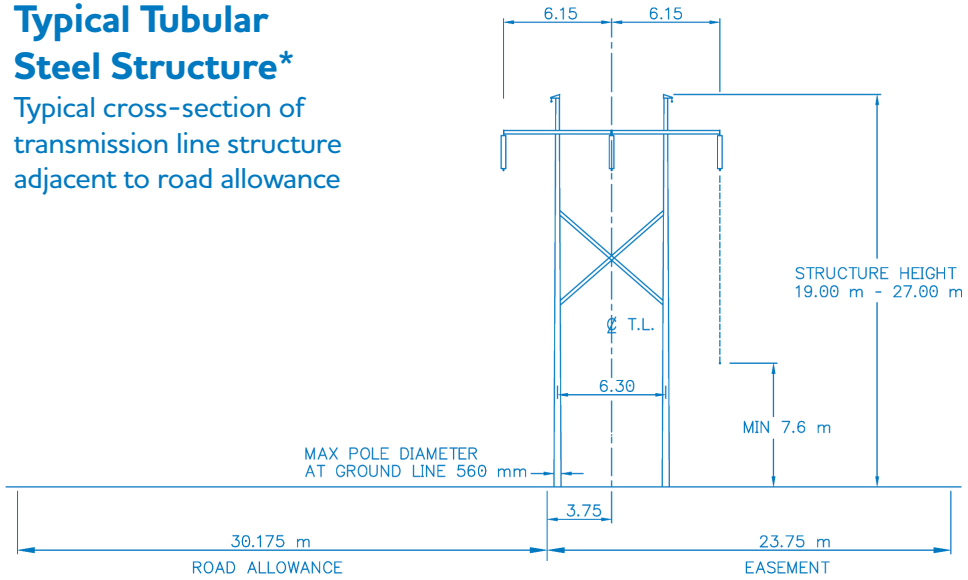
These tower designs will be used depending on terrain and location of the final preferred route.

Self Supporting Suspension Lattice Steel Structure*



Typical Tubular Steel Structure*

Typical cross-section of transmission line structure adjacent to road allowance



* Tower height and design are estimations and are dependent on terrain and final placement of the transmission line.

Manitoba Hydro

Community mapping

Please take a few minutes to consider the following questions and provide your input at the Community Mapping Station.

This will help us identify and understand the valued components or concerns in your community.

Manitoba Hydro

Community mapping

- What and where are the features, historic sites or other areas of importance in your community?
- Are there natural resources or areas of particular economic value in your community?
- Are there areas or sites of particular value to tourism or recreation in your community?
- Are there lands or areas traditionally used by the community for events, gatherings, or other important social or economic activities?
- Are there unique or important sites that contribute to the community identity?
- Do you have other local or historic knowledge that we should consider in the corridor routing process?
- Are there infrastructure (eg: roads, water) or service (eg: fire, ambulance) concerns?

Manitoba Hydro

Prioritizing local considerations

With regard to placing a transmission line, please prioritize your considerations.

You can place all of your dots next to one criteria or spread them out among several criteria.

If you have not received dots, please ask one of the project representatives.

Manitoba Hydro

Natural feature mapping

To help us identify and understand the important natural features of your community, please take a few minutes to consider the following questions and provide your input at the Natural Features Mapping Station.

Manitoba Hydro

Natural feature mapping

- Are there sites in the project area with special importance regarding plants, animals, birds, and reptiles? What kinds of species are located there? Are there endangered species?
- Are there specific locations in the project area where people gather plants and berries? Which plants and berries?
- Are there natural areas/wetlands in the project area? Where are they located?
- Are there areas where bird/animal hunting or trapping occurs? What species are hunted/trapped? What time of year?
- Do you have other knowledge we should consider in the corridor routing process?

Manitoba Hydro

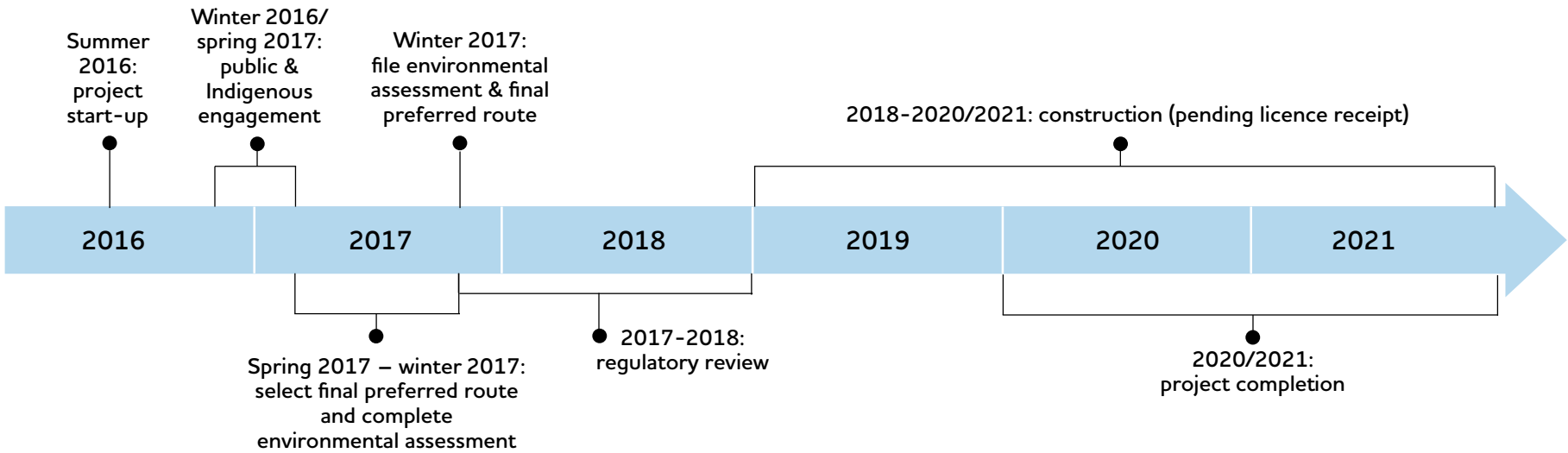
Local criteria

Economic/agricultural land
Following existing corridors (transmission/transportation/service)
Distance from existing communities/residences
Forested/natural areas
Distance from cultural/heritage assets
Vistas/view corridors
Public lands (Crown land/community pastures)
Project cost
Other

Manitoba Hydro

Anticipated timelines and next steps

- Determine a preferred route;
- Continue environmental assessment work;
- Present the preferred route in early 2017 for feedback.



Manitoba Hydro

Thank you

The project team wants to hear from you.

- Manitoba Hydro representatives are available to answer your questions.
- Please take a moment to complete a comment sheet so the project team can document your concerns.
- Visit the map station to show us where you may have any information or additional considerations regarding alternative routes.

Please contact: **1-877-343-1631** or **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca**

Visit the project webpage at **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle** for up-to-date information, and register to receive project updates.

Manitoba Hydro

Manitoba Hydro

BIRTLE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

RM of Russell-Binscarth: Round 1 Public Feedback Summary

Prepared for: **Manitoba Hydro** I Prepared by: **MMM Group Limited** I **January 2017**

Table of Contents

STANDARD LIMITATIONS

This report was prepared by MMM Group Limited (MMM) for the account of Manitoba Hydro (the Client). The disclosure of any information contained in this report is the sole responsibility of the Client. The material in this report reflects MMM's best judgment in light of the information available to it at the time of preparation. Any use which a third party makes of this report, or any reliance on or decisions to be made based on it, are the responsibility of such third parties. MMM accepts no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by a third party as a result of decisions made or actions based on this report.

MMM Group Limited (MMM) was retained by Manitoba Hydro to assist with the Public Engagement Process (PEP) for the Birtle Transmission Project. The report contained herein provides a summary of the PEP in the RM of Russell-Binscarth, including the following:

- Project description
- Anticipated project timelines
- Round 1 Public Engagement Process (PEP)
- Public feedback
- Next steps

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Manitoba Hydro is investigating the construction of a 230-kilovolt transmission line from Birtle Station, south of the community of Birtle, to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border (**Figure 1**). This transmission line is needed to fulfill a 20-year agreement to sell 100 megawatts (equivalent to powering 40,000 homes) of renewable hydroelectricity to SaskPower, beginning in 2020–2021. SaskPower will be responsible for the portion of the transmission line in Saskatchewan that will connect to their station in Tantallon, Saskatchewan.

Manitoba Hydro undertakes public and Indigenous engagement processes to collect feedback to assist in the determination of a preferred route for the project and to enhance the environmental assessment work being undertaken. The route selection process aims to balance potential effects to human, technical and natural environments. Data gathering, on the ground fieldwork, and the input of numerous technical specialists, the public, Indigenous communities/organizations, and stakeholders are taken into account when determining the final placement of the transmission line.

This public engagement process includes two rounds of engagement. Round 1 was to:

- Introduce the project.
- Present alternative routes and proposed border crossings.
- Answer questions.
- Identify and document concerns.
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment.
- Use feedback to guide selection of preferred route and border crossing.

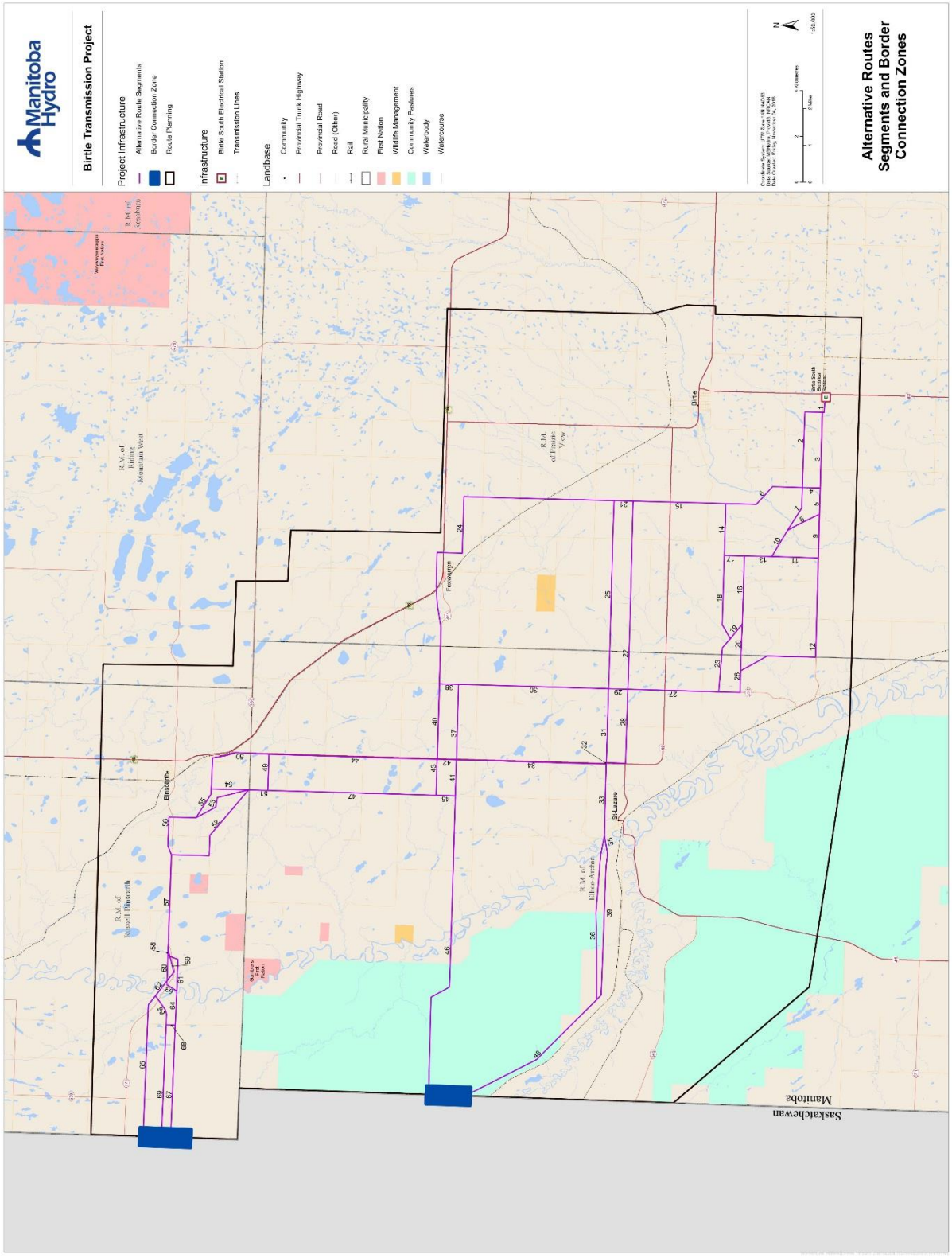


Figure 1: Project Location

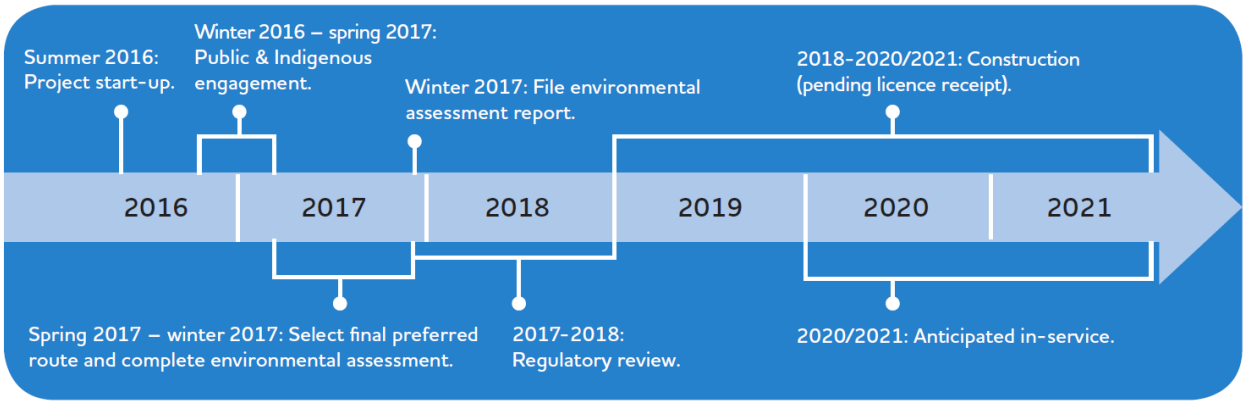
Round 2 will:

- Present Round 1 findings.
- Present preferred route to preferred border crossing.
- Answer questions.
- Identify and document concerns.
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment.
- Use feedback to assist in determining final route placement.

Round 1 had public engagement activities in the RM of Russell-Binscarth, RM of Ellice-Archie, and RM of Prairie View. This report was prepared to summarize the feedback from the public engagement activities in the RM of Russell-Binscarth.

2.0 ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINES

The anticipated Birtle Transmission Project timeline is as follows:



The schedule is subject to change as progress is made through the transmission line and environmental assessment processes.

3.0 ROUND 1 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Round 1 public engagement activities included the following:

- Stakeholder Interviews.
- Meeting with Council.
- Landowner Workshop.
- Public Open House.

This summary report focuses on feedback from landowners and members of the public through the landowner workshop and open house.

3.1 COMMUNICATION

A range of communication materials were developed to inform the public of the proposed project, including the following:

3.1.1 POSTCARD

A postcard advertising the project and the public open houses (**Figure 2**), was sent to 1,059 addresses in the RM of Russell-Binscarth, RM of Ellice-Archie, and RM of Prairie View.

3.1.2 NEWSLETTER

The project newsletter (**Appendix A**) was included in the mail invites and included:

- A description of the project.
- A description of the types of towers that could be used with this project.
- A project timeline.
- Information about the transmission line routing process.
- Information about the environmental assessment process.
- How to get involved.
- A map of the study area.
- The website address.
- Project contact information.

3.1.3 POSTERS

Posters were used to advertise the three open houses (**Figure 2**). In the RM of Russell-Binscarth, the posters were located at the following locations in Binscarth and Russell:

Binscarth

- Esso
- Municipal Office
- Community Board outside of post office

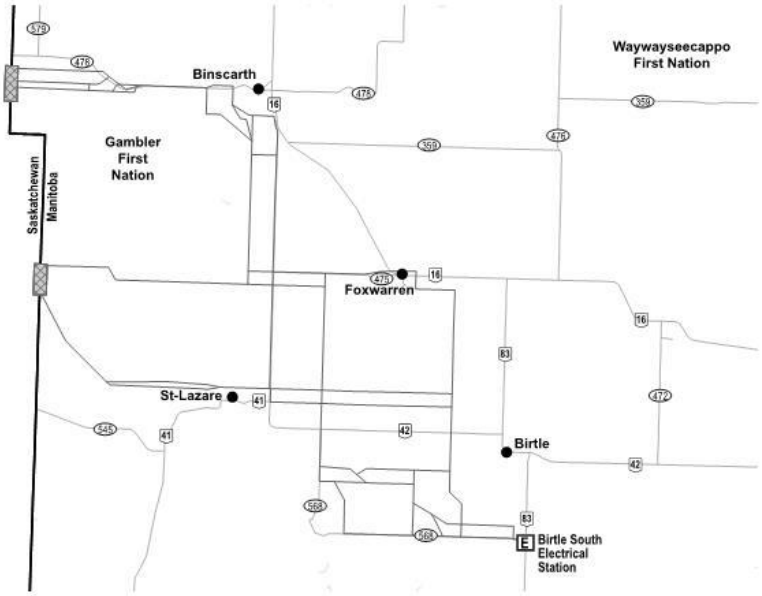
Russell

- Municipal office
- CO-OP gas bar
- Post office
- In addition to the posters in the RM of Russell-Binscarth, posters advertising the open houses were also posted in Foxwarren, Birtle, St-Lazare, and McAuley.

Birtle Transmission Project

We want to hear from you.

Alternative routes and potential border crossings



Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct a transmission line from Birtle Station to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border to deliver electricity to SaskPower as part of a 20-year agreement beginning in 2020/2021.

You are invited to a drop-in open house to learn about the proposed project and share your local knowledge of your area. Your input will help Manitoba Hydro with the route selection and environmental assessment processes. Staff will be on hand to provide project information and to answer questions.

Drop-in Public Open Houses

November 22, 2016	**November 23, 2016**	**November 24, 2016**
4:30 to 7:30 p.m.	4:30 to 7:30 p.m.	4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Birtle Community Hall	St. Lazare Leisure Centre	Binscarth Memorial Hall
160 Centre Street	319 Main Street	230 3rd Avenue
Birtle, MB	St. Lazare, MB	Binscarth, MB

For more information about the Birtle Transmission Project and to sign up for email notices, please visit **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**.
If you would like further information, please contact Manitoba Hydro at **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca** or call **1-877-343-1631**.

Manitoba Hydro

Figure 2: Poster/Postcard

3.1.4 INVITATION TO LANDOWNERS

Invites, in French and English, were mailed to landowners with meter locations where proposed alternative routes were being considered. The notification letter provided an overview of the project, invited landowners to attend a landowner workshop in the RM of Russell-Binscarth, as well as one of three open houses in the RM of Prairie View, RM of Ellice-Archie, and RM of Russell-Binscarth. Landowners were encouraged to visit the project website to sign up for email notices, more information about the Birtle Transmission Project, and encouraged anyone with project related questions to contact Manitoba Hydro.

3.1.5 STAKEHOLDER PHONE CALLS AND EMAILS

Representatives from Manitoba Hydro and MMM worked together to identify and confirm stakeholders for the project. Stakeholders were contacted directly by project team members via telephone and/or email and informed about the project and the open house. Stakeholders included:

- Provincial Departments
- Municipal Authorities
- Planning and Development Boards
- Parks and Protected Area Agencies
- Economic Development Agencies
- Tourism and Recreation
- Natural Resources and Infrastructure

3.1.6 PHONE LINE AND EMAIL ADDRESS

Project communication materials included a phone number and email address to which interested persons and stakeholders could direct their project-related questions.

3.1.7 WEBSITE

A project website was developed that included information on the project description, transmission line routing process, environmental assessment information, the project status/schedule, public engagement information, and a document library with project files such as maps, project notices, public engagement material, brochures, and contact information. The website went live on November 7, 2016, and the website address was included on all of the project communication materials.

3.1.8 NEWSPAPER

The project and open house were advertised in the ‘Russell Banner’ and the ‘Crossroads This Week’ newspapers. The advertisement ran in the ‘Crossroads This Week’ newspaper on November 10 and 18, 2016 and in the ‘Russell Banner’ on November 8 and 15, 2016.

3.1.9 FOLLOW UP EMAIL

Following the first round PEP, a follow up email was sent to 64 individuals that attended the first round public engagement activities and provided their email address for contact. The email was sent on December 13, 2016 and thanked participants for providing their input. The email also included a link to the project website, next steps, and contact information.

3.2 WORK SHOP

Landowners with meter locations in the RM of Russell-Binscarth, where proposed alternative routes are being considered, were invited to a landowner workshop on November 24, 2016 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Binscarth Memorial Hall. The aim of the workshop was to present project information, including the proposed alternative routes, and to understand local values and concerns of landowners in relation to routing and the environment. Input collected from the workshop will be considered in determining a preferred route for the project and the environmental assessment work being done.

The workshop was attended by eleven landowners and was facilitated by Manitoba Hydro and MMM. The workshop began with an introduction of the project team followed by a presentation to introduce the project. Following the presentation, participants worked through three tasks in a work book and using maps. The first two tasks were completed in small groups and the third task was completed individually. The first task was to gain an understanding of the community's values and identify community characteristics on a map. The second task examined the proposed alternative routes and identified issues and opportunities related to the segments that make up the alternative routes. Participants were encouraged during the task to mark maps with alternative segments and locations of interest. The last task asked questions related to the landowner's property and personal points of view.

3.3 OPEN HOUSE

On November 24, 2016, an open house for the Birtle Transmission Project was held at the Binscarth Memorial Hall to share information about the project with the broader community. It was a drop in event from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Nine people signed into the open house; however, it is estimated that approximately 10-15 people attended, as a few individuals did not sign in or only signed one name per couple. In addition to members from the public, three representatives from Manitoba Hydro and four representatives from MMM were in attendance.

The open house displayed project information on a series of storyboards, maps, and informational brochures throughout the room. The storyboards provided project details with maps and graphics (**Appendix B**). In addition to any maps shown on the storyboards, there were two mapping stations; community mapping and natural feature mapping. Participants viewed the information and had discussions with each other and with project team members. Feedback was collected on note pads and more formally with an exit survey that was provided for participants to complete.

Information collected will be used to assist in determining a preferred route for the project and the environmental assessment work that is being done.

4.0 PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Feedback from the public was collected through the landowner's workshop workbook, landowner's workshop exit survey, open house exit survey, prioritization activity and mapping exercises. All of the public feedback provided throughout the PEP will be considered by Manitoba Hydro and documented and reported in the Environmental Assessment Report, to be submitted by Manitoba Hydro.

4.1 KEY ISSUES

From the information shared by participants, we understand that the most prominent concerns/ preferrences in the RM of Russell-Binscarth are in no particular order:

Agricultural Land

As an agricultural community, workshop and open house participants raised a number of concerns regarding the transmission corridor travelling through agricultural lands. Participants indicated a concern for the loss of farmable land to tower structures. Participants believed that the presence of tower structures could have a significant impact on farming operations; a number of comments reflect that impacts to farming operations is a greater concern than the loss of farmable land. Participants have concerns that the presence of tower structures in agricultural lands could potentially result in increased liability for farmers. They believe that the size of farming equipment and the experience of operators can result in farming equipment hitting and damaging the tower and/or equipment and that farmers could be responsible to then pay for the damage. An additional concern raised in the RM of Russell-Binscarth is that the presence of tower structures may affect the resale value of agricultural land. They believe that farming around tower structures is viewed as an inconvenience and there is a fear that this may result in less interest for land with tower structures.

Wildlife and Recreation

Workshop and open house participants described the RM of Russell-Binscarth as natural with prime agricultural and forested land with lots of wildlife. Participants use the valleys for recreation (quadding, cross country ski, hiking, sledding, and paintball) and the valley is home to a variety of wildlife (moose, white-tailed deer, mule deer, bears, coyotes, and bald eagles). Participants commented that they would like the area to remain the same and are concerned that the presence of a transmission corridor could affect their enjoyment of the municipality's natural areas.

Distance to Residences

Workshop and open house attendees preferred segment options that avoided the most number of homes and yard sites. Participants believe that locating the corridor close to homes could impact the homeowners view and may devalue the property. Participants suggested that the corridor should travel, where possible, along road allowances that have the fewest homes and/or the most homes and farm yards setback from the road allowance.

Project Cost and Impact to Rate Payers

Questions and comments regarding the cost of the Birtle Transmission Corridor and how it will impact rate payers was raised at the open house. Participants showed an interest in learning the project cost and how it compares to income from sales as well as how exporting energy benefits Manitobans. One comment indicates that Manitoba Hydro should take the shortest and most economical route.

Community Pasture Route

Many of the participants believe that a route through the Spy Hill-Ellice and Ellice-Archie Community Pasture is the best way to avoid homes and agricultural land and that this route should be considered in the route selection process.

Other

Other areas that were discussed, but did not appear as often include:

- Concerns with segments travelling through areas where land is unstable and prone to slumping (i.e., in the river valleys).
- Future development potential.
- Economic activity related to mining.
- Type, and location, of tower structure.

4.2 COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

A component of understanding the important issues in the RM of Russell-Binscarth was to understand which community characteristics participants would like to see preserved and how participants would like to see the area change in the upcoming years. In some cases the responses were similar.

4.2.1 PRESERVE

Participants identified, in no particular order, the following characteristics as what they value most and would like to see preserved:

- Farming – main source of income
- Prime Agricultural Land
- Our Way Of Life
- Natural Land And Forest

4.2.2 CHANGE

When participants were asked how they would like to see the area change in the upcoming years, the following were the responses that were provided:

- Oil Boom
- More Mining
- Agriculture to stay the same

5.0 NEXT STEPS

Information collected from the Round 1 PEP have been included for consideration in the route selection process. Where possible, additional segments were drawn that could mitigate issues, as well as an additional segment through the community pasture was drawn as desired by the public and landowners. Manitoba Hydro will work with a range of specialists while striving to balance concerns and feedback from the public, stakeholder groups and Indigenous communities and organizations. Manitoba Hydro aims to reach consensus amongst a project team with a range of specialists in the determination of a preferred route.

A preferred route is anticipated to be selected in early 2017 and the second round of public engagement to share the preferred route will be shortly after. As timelines finalize, information will be shared through email notices, as well as other methods of notification.

APPENDIX A: NEWSLETTER

Birtle Transmission Project

Round 1
Alternative routes and potential border crossings

What is it and why do we need it?

Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct a 230-kilovolt transmission line to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border. This transmission line is needed to fulfill a 20-year agreement to sell 100 megawatts (equivalent to powering 40,000 homes) of renewable hydroelectricity to SaskPower, beginning in 2020–2021.

Why does Manitoba Hydro export power?

In 2013–14, Manitoba Hydro export sales totaled $439 million. These export sales to neighbouring provinces and the United States produce additional revenue for Manitoba Hydro. They offset the revenue needed from Manitoba customers and keep electricity rates lower than they would otherwise be.

Why do we have surplus electricity to export?

We have surplus energy because the construction of new hydroelectric generating stations adds a lot of additional electricity supply to our system all at once. Exports provide an interim outlet for this surplus electricity and an important source of additional revenue as the province's usage catches up.

In addition, Manitoba Hydro's hydroelectric system is designed to meet Manitoba's electricity demand even during years of low water flows. Most years our water supply has produced more electricity than is required in the province. Export sales provide an outlet for this excess electricity and therefore a revenue stream that helps keep energy prices lower for Manitobans.

For more information on the value of exports, see our video on the project website **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**

Why does Saskatchewan want our power?

SaskPower announced last year it plans to double the percentage of its renewable electricity generation capacity up to 50 per cent by 2030. Meeting this target will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions – about 40 per cent below 2005 levels. The plan calls for an expansion of wind power and other renewables, to go along with the Boundary Dam 3 carbon capture project and natural gas generation.

Where is the project located?

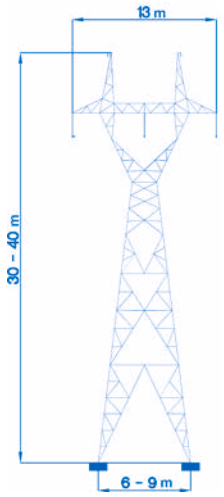
The Birtle Transmission Project will originate at the Birtle Station, south of the community of Birtle, to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border. A map of the alternative routes can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.

Manitoba Hydro

What will the line look like?

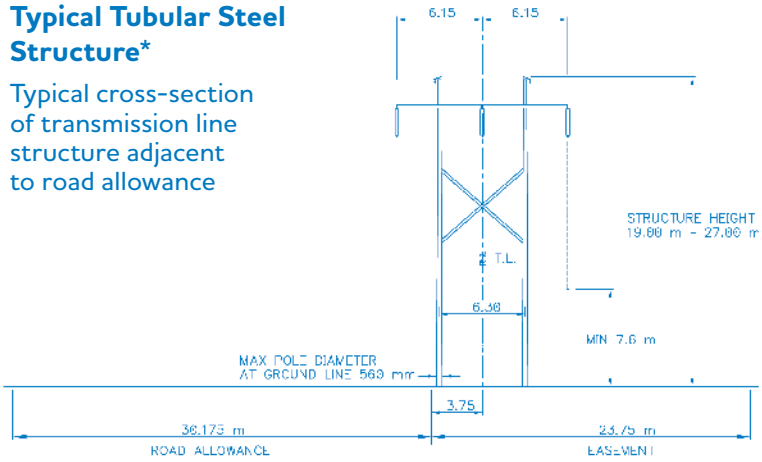
Depending on terrain and the location of the final preferred route, the following tower designs will be used if the project is approved.

Self Supporting Suspension Lattice Steel Structure*



Typical Tubular Steel Structure*

Typical cross-section of transmission line structure adjacent to road allowance



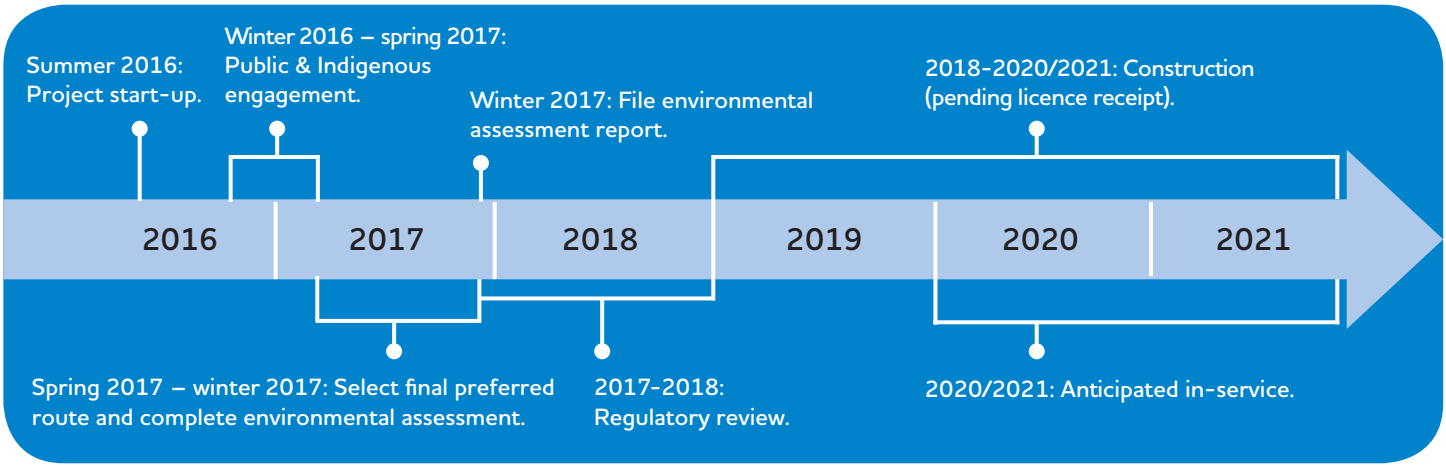
* Tower height and design are estimations and are dependent on terrain and final placement of the transmission line.

Transmission line routing

Feedback received through the engagement and environmental assessment processes will assist in determining a final preferred route for the project. The route selection process considers how well routes balance potential effects to human, technical and natural environments. Data gathering, on the ground fieldwork, and the input of numerous technical specialists, the public, Indigenous communities/organizations, and stakeholders will be taken into account when determining the final placement of the transmission line.

Project timelines

The proposed Birtle Transmission Project schedule (anticipated):



The schedule is subject to change as we progress through the routing and environmental assessment processes.

Environmental assessment

An environmental assessment (EA) report will be developed and submitted to the Environmental Approvals Branch of Manitoba Sustainable Development for review. The project is classified as a Class 2 Project under *The Environment Act*.

The EA report for the project will include:

- a description of the project, through construction, operation, and maintenance;
- study area characterization through fieldwork and background investigation;
- an outline of the public and Indigenous engagement processes, and the feedback received;
- identification and assessment of potential environmental and socio-economic effects; and
- development of mitigation measures to minimize negative effects while enhancing positive effects on people and the environment.

We would like to hear from you.

For more information about the Birtle Transmission Project and to sign up for email notices, please visit **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle**.

If you would like further information please contact us at **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca** or call **1-877-343-1631**.

How can I be involved?

We welcome feedback as it helps inform the environmental assessment and the routing processes for the project.

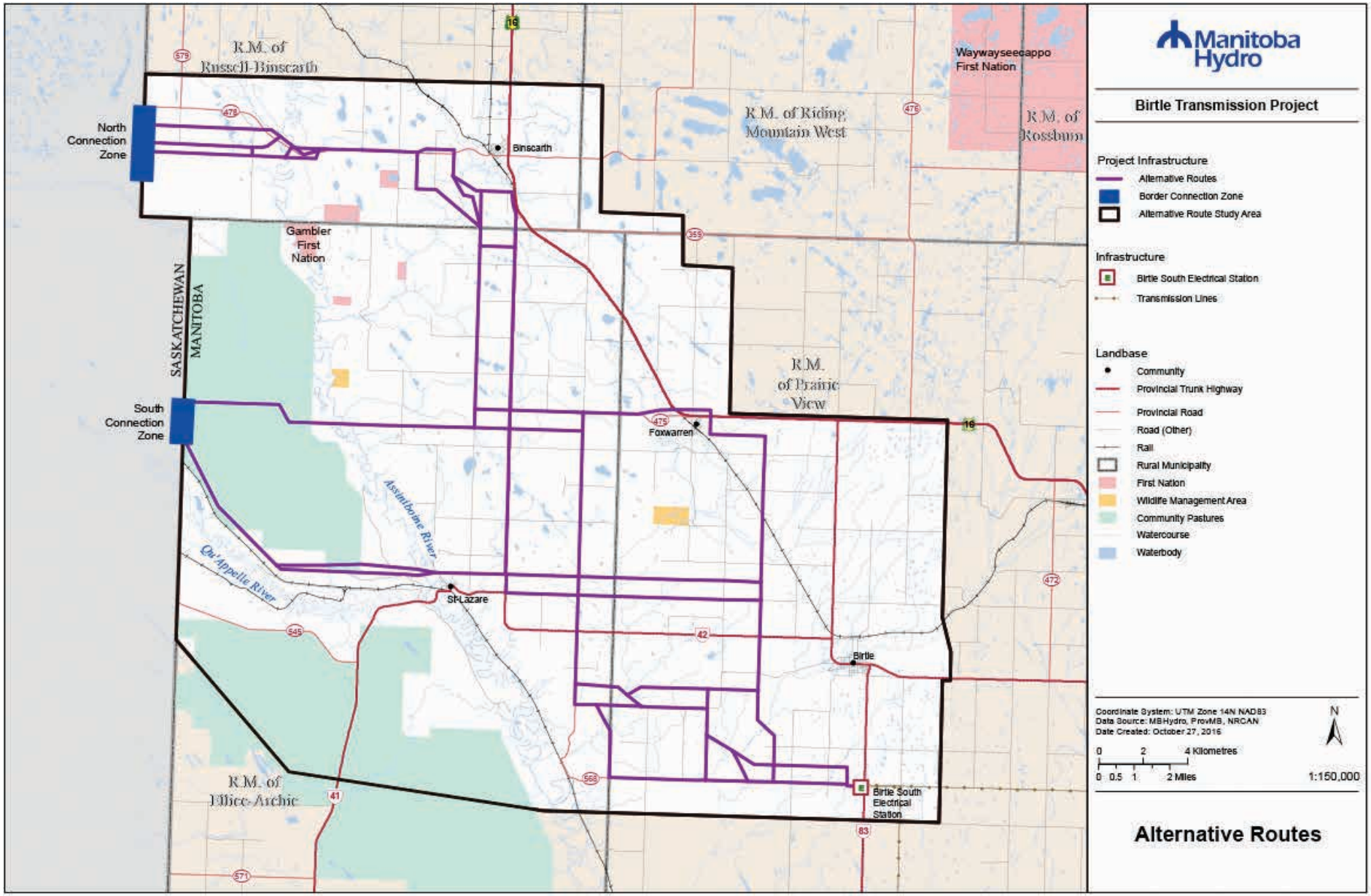
The engagement goals for the Birtle Transmission Project include:

- sharing information;
- learning about and understanding local interests;
- integrating interests and concerns into the assessment process; and
- discussing potential mitigation measures.

These goals will be met by:

- involving the public and Indigenous communities and organizations throughout the routing and environmental assessment stages;
- providing clear, timely, and relevant information and responses;
- delivering engagement processes that are adaptive and inclusive;
- informing the public and Indigenous communities as to how their feedback influenced the project; and
- documenting and reporting on feedback received.

We will use a variety of notification methods to inform Indigenous communities and the public of upcoming project activities.


R.M. of Russell-Binscarth
Waywayseecappo First Nation
R.M. of Riding Mountain West
R.M. of Rossburn
North Connection Zone
Binscarth
Gambler First Nation
SASKATCHEWAN
MANITOBA
R.M. of Prairie View
South Connection Zone
Foxwarren
Assiniboine River
Qu'Appelle River
St-Lazare
Birtle
R.M. of Ellice-Archie
Birtle South Electrical Station
Manitoba Hydro
Birtle Transmission Project
Project Infrastructure
Alternative Routes
Border Connection Zone
Alternative Route Study Area
Infrastructure
Birtle South Electrical Station
Transmission Lines
Landbase
Community
Provincial Trunk Highway
Provincial Road
Road (Other)
Rail
Rural Municipality
First Nation
Wildlife Management Area
Community Pastures
Watercourse
Waterbody
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 14N NAD83
Data Source: MBHydro, ProvMB, NRCAN
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Alternative Routes

APPENDIX B: OPEN HOUSE STORYBOARDS

Welcome

Birtle Transmission Project public open house

Manitoba Hydro

Purpose of the open house

- Provide information about the proposed Birtle Transmission Project.
- Gather feedback on alternative routes and border crossings.
- Identify interests, opportunities and constraints to inform routing and environmental assessment processes.
- Answer questions and address concerns.

Manitoba Hydro

Project Need

- 20-year agreement with SaskPower
- Sale of 100 megawatts of renewable hydroelectricity

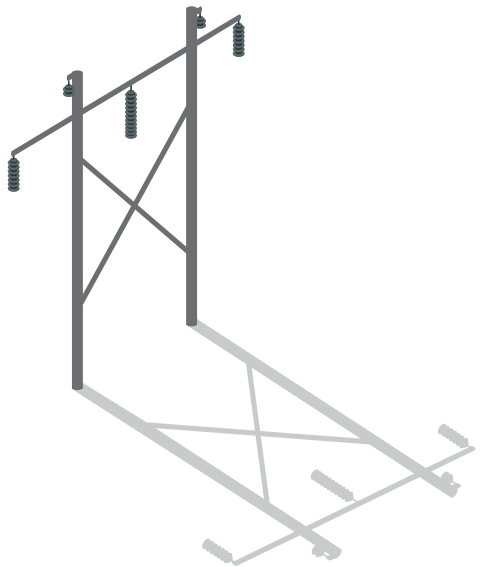
The income from export sales help keep Manitoba Hydro's electricity rates among the lowest in North America.

Manitoba Hydro

Project Description

- 230-kV transmission line from Birtle Station to the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border
- Minor upgrades at various stations
- Tower design – anticipate use of steel lattice towers and “H” frame structures
- In-service 2020–2021

SaskPower will be responsible for the portion of the transmission line in Saskatchewan that will connect to their station in Tantallon, SK.



Manitoba Hydro

Why do we export power?

- Export sales to neighbouring provinces and to the United States produce revenue for Manitoba Hydro. This offsets revenue needed from Manitoba customers and keeps electricity rates lower than they would otherwise be.
- In 2013–14, Manitoba Hydro's export sales totaled $439 million.
- The agreement between Manitoba Hydro and SaskPower will support SaskPower's goal to double the percentage of its renewable electricity supply up to 50 per cent by 2030.

Manitoba Hydro

Engagement processes

- Involving public/Indigenous communities and organizations throughout routing and environmental assessment processes;
- Providing clear, timely, and relevant information and responses;
- Delivering engagement processes that are adaptive and inclusive;
- Informing the public/Indigenous communities and organizations as to how their feedback is influencing the project ; and
- Documenting and reporting on feedback received.

The engagement processes are coordinated with the routing process to provide information and gather feedback at key stages of routing.

Manitoba Hydro

Engagement activities

Round 1 – fall 2016

- Introduce the project
- Present alternative routes and proposed border crossings
- Answer questions
- Identify and document concerns
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment
- Use feedback to guide selection of preferred route and border crossing

Round 2 – early 2017

- Present Round 1 findings
- Present preferred route to preferred border crossing
- Answer questions
- Identify and document concerns
- Incorporate feedback into the environmental assessment
- Use feedback to assist in determining final route placement

Manitoba Hydro

What are we evaluating?

Manitoba Hydro will review different potential social and biophysical effects of the project.

Aspects being evaluated include, but are not limited to:

- Wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Vegetation
- Infrastructure
- Agriculture
- Ground and surface water
- Heritage resources
- Traditional land and resource use
- Health (noise and air emissions)

Manitoba Hydro

What is an Environmental Assessment?

The environmental assessment for the project will:

- Characterize the environment;
- Identify potential effects on people and the environment;
- Determine ways to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects while enhancing benefits of the project.

Feedback received from the public, Indigenous communities and organizations will enhance the evaluation of the project.

Manitoba Hydro

Two border crossings

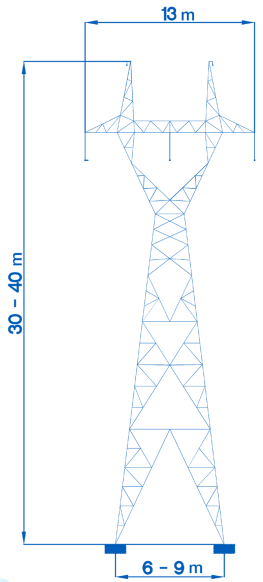
- Border crossings determined based on preliminary constraint and opportunity mapping.
- Worked with SaskPower to determine locations where both groups could potentially cross.
- Will negotiate final provincial boundary crossing.

Manitoba Hydro

Tower structures

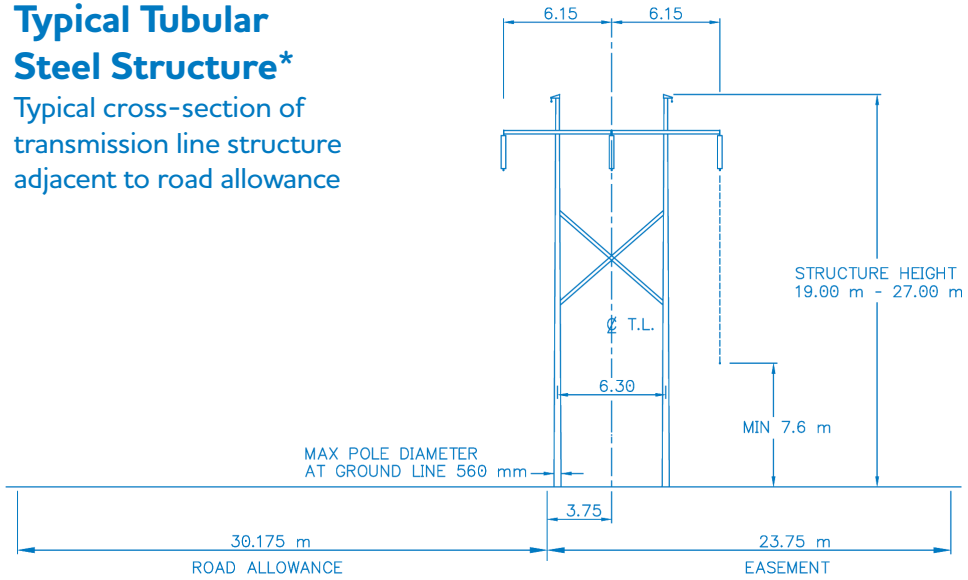
These tower designs will be used depending on terrain and location of the final preferred route.

Self Supporting Suspension Lattice Steel Structure*



Typical Tubular Steel Structure*

Typical cross-section of transmission line structure adjacent to road allowance



* Tower height and design are estimations and are dependent on terrain and final placement of the transmission line.

Manitoba Hydro

Community mapping

Please take a few minutes to consider the following questions and provide your input at the Community Mapping Station.

This will help us identify and understand the valued components or concerns in your community.

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Community mapping

- What and where are the features, historic sites or other areas of importance in your community?
- Are there natural resources or areas of particular economic value in your community?
- Are there areas or sites of particular value to tourism or recreation in your community?
- Are there lands or areas traditionally used by the community for events, gatherings, or other important social or economic activities?
- Are there unique or important sites that contribute to the community identity?
- Do you have other local or historic knowledge that we should consider in the corridor routing process?
- Are there infrastructure (eg: roads, water) or service (eg: fire, ambulance) concerns?

Manitoba Hydro

Prioritizing local considerations

With regard to placing a transmission line, please prioritize your considerations.

You can place all of your dots next to one criteria or spread them out among several criteria.

If you have not received dots, please ask one of the project representatives.

Manitoba Hydro

Natural feature mapping

To help us identify and understand the important natural features of your community, please take a few minutes to consider the following questions and provide your input at the Natural Features Mapping Station.

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Natural feature mapping

- Are there sites in the project area with special importance regarding plants, animals, birds, and reptiles? What kinds of species are located there? Are there endangered species?
- Are there specific locations in the project area where people gather plants and berries? Which plants and berries?
- Are there natural areas/wetlands in the project area? Where are they located?
- Are there areas where bird/animal hunting or trapping occurs? What species are hunted/trapped? What time of year?
- Do you have other knowledge we should consider in the corridor routing process?

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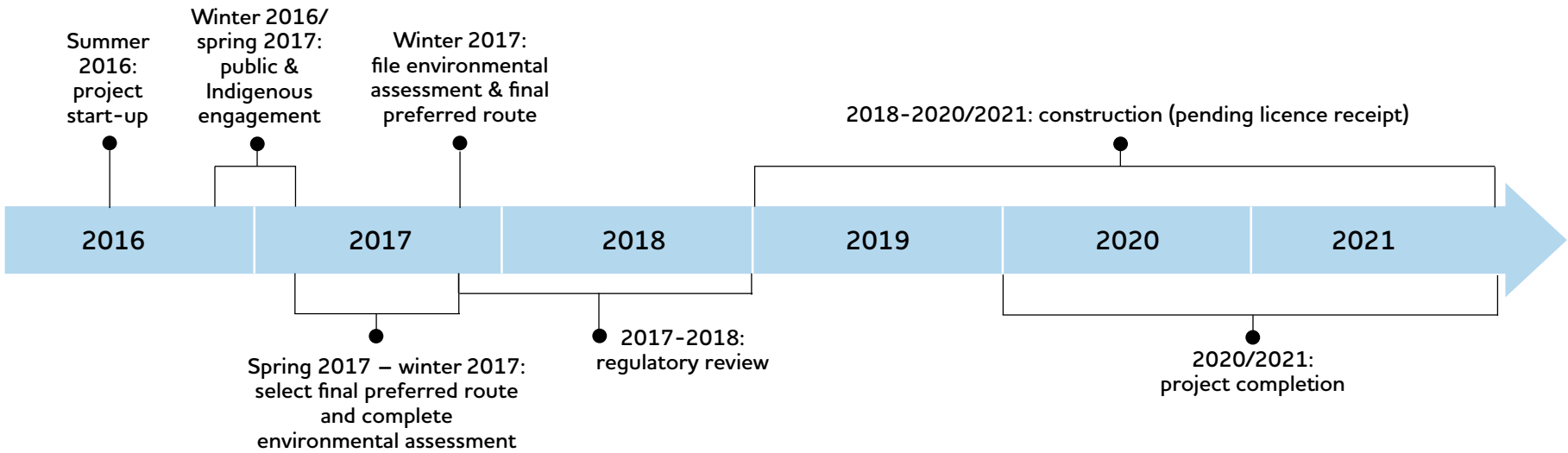
Local criteria

Economic/agricultural land
Following existing corridors (transmission/transportation/service)
Distance from existing communities/residences
Forested/natural areas
Distance from cultural/heritage assets
Vistas/view corridors
Public lands (Crown land/community pastures)
Project cost
Other

Manitoba Hydro

Anticipated timelines and next steps

- Determine a preferred route;
- Continue environmental assessment work;
- Present the preferred route in early 2017 for feedback.



Manitoba Hydro

Thank you

The project team wants to hear from you.

- Manitoba Hydro representatives are available to answer your questions.
- Please take a moment to complete a comment sheet so the project team can document your concerns.
- Visit the map station to show us where you may have any information or additional considerations regarding alternative routes.

Please contact: **1-877-343-1631** or **LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca**

Visit the project webpage at **www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle** for up-to-date information, and register to receive project updates.

Manitoba Hydro

Available in accessible formats upon request