4.0 Indigenous engagement process

4.1 Purpose, goals and objectives

This chapter provides an overview of the Indigenous engagement process (IEP), including principles and goals of the process, the scope and adaptable nature of the process, key concerns, and outcomes resulting from engagement. It summarizes the communication that took place between Manitoba Hydro and Indigenous communities and organizations from the fall of 2016 through to filing the Environmental Assessment Report in early 2018, including leadership meetings, open houses, workshops, letters, phone calls and understandings from self-directed studies. The intent is to continue the IEP through Project operation.

The purpose of the IEP was to establish a collaborative process tailored to suit the specific needs of each Indigenous community. This involved providing opportunities at various key stages in the process, through initial dialogue and correspondence and two rounds of engagement that involved activities that were structured in a way to create opportunities to receive information, listen and record feedback, share understandings and perspectives through values and interests workshops, conduct self-directed studies and participate in the gathering of information in field work. Manitoba Hydro respected differing approaches for engagement.

The following principles guided Manitoba Hydro's approach to Indigenous Engagement for this Project:

- The diversity of Indigenous cultures and worldviews should be understood and appreciated;
- Manitoba Hydro should work with Indigenous communities and organizations to better understand perspectives and determine mutual approaches to address concerns and build relationships; and
- Indigenous communities and organizations should be provided opportunities to communicate on an ongoing basis and early on in the process.

In planning for the Project, Manitoba Hydro developed an engagement process to facilitate the sharing of clear, timely and relevant information, to receive input for transmission line routing from Indigenous communities and organizations, and to meet regulatory obligations. To maintain consistency through the public engagement process and IEP, both processes had similar goals, including the following:

• Sharing Project information;

- Obtaining feedback for use in the transmission line routing and environmental assessment process;
- Gathering and understanding local interests and concerns;
- Integrating interests and concerns into the routing and assessment process; and
- Reviewing potential mitigation measures.

In addition to these shared goals, the IEP had the following specific goals:

- Continue to build and strengthen working relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations in Manitoba; and
- Provide opportunities for Indigenous communities and organizations to have meaningful input and contributions to the Project.

Manitoba Hydro worked to meet these goals to date by the following:

- Asking Indigenous communities and organizations how or if they want to be engaged in the Project;
- Facilitating the availability of multiple re-entry points for those that decided and may decide to participate in the engagement process later on;
- Delivering an Indigenous engagement process that was adaptive and inclusive to respective Indigenous communities and organizations;
- Informing participants that shared concerns how their feedback influenced the Project; and
- Designing a plan that continues engagement activities throughout the regulatory process, as well as into the construction and operation phases of the Project.

The IEP was designed with a goal of achieving meaningful participation. By its nature, the engagement process involved listening to concerns, and sometimes this included suggestions for improving the process. Prior to developing the engagement process for this Project, this feedback from previous projects was carefully considered during the design of the IEP as a way to improve the engagement process. This feedback included concerns raised early on in the process, along with lessons learned from past assessments. Based on this feedback, improvements over previous processes included the following:

- Starting engagement earlier on in the process by having a pre-engagement round;
- Tailoring the engagement process based on how and when Indigenous communities and organizations would like to be engaged;

- Inviting Indigenous communities and organizations to participate in values and interests workshops to learn about specific site concerns and preferences, which helped inform the route selection process;
- Inviting Indigenous communities and organizations to conduct self-directed studies earlier in the Project;
- Requesting numerous meetings with Indigenous communities and organizations throughout the process as well as responding to and accommodating meeting requests from Indigenous communities and organizations in a timely manner; and
- For those interested in conducting self-directed studies, offering a study proposal template to assist with the development of a proposal

Throughout the engagement process for the Project, Manitoba Hydro has endeavoured to build strong relationships by identifying specific staff to be the key contact for each Indigenous community and organization, so that each would have a familiar face/voice for discussing any Project issues.

4.2 Process methods

4.2.1 Overview

As indicated, Manitoba Hydro designed the IEP for the Project to engage Indigenous communities and organizations early in the process and at every stage. The IEP was adaptive and flexible, with opportunities for input provided at every stage to meet the specific context of each group in order to achieve meaningful participation. This engagement process is separate from any Crown–Indigenous consultation process to be initiated by the government with Indigenous communities to inform any Crown decisions about the Project. While the provincial framework under *The Environment Act* requires applicants for a licence to engage with those potentially impacted by a project, the approach of the Provincial Crown in Manitoba is to undertake its consultation obligations arising from section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 directly with Aboriginal groups whose rights might be affected by a Crown Decision. Manitoba's Provincial Crown has not delegated any portion of the Crown's consultation obligation to Manitoba Hydro as the proponent for the Project. Instead, the Manitoba Crown has established a separate Consultation and Reconciliation Branch for that purpose.

The IEP was coordinated with the routing methodology to provide information and gather feedback at key stages of transmission line routing. The IEP conducted by Manitoba Hydro included the following general stages:

- Pre-engagement (September 2016);
- Round 1 (November 2016); and
- Round 2 (March 2017).

4.2.2 Identification of Indigenous communities and organizations

4.2.2.1 Overview

Manitoba Hydro is committed to engaging with Indigenous communities and organizations that have indicated an interest in the Project. In order to identify which Indigenous communities and organizations to engage with, Manitoba Hydro examined both historical and contemporary information to determine connections to the region surrounding the Project, and/or further sought out information on those who have indicated an interest in the Project.

It is important to note that many of the First Nations in the region are of the view that their traditional land use extends far beyond their reserves (Map 4-1). In addition, the Project is located in an area of the province that is of historical and current day interest to the MMF and its members (Map 4-2). Based on these factors, Manitoba Hydro made initial contact with the MMF and the following First Nations and Indigenous organizations (Table 4-1).

Indigenous communities and organizations	Rationale for engaging in the Project
Anishinaabe Agowidiiwinan (Treaty 2)	Historical and contemporary connection to the study area
Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation	Historical and contemporary connection to the study area and interest in the project
Canupawakpa Dakota Nation	Historical and contemporary connection to the study area and interest in the project
Gambler First Nation	Historical and contemporary connection to the study area and interest in the project
Manitoba Metis Federation	Historical and contemporary connection to the

Table 4-1: Engagement List

Indigenous communities and organizations	Rationale for engaging in the Project
	study area and interest in the project
Sioux Valley Dakota Nation	Historical and contemporary connection to the study area
Waywayseecappo First Nation	Historical and contemporary connection to the study area and interest in the project

Manitoba Hydro was prepared to engage with other parties not on the list if it came to the Corporation's attention that others may have interest in this Project. Based on previous experience, interest by other communities most often comes through meetings and/or community sessions held with the Indigenous communities and organizations currently identified in the IEP.

4.2.2.2 Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation

Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation is a Dakota community located approximately 25 km southwest of Birtle, Manitoba. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada notes on their webpage a registered population of 737 people, with 464 living on reserve. The community's Facebook page notes that the Nation is on approximately 7,128 acres (28.85 km²) of land and is bordered by the RM of Miniota and the RM of Archie.

4.2.2.3 Canupawakpa Dakota Nation

Canupawakpa Dakota Nation is a Dakota community located approximately 100 km south of Birtle, Manitoba. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada notes on its webpage a registered population of 618 people, with 322 living on reserve. The community is surrounded by the Rural Municipality of Pipestone.

4.2.2.4 Gambler First Nation

Gambler First Nation is an Ojibway community, and a Treaty 4 Nation, located approximately 40 km northwest of Birtle, Manitoba. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada notes on its webpage a registered population of 169 people, with 66 living on reserve. The band also has a reserve they share with 23 other bands in Saskatchewan (Treaty 4 Reserve Grounds Indian Reserve No. 77). Community members noted that they have members in Saskatchewan because part of Treaty 4 extends into Saskatchewan.

4.2.2.5 Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation is a Dakota community located approximately 100 km southeast of Birtle, Manitoba. The Sioux Valley Dakota Nation website (accessed October 17 2017) notes that this Dakota Nation is self-governing by the Dakota Oyate under Sioux Valley Dakota Nation (Sioux Valley Dakota Nation) Law. On July 1, 2014, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation achieved self-governance, where both the government of Canada and Manitoba passed legislation in the federal and provincial legislatures that recognize and respect Sioux Valley Dakota Nation 2016). Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada notes on their webpage a registered population of 2,295 people, with 1,429 living on reserve.

4.2.2.6 Waywayseecappo First Nation

Waywayseecappo First Nation is an Ojibway community, and Treaty 4 Nation, located approximately 40 km northeast of Birtle, Manitoba. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada notes on their webpage a registered population of 2,445 people, with 1,416 living on reserve.

4.2.2.7 Manitoba Metis Federation

According to their website "the MMF promotes the political, social, cultural and economic interests and rights of the Metis in Manitoba" (<u>http://www.mmf.mb.ca/</u>). The MMF website, accessed on October 17, 2017 states that "The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) is the official democratic and self-governing political representative for the Metis Nation's Manitoba Metis Community. In addition, the MMF delivers programs and services to their community including: child and family services, justice, housing, youth, education, human resources, economic development and natural resources."

In 1967, the Manitoba Metis Federation was founded to promote and advocate for the rights and interests of Metis in the province" (Manitoba Metis Federation, 2017). To be a member of the MMF, an individual must self-identify as Metis, show an ancestral connection to the historic Metis community and be accepted by the contemporary Metis community.

4.2.2.8 Anishinaabe Agowidiiwinan (Treaty 2)

Treaty 2 was an agreement established August 21, 1871, between Her Majesty Queen Victoria and various First Nations in southwest Manitoba and a small part of southeast

Saskatchewan. Treaty signatories from this region include the following communities: Dauphin River First Nation, Ebb and Flow First Nation, Keeseekoownin Ojibway First Nation, Lake Manitoba First Nation, Lake St. Martin First Nation, Little Saskatchewan First Nation, O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation, Pinaymootang First Nation, and Skownan First Nation. Treaty 2 territory extends north of Treaty 1 territory, from the east shore of Lake Winnipeg, across the centre and southwest of Manitoba to the Moose Mountains in southeastern Saskatchewan including the region surrounding the Birtle Project. None of the First Nation communities located within the region surrounding the Birtle Project are signatories to Treaty 2, but instead are either signatories to Treaty 4 or Dakota Nations.

The Anishinaabe Agowidiiwinan website, accessed on October 17, 2017 states that:

"The objectives of Anishinaabe Agowidiiwinan are to protect the collective, inherent, aboriginal and Treaty rights of Akowigun Niish Anishinaabek and the lands, waters, and resources within the boundaries, of Akowigun Niish.

To plan, initiate and carry out negotiations with federal, provincial and other governments, on matters, related to the protection of lands, waters, and resources in Akowigun Niish Territory; and other negotiations as required.

Each Anishinaabek member shall remain in total control of all decisions, regarding its Reserve lands and those lands that were part of their traditional territory. To plan, initiate and carry out negotiations with the private sector and organizations that are involved in the exploration, extraction, processing, transportation, or distribution of natural resources, lands, or waters within Akowigun Niish Akowigun Territory."

4.2.3 Information sharing

As indicated, Manitoba Hydro began communicating Project information at the early stages of engagement, in September 2016. Communication tools included letters, Project newsletters, various handouts and comment sheets used at the engagement venues and the Project web page.

4.2.3.1 Project web page

Following the announcement of the Project, Manitoba Hydro launched the Project web page (<u>www.hydro.mb.ca/birtle</u>). The web page was designed to provide information on the Project and was updated as the Project progressed. It included information on the proposed construction scheduled and the regulatory process.

4.2.3.2 Letters

As indicated previously, Manitoba Hydro sent letters as a tool to formally notify Indigenous communities and organizations of Project-related activities. The letters were accompanied with packages of Project material, including Project Newsletters (see below) and maps. Letters were sent as Project updates or new rounds of engagement were initiated and often to formally request a meeting, or as notification of upcoming engagement activities. All letters included contact information for the Project, consisting of a telephone number, email address, and the Project web page address to provide recipients with additional sources of information on the Project and methods for contacting Manitoba Hydro. Letters were often followed up with a telephone call to confirm receipt and answer any potential immediate questions.

4.2.3.3 Handouts and comment sheets

A variety of hard copy materials were on display and made available at community information sessions for attendees to take home for further information. Both Project-specific materials and other more general materials were available, as described below. In addition, comment sheets were developed and made available online on the Project web page (see section 3.2.4). More detailed information about the materials is provided in the Public Engagement Process Technical Data Report (Appendix B).

Newsletters were developed for each of the two rounds of engagement and were available on the Manitoba Hydro website. The Round 1 newsletter provided background information on the Project, including the need, location and proposed export plans. It included a map, construction time period, contact information and regulatory review process timeline. The Round 1 newsletter was provided at leadership meetings and community information sessions. The Round 2 newsletter focused on the preferred route. It provided background information on the Project, including the need, location and proposed export plans. It included a map and description of the preferred route and border crossing, tower design, goals of the public engagement process, and information about the environmental assessment process and regulatory review process, including: assessment timeline and key Project milestones; contact information; a summary of the general comments and concerns heard in Round 2 during the IEP and public engagement process; and a "*What's Next*" section. The Round 2 newsletter was provided at leadership meetings and community information sessions.

In addition to the newsletters, the following brochures were made available at leadership meetings and community information sessions:

- Alternating Current Electric and Magnetic Fields a handout prepared by Exponent Engineering and Scientific Consulting for Manitoba Hydro to provide an overview of AC electric and magnetic fields, health information related to EMF and audible noise from EMF;
- AC Lines and Electronic Devices prepared by Exponent Engineering and Scientific Consulting to provide information on EMF interference with electronic devices, including GPS, wireless internet and signal blocking/reflection;
- Health Canada Electric and Magnetic Fields from Power Lines and Electrical Appliances – prepared by Health Canada and made available at the public open houses, which discussed exposure to EMF, reducing risk and Canada's role in monitoring EMF, and provided links to other agency reports; and
- Keeping power lines clear of trees provided an overview of the process Manitoba Hydro uses when managing vegetation near transmission power lines, including tree removal, safety and herbicide application.

4.2.4 Engagement activities

The level and methods of engagement depended on the response from each Indigenous community and organization. Manitoba Hydro offered engagement methods and tools as a way to provide direct opportunities for input. These included the following:

- Leadership meetings;
- Community information sessions;
- Values and interests workshops;
- Telephone calls; and
- Self-directed studies.

Throughout the engagement process Manitoba Hydro staff routinely telephoned Indigenous communities and organizations to confirm receipt of letters, schedule meetings and community information sessions and provide Project updates.

4.2.4.1 Leadership meetings

Leadership meetings provided opportunities for early and ongoing engagement regarding the Project. These meetings were held with interested Indigenous communities and organizations to communicate Project activities, receive feedback, and discuss engagement plans and concerns.

4.2.4.2 Community information sessions

Community information sessions provided Indigenous communities and organizations with the opportunity to access information and provide feedback about the Project directly to Manitoba Hydro representatives, and were held at various stages of the Project. This method of communication also provided an opportunity for direct discussions with members. A wide variety of information was communicated and provided at the community information sessions through methods such as Project storyboards, Project newsletters (see section 3.2.4), brochures on Electromagnetic frequencies (EMF), brochures on the routing process, localized mapping and comment sheets. Participants were also invited to visit the Project website (see section 3.2.3) for additional information.

4.2.4.3 Values and interests workshops

Overview

The purpose of the values and interest workshops was to gather and understand local interests and concerns, and obtain feedback for use in the route selection and environmental assessment processes. Three communities took part in values and interests workshops: Canupawakpa Dakota Nation, Gambler First Nation and Waywayseecappo First Nation. These workshops provided an opportunity for Manitoba Hydro to receive early input into the routing process and help refine alternative routes. Each workshop was held in a group setting, was interactive and was facilitated in a relaxed atmosphere. The workshop included the following three main sections:

- Values and interests exercise;
- Routing constraints mapping; and
- Routing constraints activity.

Values and interests exercise

In the values and interests session, Manitoba Hydro staff asked questions to help better understand important values in four areas (Environment, Culture, Economy, and Community). The exercise included a wheel and used Post-it notes as a way for participants to share their thoughts. This exercise was designed so that information shared would help inform the selection of Valued Components for the environmental assessment process. Appendix C contains the outcome of the workshop for the three participating communities.

Routing opportunities and constraints mapping

This part of the workshop included a series of questions designed to help identify and map important community areas, land use areas, and cultural areas in the Project study area. The routing constraints activity was used to help better understand concerns from the community for routing a transmission line.

Routing opportunities and constraints activity

During the values and interests workshop in Canupawakpa, Manitoba Hydro used an activity to help better understand concerns from the community for routing a transmission line. Manitoba Hydro staff provided participants with three stickers to be placed beside their concerns and preferences from a list provided. The information was to highlight the participant's concerns and preferences when it comes to routing a transmission line. During the values and interests workshops in Waywayseecappo First Nation and Gambler First Nation, Manitoba Hydro used a self-sorting exercise where Manitoba Hydro staff provided each participant with three Post-it stickers to write their three most important concerns and preferences. This activity was conducted in large groups with the participants. The process was adapted to allow participants to develop the list of concerns instead of having them predetermined.

4.2.4.4 Telephone calls

Manitoba Hydro staff routinely telephoned Indigenous communities and organizations to confirm receipt of letters, schedule meetings and community information sessions and provide Project updates.

4.2.4.5 Self-directed studies

Manitoba Hydro asked participating Indigenous communities and organizations how they wanted to participate in the Project. Manitoba Hydro offered Indigenous communities and organizations the opportunity to conduct self-directed studies by providing funding for these studies. Indigenous communities and organizations that indicated an interest in undertaking a study were invited to submit a proposal. A selfdirected study proposal template was developed and shared with those who requested assistance with the development of a proposal to submit to Manitoba Hydro for funding. Manitoba Hydro staff also met with Indigenous communities and organizations that requested assistance to help with the development of the proposal, if assistance was requested.

Five Indigenous communities and organizations engaged or are in discussions with the development of self-directed studies (Land Use and Occupancy, Traditional Knowledge

studies, or other): Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation, Canupawakpa Dakota Nation, Gambler First Nation, the MMF and Waywayseecappo First Nation. The studies were offered to help the community or organization work through the various issues, inform the environmental assessment, and to develop a better Environmental Assessment Report and Environmental Protection Program for the Project. They assisted Manitoba Hydro with developing a greater understanding of the Project area, identifying key concerns in the study area, identifying potential Project effects, planning and designing the Project, and developing potential mitigation measures.

The MMF provided a self-directed study report prior to filing this document. Waywayseecappo First Nation and Gambler First Nation provided draft studies prior to filing. Information provided in reports submitted prior to filing of this assessment report has been incorporated into the results. Understandings gained from self-directed studies provided after filing this assessment report will be included in the Environmental Protection Program.

Manitoba Hydro provided and will continue to provide the opportunity for participants to review and confirm information provided through the IEP by:

- Sharing draft meeting notes with participants to provide an opportunity to review and provide revisions;
- Sharing draft versions of the values and interest workshop reports with communities for verification;
- Offering to hold meetings with Indigenous communities on the environmental protection program (chapter 10) to provide an opportunity to demonstrate how input, including local and traditional knowledge, has been considered and interpreted, and how concerns that were identified in this chapter were addressed; and
- Continuing engagement post-filing and reviewing the mitigation measures to discuss whether they address concerns and if not, discussing potential other ways to mitigate.

Manitoba Hydro reviewed input received by:

- Meeting with those responsible for preparing self-directed study reports to discuss report content, confirm understandings and seek clarification where needed;
- Coding the meeting notes by category to facilitate better understanding of interests and concerns;
- Providing summaries to Manitoba Hydro specialists, when appropriate, to ensure

relevant input is incorporated into the Environmental Assessment Report and to provide context for the Environmental Assessment Report; and

• Augmenting the environmental assessment with traditional knowledge and integrating the information and knowledge, where appropriate, into the design of the Project.

4.3 Engagement understandings

4.3.1 Overview

This section contains descriptions of the information shared from the Indigenous communities and organizations that have taken part in the Project engagement process. Along with the description of each is a summary of engagement activities, Project concerns, constraints and opportunities regarding the Project.

Key feedback was gathered throughout the engagement process. During the preengagement process starting in September 2016 some First Nations began discussions regarding self-directed studies at this early stage, including Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation, Canupawakpa Dakota Nation, Gambler First Nation and Waywayseecappo First Nation. Discussions regarding conducting a self-directed study also began with the MMF. By end of the round the MMF had submitted their draft study report, and Gambler First Nation and Waywayseecappo First Nation had begun their studies.

Common concerns and perspectives were shared among those engaged, including the following:

- Concern about protection of wildlife and intact natural areas;
- Concern about practices if construction crews encounter an unidentified cultural, heritage or burial site;
- Concern about vegetation management practices during ROW maintenance, particularly with the use of herbicides in areas considered sensitive;
- Interest in training, employment and economic opportunities for communities; and
- Concern about protecting Crown lands for future Treaty Land Entitlement selections.

These perspectives and those described in section 4.3 were considered during the design of the Project and development of the assessment and

Environmental Protection Program. How these perspectives contributed to the routing process is described in the following section.

4.3.2 IEP influence on routing

A key goal of the IEP is to integrate perspectives raised through engagement into the routing and assessment process. By routing the transmission line away from key areas of concern, potential effects can be avoided. Transmission line routing is a preferred form of mitigation for potential effects on people and the environment, although there are often conflicting areas of least preference when working with different communities, stakeholders and the public. Through both rounds of engagement, IEP interests were incorporated into route preferences by avoiding both general and specific areas described as important. General routing preferences heard through the IEP included avoiding Crown land, protecting intact natural areas and wildlife, protecting important plant harvest areas, culturally or historically important sites and rivers and streams, following existing highways or roadways and avoiding residences and urban areas. More information on routing is provided in chapter 6.0.

This section summarizes information from the following Indigenous communities and organizations:

- Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation;
- Canupawakpa Dakota Nation;
- Gambler First Nation;
- Manitoba Metis Federation;
- Waywayseecappo First Nation;
- Anishinaabe Agowidiiwinan (Treaty 2); and
- Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.

4.3.3 Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation

4.3.3.1 Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation engagement process

Manitoba Hydro has had the following engagement activities with Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation:

- Kept the community informed as the Project progressed; and
- Meetings to discuss opportunities for the community to be engaged in the

Project, including if the community wanted a values and interest workshop and development of a self-directed study.

Manitoba Hydro initially identified Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation as a community that may have interest in the Project because they have traditional and contemporary use of the area and an interest in the Project. Manitoba Hydro staff initially met with Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation representatives on May 31, 2016 to discuss the proposed Project. A table summarizing engagement activities between Manitoba Hydro and Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation is provided in Appendix C.

Manitoba Hydro's understanding of Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation's general feedback and information shared through Project meetings and other engagement activities is as follows:

- The word 'Dakota' means ally. Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation would like to be allies with Manitoba Hydro. The community does not oppose the Birtle Transmission Project and wants an opportunity to bid on the project;
- Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation is looking for new partnerships and joint ventures and a new policy on procurement would be welcomed;
- Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation noted that the Birtle Transmission Project is going through their territory and they are looking to be the general contractor for the transmission line;
- Dakotas are not refugees and Dakota people have always been here North of Binscarth and close to Russell is within Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation's traditional territory; and
- Birdtail Sioux indicated that any companies within 80 miles of their unceded territory will have to give Birdtail exclusivity over economic development.

4.3.3.2 Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation route feedback

Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation shared that they have considerable interest in the area and there is a lot of archaeological significance. There are burial grounds located at Fort Ellice and the significance of Fort Ellice was considered during the routing process. Previously, this site has suffered from abuse and objects have been removed from the site. This is all registered as Dakota territory.

Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation also indicated that they have submitted an application for Additions to Reserve (ATR) for crown land and community pastures. Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation representatives explained that they are applying through the province to the federal government for the community pastures. The community has been involved in discussions about helping with conservation of the pasture. Chief Chalmers indicated that the community does not have issues with the line going through crown land, and that bringing a transmission line closer to their nation may help with future economic development.

4.3.3.3 How Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation's feedback and concerns influenced the Project

The significance of Fort Ellice was considered during the routing process. This understanding helped inform the route evaluation and selection process. Transmission line routing resulted in a final preferred route that avoided Fort Ellice and surrounding area.

4.3.4 Canupawakpa Dakota Nation

4.3.4.1 Canupawakpa Dakota First Nation engagement process

Manitoba Hydro has had the following engagement activities with Canupawakpa Dakota Nation:

- Kept the community informed as the Project progressed;
- Meetings to discuss opportunities for the community to be engaged in the Project;
- A values and interests workshop;
- A meeting to verify the values and interests workshop draft report; and,
- Discussions towards an agreement to develop a self-direct study

Manitoba Hydro identified Canupawakpa Dakota Nation as a community that may have interest in the Project because they have traditional and contemporary use of the area and an interest in the Project. Manitoba Hydro staff initially met with Canupawakpa Dakota Nation representatives on May 30, 2016 to discuss the proposed Project.

Manitoba Hydro worked collaboratively with Canupawakpa Dakota Nation to design and tailor the values and interest workshop held on October 12, 2016. The purpose of the values and interest workshop was to gather and understand local interests and concerns, obtain feedback for use in the route selection and environmental assessment processes. The workshop provided an opportunity for Manitoba Hydro to receive early input into the routing process and help refine alternative routes.

A verification meeting was held in Canupawakpa Dakota Nation on December 15, 2016. Manitoba Hydro presented the values and interest topic areas to four Elders, a Councillor and a staff member. The topics areas were posted on large poster papers in a meeting room for participants to review. Manitoba Hydro asked the participants whether the values and interests were represented correctly. The community provided confirmation of and additional input into their report before it was finalized. A table summarizing engagement activities between Manitoba Hydro and Canupawakpa Dakota First Nation is provided in Appendix C.

4.3.4.2 Values important to Canupawakpa Dakota First Nation

Outlined below is Manitoba Hydro's understanding of Canupawakpa Dakota First Nation's feedback shared through Project meetings, the values and interests workshop, and other engagement activities.

During the values and interests workshop, Manitoba Hydro staff asked questions to help better understand important values in four areas: environment, culture, economy, and community. The exercise included a 'wheel' and "post-its" for people to share their thoughts. This information is intended to help inform the selection of "Valued Components" for the assessment process. Based on the exercise, Manitoba Hydro identified the main categories of responses as values that are important to Canupawakpa Dakota Nation and the corresponding valued component in the Environmental Assessment. Some values that were identified by Canupawakpa Dakota First Nation as important (i.e., community cohesiveness, family, governance, identity and traditions / customs) are more broadly discussed in traditional land and resource use. More information on the outcome of the Canupawakpa Dakota Nation values and interests workshop is provided in Appendix C.

4.3.4.3 Canupawakpa Dakota First Nation route feedback

During the values and interests survey, Manitoba Hydro used a routing opportunities and constraints activity to help better understand concerns and preferences from the community for routing a transmission line. Manitoba Hydro staff provided each participant with three Post-it stickers to place on their three most important concerns and preferences from the list provided. This activity was conducted as one large group with all participants. Based on the exercise the top three routing priorities to help inform the early routing process were as follows:

- 1. Avoid Crown Lands and separation from heritage/cultural sites, which were tied for first place;
- 2. Avoid forested/natural areas and follow existing highways or roadways, which

were tied for second place; and

3. Separation from residences and urban areas.

The values and interests workshop included questions to help identify and map important community areas, land use areas, and cultural areas in the region and in the Project region on maps that included the route planning area and the community. The majority of information provided related to the Assiniboine River and its importance as a historic travel route along with its high potential for burials and sacred sites such as 'Indian mounds', rock patterns, and ceremonial sites (Map 4-3). Participants also stressed that extra caution be used when crossing the Assiniboine River given the high potential for burials and sacred sites.

4.3.4.4 How Canupawakpa Dakota First Nation's feedback and concerns influenced the Project

During the heritage field studies, the team looked for any unusual land features that may indicate burials including mounds. During the values and interest workshop, the community identified the Assiniboine River crossing as a special area. This was also confirmed during the verification meeting with the community. The Assiniboine River crossing will be identified as an Environmentally Sensitive Site for heritage.

4.3.5 Gambler First Nation

4.3.5.1 Gambler First Nation engagement process

Manitoba Hydro has had the following engagement activities with Gambler First Nation:

- Kept the community informed as the Project progressed;
- Attended, attending meetings;
- Held a values and interests workshop;
- Funded a self-directed study; and
- Had a community member participate in the heritage field work.

Manitoba Hydro identified Gambler First Nation as a community that may have interest in the Project because they have traditional and contemporary use of the area and an interest in the Project. Manitoba Hydro staff and Gambler First Nation representatives initially met on June 2, 2016 to discuss the proposed Birtle Transmission Project. During the initial meeting, Gambler First Nation representatives indicated an interest in conducting a self-directed study. Manitoba Hydro sent back the meeting notes to the community for review and included a copy of the self-directed study proposal template.

Manitoba Hydro facilitated a values and interest workshop on February 1, 2017. Its purpose was to gather and understand local interests and concerns, obtain feedback for use in the route selection and environmental assessment processes. The workshop provided an opportunity for Manitoba Hydro to receive early input into the routing process and help refine alternative routes.

4.3.5.2 Values important to Gambler First Nation

During the values and interests workshop, Manitoba Hydro staff asked questions to help better understand important values in four areas (Environment, Culture, Economy, and Community). The exercise included a 'wheel' and Post-it notes for people to share their thoughts. This information was intended to help inform the selection of "Valued Components" for the assessment process. Based on the exercise, Manitoba Hydro identified the main categories of responses as values that are important to Gambler First Nation. Some values that were identified by Gambler First Nation as important (i.e., aesthetics, community cohesion, cultural values, economic development/business development, family, farmland, local business, identity, governance, traditions/customs, water, wildlife) are more broadly discussed in traditional land and resource use. More information on the outcome of the Gambler First Nation values and interests workshop is provided in Appendix C.

4.3.5.3 Gambler First Nation route feedback

During the values and interests workshop, Manitoba Hydro staff provided each participant with post-it notes and asked the participants to identify concerns that should be avoided during routing. The participants then grouped and prioritized their concerns:

- Sacred sites
- Ste. Madeleine
- Hurting our wildlife or destroying their homes
 - Elk hunting areas
- Hunting areas
- Rivers and streams
- Polluting the water around Gambler First Nation

- Crown land (mentioned twice)
- Destroying trees
- Berry picking areas
- Houses
- Polluting the area of Gambler
- Taking our traditional medicines

The values and interests workshop included questions designed to help identify and map important community areas, land use areas, and cultural areas in the region and in

the Project region on maps that included the route planning area and the community (Map 4-4).

Participants primarily use areas surrounding the community. There was a preference identified for routing south of the community. The Ste. Madeleine site is sacred to the community and community members felt that it should be avoided. There was also an interest in conducting a field visit. The two routes shown on the maps south of the community, were seen as more favourable then the route north of the community.

4.3.5.4 How Gambler First Nation's feedback and concerns influenced the Project

Manitoba Hydro recognized the importance of the Ste. Madeleine site as it was identified early in the routing process as an area of least preference and was avoided. Transmission line routing resulted in a final preferred route that avoided Ste. Madeleine and a 5 km buffer surrounding the site. Gambler First Nation provided a draft self-directed study prior to submission of the environmental assessment report.

4.3.6 Manitoba Metis Federation

4.3.6.1 Manitoba Metis Federation engagement process

Manitoba Hydro has had the following engagement activities with the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF):

- Informed MMF representatives as the Project progressed;
- Attended meetings; and
- Funded a self-directed study.

Manitoba Hydro identified the MMF as having an interest in the Project due to their traditional and contemporary use of the area and interest in the Project. Manitoba Hydro staff initially sent a letter on September 19, 2016 introducing the Project and requesting a meeting to develop a common understanding of the purpose, objectives, scope and outcomes of an engagement process. After an agreement was reached, the MMF developed a Metis Land Use and Occupancy Study (MLOUS) for the Project. As part of the study, the MMF study team conducted one focus group session with approximately 30 MMF citizens which resulted in 16 questionnaire respondents and seven surveys with interview participants in the summer of 2017. The report also benefitted from including available land use and occupancy information from other projects.

4.3.6.2 Values important to the MMF

Authors of the MMF MLUOS asked for their report information to be fully integrated into the assessment and that the information in the report should inform valued component (VC) selection and then should be used as baseline information in the assessment of those VCs. The MMF LUOS identified three key components of study: Metis use of and connection to the Ste. Madeleine site, Available Land and Harvesting in the vicinity of the Project. It was noted that the connection to the Ste. Madeleine site 'extends far beyond the boundary of the existing cemetery and reaches into the traditional harvesting territory throughout the Spy-Hill Ellice Community Pasture' (pg. 4).

4.3.6.3 MMF route feedback

Outlined below is Manitoba Hydro's understanding of the MMF's feedback shared through Project meetings and other engagement activities. The MMF's Metis Land Use and Occupancy Study Report (in Appendix C) includes a full discussion on issues, concerns and results of the self-directed study.

Manitoba Hydro understands that all available crown land, including the community pastures, is very important to the MMF. The MMF's report highlights concerns that Metis citizens feel the line is taking away part of the pasture. The report shared feedback from a citizen indicating that the line should go through St. Lazare instead of the pasture. A citizen indicated in the report that this would "*make everybody happy in the long run because this is a sacred place; you can't get away from it*".

The MMF study highlighted that Ste. Madeleine is a touchstone to the Metis in the Region and shared the importance of the site to the Metis community. The report indicates that the area is important because there are family connections, it is part of Metis history and culture and people continue to harvest in the area. The MMF's report describes how Metis people were displaced from the Red River Settlement and again displaced from St. Madeleine after the implementation of the *Prairie Farm Rehabilitation* Act. The report shares that the connection to Ste. Madeleine is broader than the existing cemetery and extends throughout the Spy Hill-Ellice Community Pasture, as it is traditional harvesting territory for the Metis. There are questions shared in the report about what happens if the land is returned to the Metis. Citizens also shared concerns in the report that they feel the government is proceeding with this Project instead of working with the MMF to resolve their concerns. The report also indicated that changes in perception have the potential for negative effects on MMF harvesters exercising their rights. Citizens shared concerns in the MMF report about how they feel the Project will negatively affect the environment: "{i}t will wreck the environment; it will kill animals; it will chase animals off; it will kill bush that have medicines or berries on them" (pg. 97).

4.3.6.4 How the MMF feedback and concerns influenced the Project

Transmission line routing resulted in a final preferred route that avoided Ste. Madeleine and did not come within a 5 km buffer surrounding the site. The final preferred route does not traverse the point location of the 'historically significant Metis site' or the 'cultural site' identified in Figure 9 of the MMF MLOUS.

4.3.7 Waywayseecappo First Nation

4.3.7.1 Waywayseecappo First Nation engagement process

Manitoba Hydro has had the following engagement activities with Waywayseecappo First Nation:

- Kept the community informed as the Project progressed
- Attended meetings;
- Held a values and interests workshop; and
- Funded a self-directed self-directed study.

Manitoba Hydro initially identified Waywayseecappo First Nation as a community that may have interest in the Project because they have traditional and contemporary use of the area and an interest in the Project. Manitoba Hydro staff and Waywayseecappo First Nation representatives initially met on May 25, 2016 to discuss the proposed Birtle Transmission Project. During the initial meeting, Waywayseecappo First Nation representatives indicated that the community was interested in participating in the engagement process for the Project and recommended that Manitoba Hydro continue to keep Chief and Council informed of the status.

Manitoba Hydro hosted a values and interest workshop on January 11, 2017. The purpose of the values and interest workshop was to gather and understand local interests and concerns, obtain feedback for use in the route selection and environmental assessment processes. The workshop provided an opportunity for Manitoba Hydro to receive early input into the routing process and help refine alternative routes.

Waywayseecappo First Nation submitted a self-directed study in December of 2017. This study built upon the values and interests workshop held in January of 2017. The study shared stories of community Elders, acknowledged that changes have taken place on the landscape and documented community values. The report identified the importance of Fort Ellice as it was an important Hudson's Bay Company fur trading

post, the location of the signing of Treaty 4 adhesion, the number of unmarked burial sites, and that Fort Ellice served as a place for sports, pony rides and ferris wheels.

The report provided insights into the community's views of landscape change over time when they stated:

"Elders...spoke of the transition from horses, buggies and trails to highways and automobiles. They described large areas of wildlife habitat that were cleared for agricultural development. Elders explained how drainage has been managed for agricultural production at the expense of natural processes, and noted the effects of agricultural inputs (e.g. pesticides and fertilizers) on the natural environment."

The report includes how land use changes, the development of Riding Mountain National Park, agriculture, chemicals in the environment, drainage, the Shellmouth Dam, the arrival of electricity and highways, declining fur prices, ceremonies banned, name changes, and how residential schools all contributed to landscape and cultural change over time.

The report also included specific comments on Waywayseecappo's views of transmission lines "*Electrical transmission lines have brought new services to local homes, but also cleared rights of way through wildlife habitat and introduced more chemicals to manage vegetation.*" They go on later in the report to say "*With the Birtle Transmission line now proposed through Waywayseecappo's lands, First Nation members are concerned about the additional incremental changes that this project will bring.*

Waywayseeappo members have raised a number of general concerns about the proposed transmission project, and are clear that they want to see the project built using the best environmental and cultural standards. Members identified a number of specific cultural and natural sites in the vicinity of the proposed corridor... along with recommendations for how the project can proceed in a way that respects and protects Waywayseecappo's interests in the project area."

4.3.7.2 Values important to Waywayseecappo First Nation

During the values and interests workshop, Manitoba Hydro staff asked questions to help better understand important values in four areas (Environment, Culture, Economy, and Community). The exercise included a 'wheel' and post-it notes for people to share their thoughts. This information is intended to help inform the selection of "Valued Components" for the assessment process. Based on the exercise, Manitoba Hydro identified the main categories of responses as values that are important to Waywayseecappo First Nation and the corresponding valued component in the Environmental Assessment. When assessing effects on a valued component, it is important that the assessor has data that they can use to quantify the effect. Some values that were identified by Waywayseecappo First Nation as important (i.e. community cohesion, education, family, governance, identity, language, stewardship and traditions / customs) are more broadly discussed in traditional land and resource use. More information on the outcome of the Waywayseecappo First Nation values and interests workshop is provided in Appendix C.

Waywayseecappo First Nation provided a draft self-directed study prior to submission of the environmental assessment report. The draft study included 10 recommendations, including:

- Review detailed route planning with WFN to ensure that important sites are avoided – including attention to sight lines from any sacred sites identified by the community.
- Include WFN involvement in a pre-project archaeological survey of the proposed transmission route. A community expert should travel the transmission corridor with project archaeologists in a pre-clearing survey to identify any potential burials or others sites of cultural concern prior to construction.
- 3. Minimize cumulative effects by designing the route alignment to minimize clearing of previously un-altered land (forest/wetland habitats).
- 4. Riparian/riverside habitats are areas of high ecological, cultural and historical values. Designs for river crossings should be reviewed with WFN. Design should minimize the number of poles installed within the floodplains of the Assiniboine River the Birdtail Creek, as well as in wetland habitats.
- 5. Minimize machine clearing through riparian and wetland areas. Clearing should be done by hand in these areas.
- 6. Establish a designated buffer area around the Assiniboine River, the Birdtail Creek, and other important waterways, wetlands, and sacred sites identified in this report, with specific restrictions on the use of chemical vegetation control (herbicides).
- 7. Avoid routing the transmission line through unencumbered crown lands, as these are the most likely areas of future reserve land selection.
- 8. Include WFN expert in pre-clearing survey to observe and identify culturally important plant species along the proposed corridor before construction begins.
- 9. Undertake an Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Management Plan, which would recommend EMF exposure control measures based on an analysis of sites that are within or are adjacent to the proposed transmission line corridor. Following

project completion, undertake ongoing EMF surveys and traditional knowledge studies to monitor the EMF levels in the area, as well as noted effects.

10. In the spirit of honouring Treaty relationships, reconciliation, and socially responsible development, Manitoba Hydro must find ways to share project benefits with Waywayseecappo First Nation. Options include clearing and construction contracts for the First Nation, a compensation package for the community, or future employment and business opportunities with the utility. Discussions should be arranged with WFN Chief and Council to discuss the equitable distribution of benefits from the Birtle Transmission Project.

Recommendations have been included in this assessment where possible.

4.3.7.3 Waywayseecappo First Nation route feedback

During the values and interests workshop, Manitoba Hydro staff asked the participants to identify concerns that should be avoided during routing. The participants then grouped and prioritized their concerns. Based on responses received, Manitoba Hydro identified the following as the greatest importance to the community to consider during the transmission line routing process.

- 1. Avoid burials and animal habitat;
- 2. Do not cut down bush; and
- 3. Concern for safety for power lines.

The values and interests workshop included questions to help identify important community areas, land use areas, and cultural areas in the region and in the Project study area on maps that included the route planning area and the community (Map 4-5). There was a preference identified for routing north of the community and a recommendation to avoid crown lands, especially the pastures. The participants indicated that the St. Lazare area should be avoided based on the importance of the area due to the signing of Treaty 4 and the intactness of the area. The concerns regarding the St. Lazare area were an important input to the routing process.

4.3.7.4 How Waywayseecappo First Nation's feedback and concerns influenced the Project

The concerns regarding the St. Lazare area were shared during the routing process. Transmission line routing resulted in a final preferred route that avoided Fort Ellice and surrounding area and the location of the Birtle residential school and surrounding area. Recommendations and mitigation measures proposed by in their self-directed study informed the assessment. The recommendations provided in the self-directed study were considered and included in relevant sections.

4.3.8 Anishinaabe Agowidiiwinan (Treaty 2) engagement process

Manitoba Hydro identified Anishinaabe Agowidiiwinan (Treaty 2) as an Indigenous organization that may have interest in the Project because they have traditional and contemporary use of the area. Manitoba Hydro staff sent a letter on September 19, 2016 introducing the Project and requesting a meeting to develop a common understanding of the purpose, objectives, scope and outcomes of an engagement process. Manitoba Hydro did not hear back from Treaty 2 after the initial letter. Additional information can be found in Appendix C (Table C1-1: Summary of engagement activities with Anishinaabe Agowidiiwinan - Treaty 2)

4.3.9 Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

Manitoba Hydro initially identified Sioux Valley Dakota Nation as a community that may have interest in the Project because they have traditional and contemporary use of the area. Manitoba Hydro staff initially scheduled Project introduction meetings on May 31, 2016 and June 2, 2016. Unfortunately, in each instance, the scheduled meeting was cancelled. Manitoba Hydro also booked meetings on August 9, 2016 and September 14, 2016, which were also cancelled by Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. Additional information and further correspondence can be found in Appendix C (Table C1-6: Summary of Engagement Activities with Sioux Valley Dakota Nation).

4.4 Key outcomes

The IEP began in the fall of 2016. Throughout the process, Manitoba Hydro created opportunities to share Project information and sought to listen to feedback and understand concerns. Manitoba Hydro shared information with seven Indigenous communities and organizations. In addition, Manitoba Hydro funded self-directed studies by Gambler First Nation, the MMF and Waywayseecappo First Nation. An agreement with Canupawakpa Dakota Nation was in the process of being negotiated at the time of report preparation.

Manitoba Hydro created opportunities for Indigenous communities and organizations to:

• Shape the engagement process to best suit their needs by starting engagement earlier on in the process by having a pre-engagement round;

- Tailor the engagement approach based on how and when they would like to be engaged;
- Participate in values and interests workshops to share information about specific site concerns and preferences;
- Enter the engagement process or re-enter if they decided to leave the process at some point;
- Conduct self-directed studies earlier in the Project;
- Participate in numerous meetings throughout the process; and
- Participate in heritage fieldwork.

These efforts helped Manitoba Hydro gain a better understanding of needs, concerns and priorities about environmental processes. Manitoba Hydro's IEP for environmental assessment process was an important factor in determining a final preferred route that lessens potential effects on people and the environment.

The aim of the IEP was to better understand perspectives and determine mutual approaches to address concerns and build relationships, which has been demonstrated by ongoing communication and continual follow-up with Indigenous communities and organizations. The methods used throughout the IEP developed these relationships, and feedback received influenced the decisions made by Manitoba Hydro.

The IEP was inclusive, adaptive, comprehensive and responsive. This includes ongoing engagement because Manitoba Hydro is committed to sharing information with Indigenous communities and organizations throughout the regulatory, construction and operation and maintenance phase of the Project. Manitoba Hydro offered Indigenous communities and organizations the opportunity to conduct self-directed studies early in the transmission environmental assessment processes. Indigenous communities and organizations that chose to participate or conduct self-directed studies in later stages of the engagement process for the Project were informed that their information would be used to inform the EPP.

Three key outcomes from the Indigenous engagement process were the self-directed studies conducted for the project, the values and interests workshops and the community member involved in the heritage fieldwork. Manitoba Hydro funded self-directed studies by Gambler First Nation, the MMF and Waywayseecappo First Nation. As a result, Indigenous communities and organizations were provided opportunities to

be actively involved in the Project during pre-planning and will continue to be involved during the construction and operation phases

Manitoba Hydro held values and interests workshops to gather and understand local interests and concerns, and obtain feedback for use in the environmental assessment processes. These workshops provided an opportunity for Manitoba Hydro to receive early input into the routing process and help refine alternative routes

Multiple communities and the MMF were invited to participate in heritage field work. A community member from Gambler First Nation participated in this work for the Project.

Manitoba Hydro plans to continue engagement activities throughout the regulatory process, as well as the construction and operation and maintenance phases of the Project.

4.5 Ongoing engagement

Manitoba Hydro is committed to sharing information with Indigenous communities and organizations throughout the regulatory, construction and operation and maintenance phases of the Project.

4.5.1 Regulatory approvals phase

Input received during the regulatory process includes receiving final self-directed studies from Gambler First Nation, and possibly Canupawakpa Dakota Nation. Manitoba Hydro anticipates meetings with these communities to review and discuss the findings and how the information shared will inform the Environmental Protection Program for the Project (chapter 10). Activities planned during this process include holding meetings with Indigenous communities and organizations to provide Project updates.

4.5.1.1 Construction phase

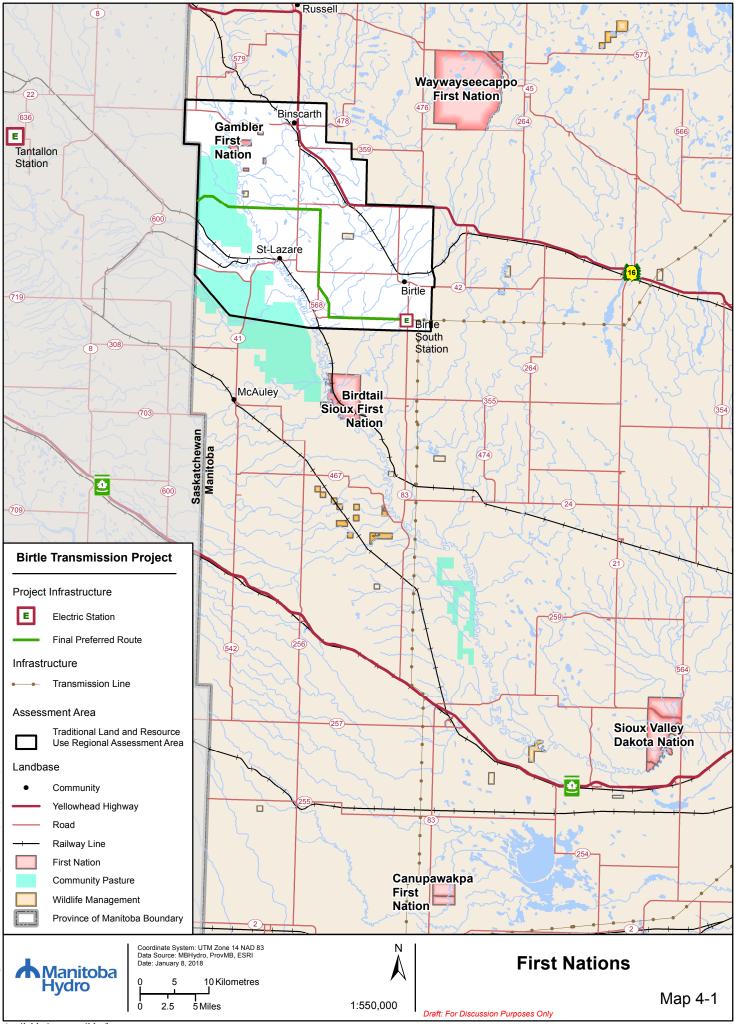
In the development of construction phase Environmental Protection Plans, Manitoba Hydro plans to meet with Indigenous communities and organizations to discuss concerns about cultural and environmentally sensitive sites identified in the self-directed study reports. The meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss how concerns will be addressed and mitigated to the extent possible. The Cultural and Heritage Resources Protection Plan (Appendix H) outlines measures and protocols in the event the discovery of heritage sites during construction, as well as ongoing monitoring of known heritage sites. Results from the heritage resources monitoring program will be reported to the regulatory authorities and interested Indigenous communities and organizations annually and as required.

4.5.1.2 Operation and maintenance phase

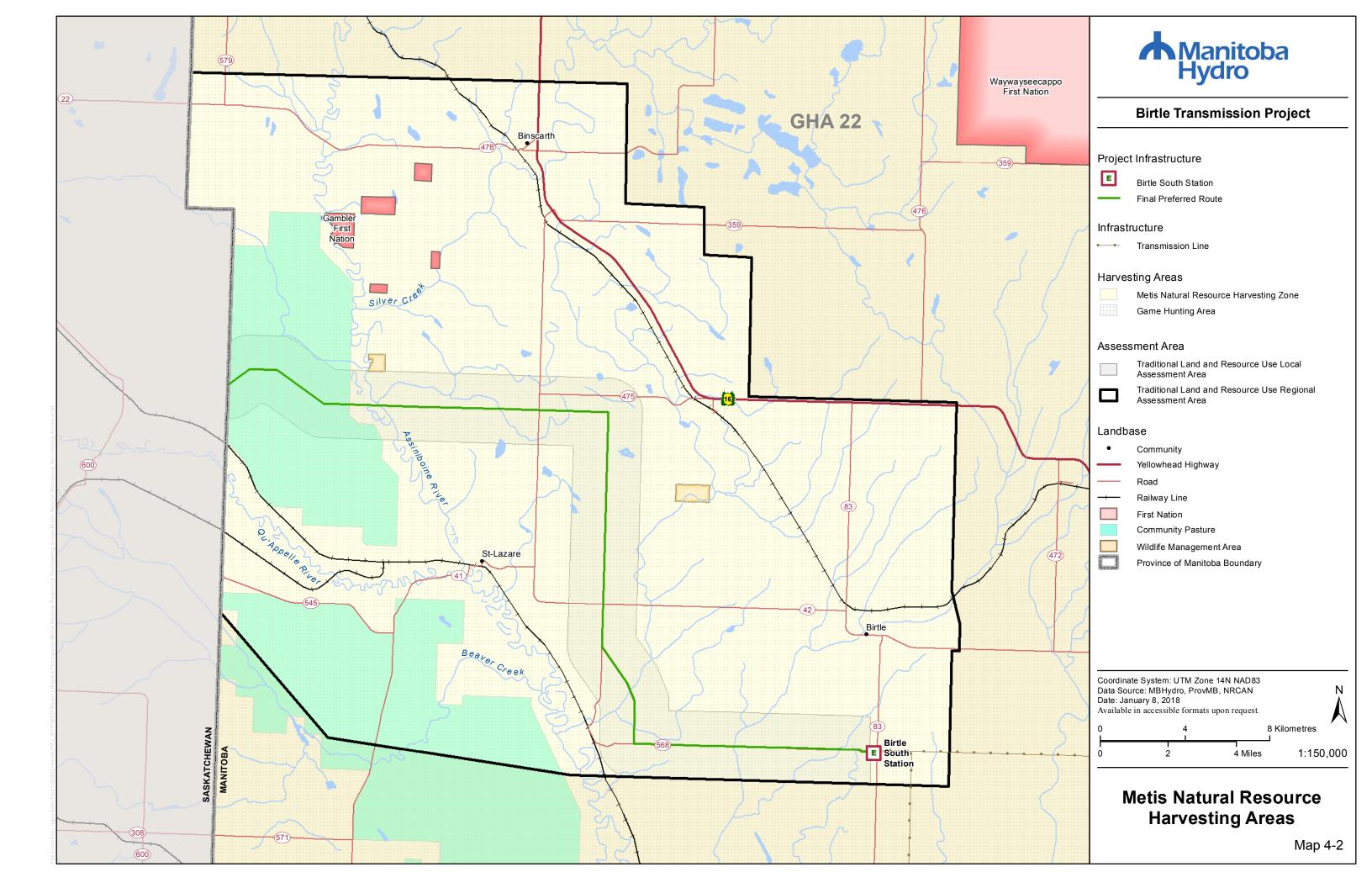
During the Project operation and maintenance phase, Manitoba Hydro will continue to engage Indigenous communities and organizations in discussions about ongoing maintenance, including vegetation management. Manitoba Hydro will meet with communities and organizations upon request during this phase of the Project.

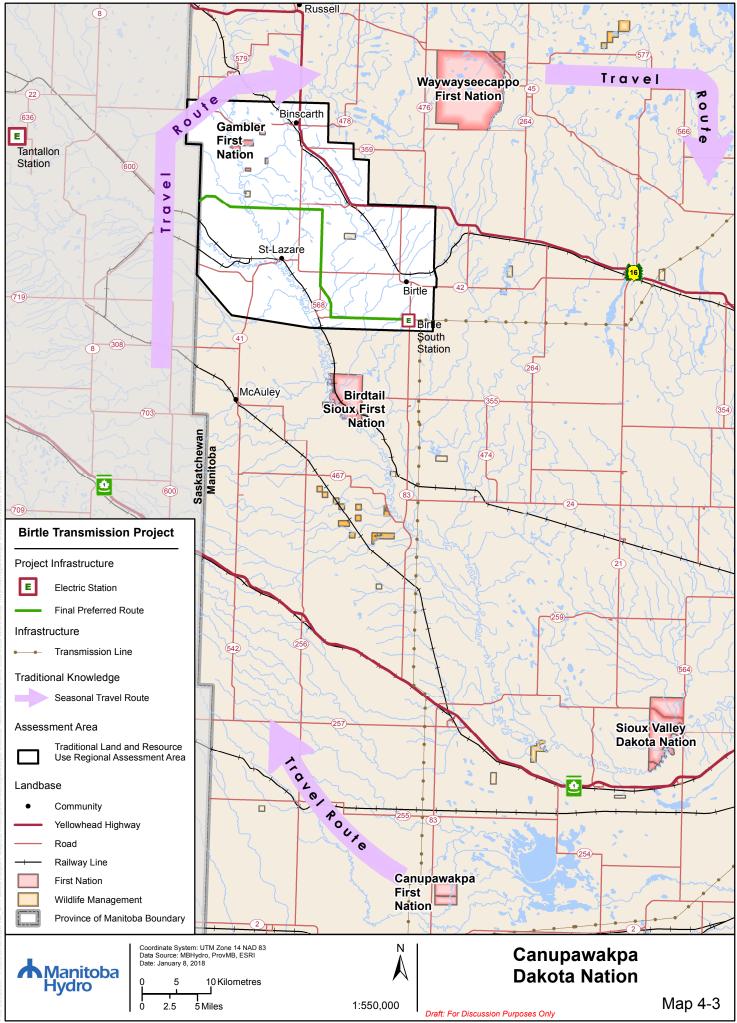
4.5.2 Notification methods

Keeping information available and having mechanisms to address concerns or questions is important to the ongoing engagement process for the Project. The methods of engagement described above will continue through future Project phases, and will include sharing updates on the Project through the web page, emails, letters, phone calls and in-person discussions.

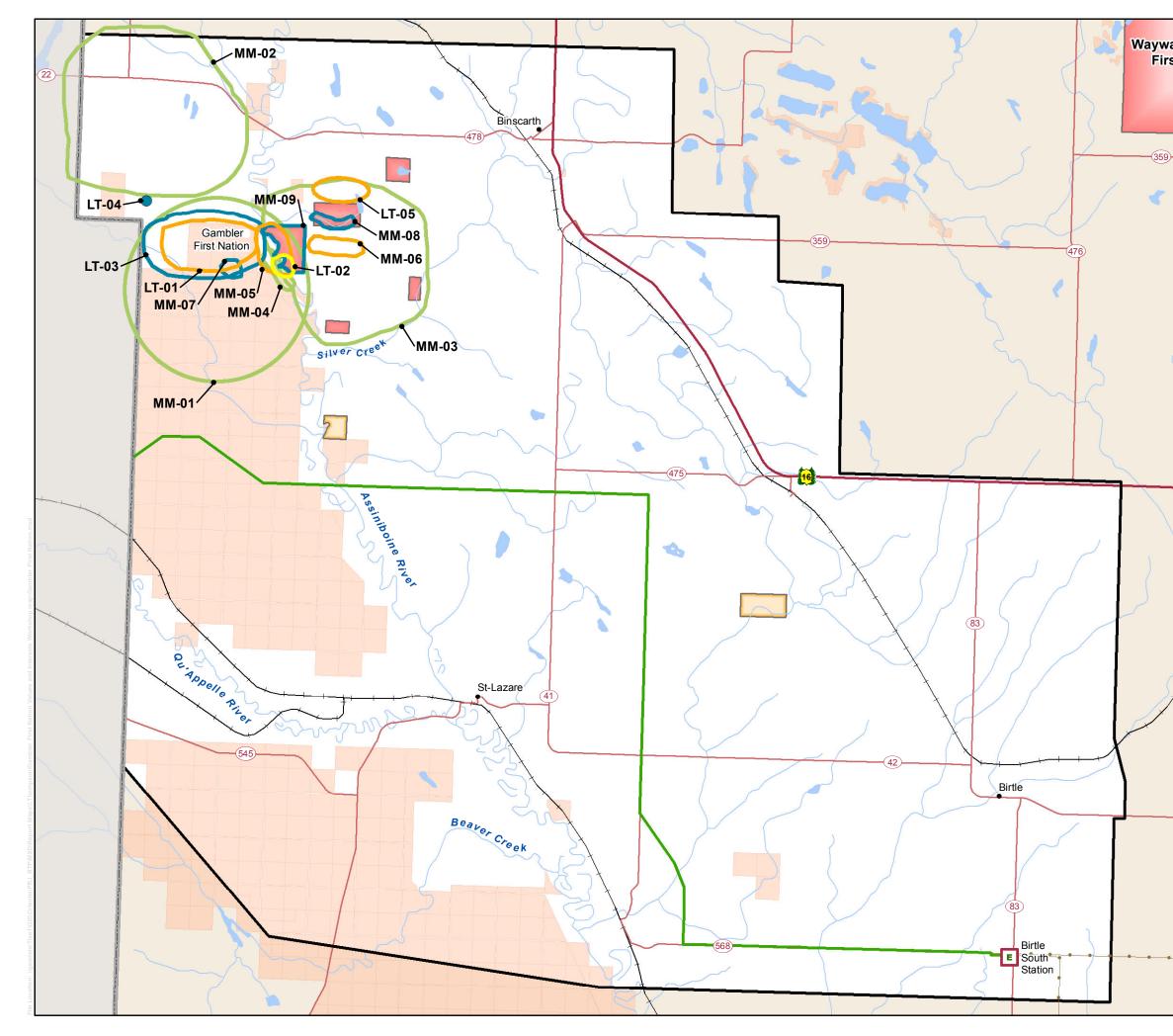


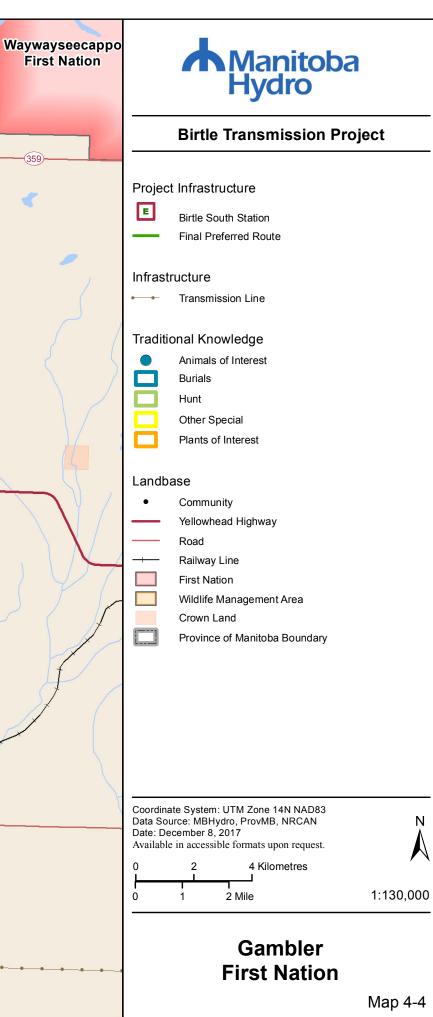
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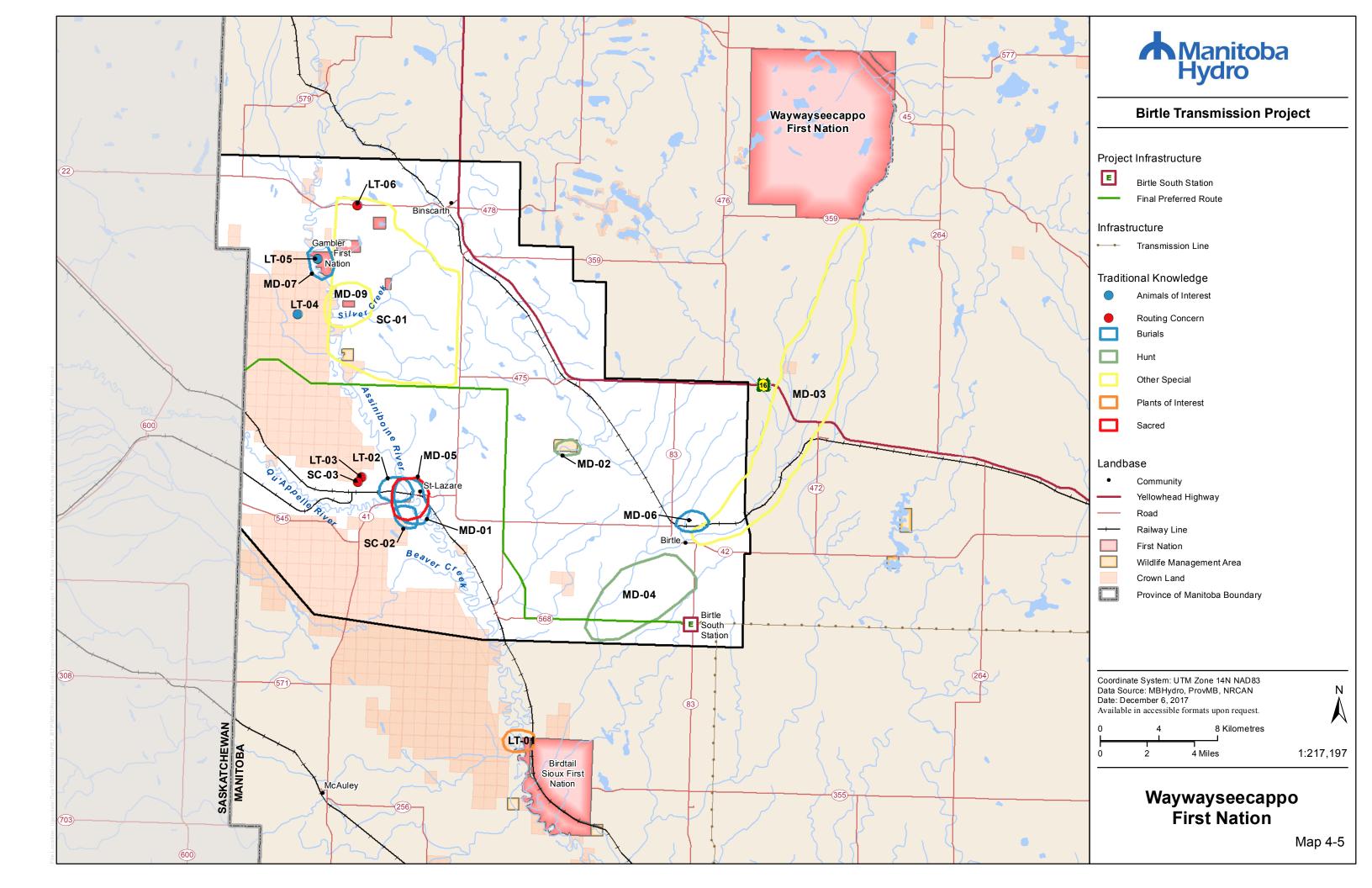




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