Welcome

Birtle Transmission Project public open house

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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.

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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.

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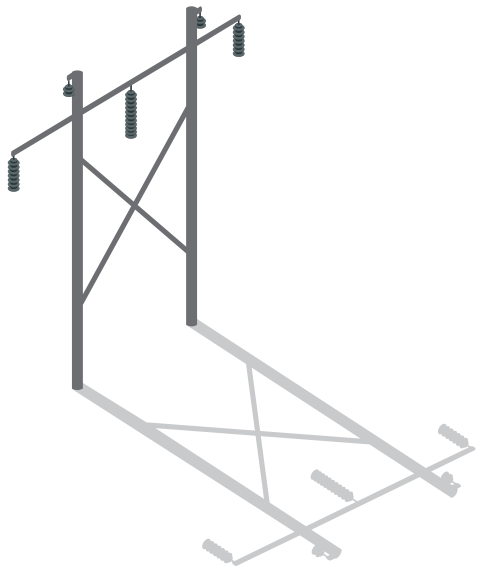
Project Description

- 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.



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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.

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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.

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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

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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)

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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.

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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.

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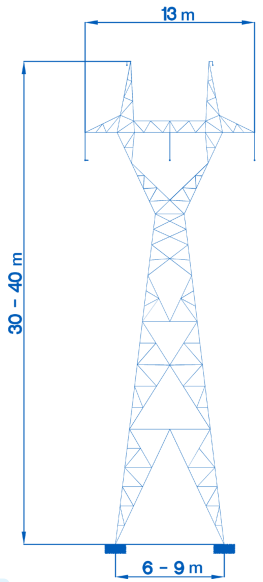
Tower structures

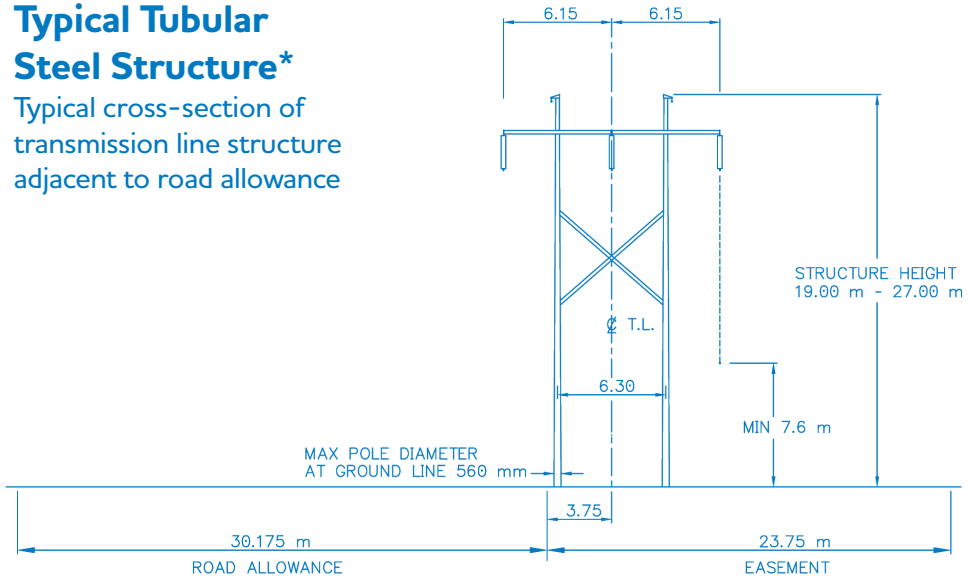
These tower designs will be used depending on terrain and location of the final preferred route.

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.

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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?

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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.

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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

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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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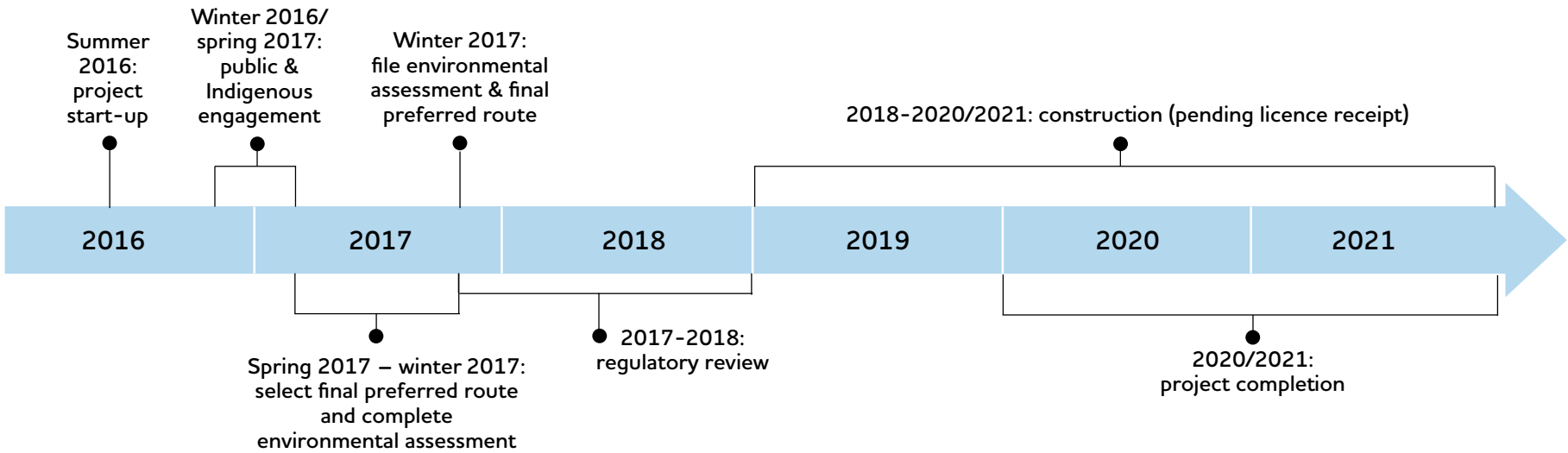
Anticipated timelines and next steps

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



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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.

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