

Valued Components

Amphibians and Reptiles

and the Manitoba–Minnesota Transmission Project

Why do we assess amphibians and reptiles?

Amphibians and reptiles are valued by naturalists, First Nations, Metis and the public for their role in ecosystem health. Some are also species of conservation concern.

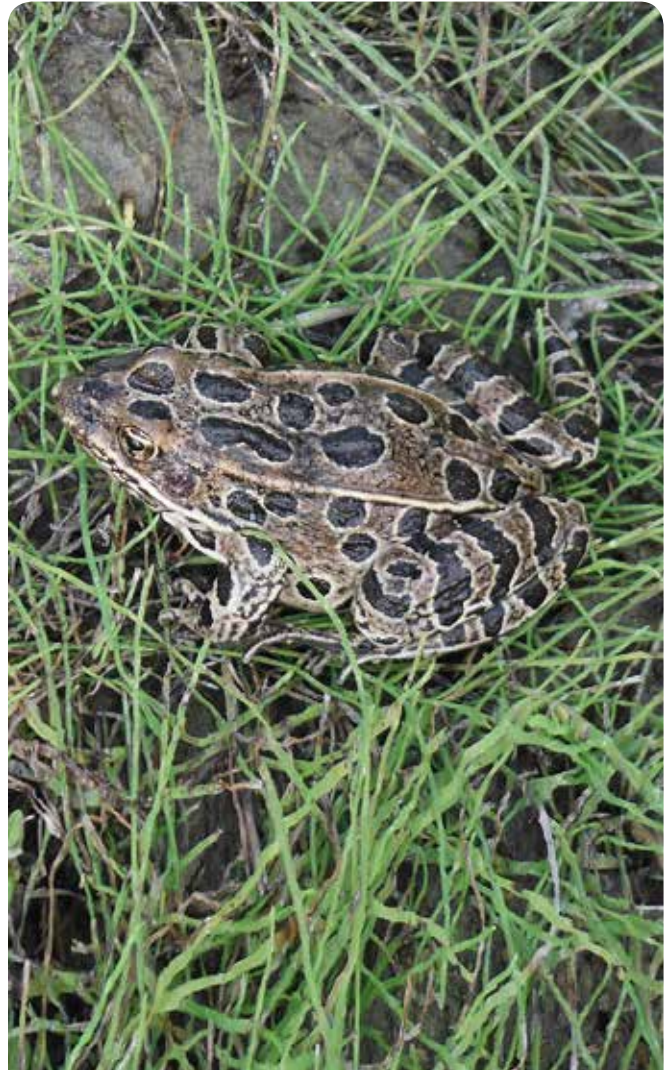
How will we determine potential effects on amphibians and reptiles?

We will gather information on a number of focal species that have been chosen to represent amphibian and reptile species in the study area, including:

- Northern leopard frog - uses a large variety of habitat types relative to other amphibian species and is sensitive to habitat loss;
- Western painted turtle - uses similar habitat to other turtles in the Project area. It is also known to be sensitive to habitat changes;
- Red-sided garter snake (abundant in Project area) - found in similar habitat types to other snakes in the Project area and are easy to detect.

What assessment activities are underway?

Characterization of baseline habitat conditions (including water quality) for amphibians and reptiles is underway as well as the identification of sensitive sites, such as habitats or wetlands, where amphibians and reptiles congregate.



Northern leopard frog

What are some of the potential effects on amphibians and reptiles?

Potential project-related effects on amphibians and reptiles will be assessed in the environmental impact statement and may include:

- Change in habitat availability due to the loss or alteration of breeding grounds, foraging areas with suitable cover, dispersal areas and/or overwintering habitat;
- Change in mortality risk due to increased traffic during construction and alterations to overwintering habitat when amphibians and reptiles hibernate;
- Change in movement patterns due to noise and activity during the construction phase.

What measures are we considering to reduce the potential effects on amphibians and reptiles?

Manitoba Hydro will propose mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on amphibians and reptiles. These may include:

- Timing of construction activities to avoid sensitive breeding periods;
- Retention of vegetated buffers around wetlands and riparian areas;
- Setbacks of tower foundations in riparian areas and avoidance of towers within sensitive breeding habitat.



Valued components (VCs) are components of the natural and human environment that are considered by the proponent, public, First Nations groups, Metis, scientists and other technical specialists and government agencies involved in the assessment process to have scientific, ecological, economic, social, cultural, archaeological, historical, or other importance.

For more information or if you would like to share your concerns, contact us at mmtp@hydro.mb.ca or toll free at 1-877-343-1631.