

Valued Components

Fish and Fish Habitat

and the Manitoba–Minnesota Transmission Project

Why do we assess fish and fish habitat?

Fish and fish habitat are valued by recreational and commercial users, First Nations, Metis and the general public for social, recreational, commercial, domestic and spiritual reasons. Fish and fish habitat, including surface water quality, are also protected under legislation such as the Fisheries Act and Manitoba's Water Protection Act.

How will we determine potential effects on fish and fish habitat?

We will examine potential effects by undertaking field and desktop studies regarding surface water quality, bank stability and erosion and sedimentation. Focus will be on the riparian areas (banks) crossed directly by the right-of-way as well as areas where there is a high potential presence for species of conservation concern.

What assessment activities are underway?

Desktop analysis is currently being conducted to understand the waterways in the area, such as the Seine, Red and Assiniboine rivers. Certain species of conservation concern, including silver chub and chestnut lamprey, are being identified.



Manitoba Hydro is committed to protecting the environment.

What are some of the potential effects on fish and fish habitat?

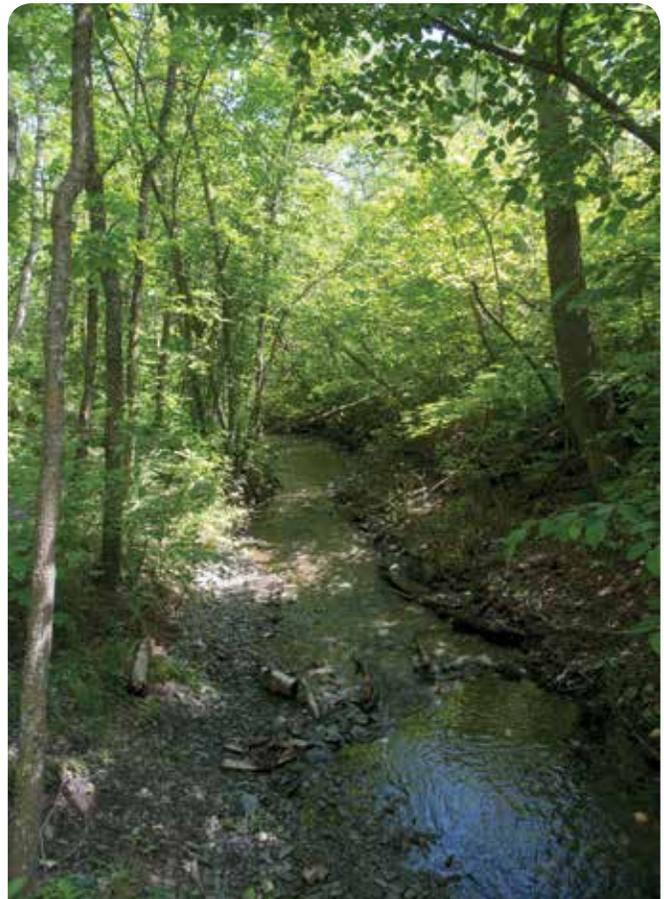
Potential effects on fish and fish habitat that will be reviewed as part of the environmental impact statement related to the construction and operation of the Project could include but are not limited to:

- Change in fish habitat (permanent alteration or destruction), which includes surface water quality;
- Serious harm to fish (physical injury or mortality). This includes species of conservation concern and species that support a commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fishery.

What measures are we considering to reduce the potential effects on fish and fish habitat?

- Spill kits on all equipment and setbacks from waterbodies for fueling;
- Retention of vegetated buffers around wetlands and riparian areas;

Herbicide applications will adhere to appropriate environmental management practices including setbacks from water bodies. Applications will be conducted by a licensed applicator.



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.