

Valued Components

Vegetation and Wetlands

and the Manitoba–Minnesota Transmission Project

Why do we assess vegetation and wetlands?

Vegetation and wetlands provide habitat, ecological function and are used by First Nations, Metis and the public. Some plant species are protected under legislation such as The Manitoba Endangered Species and Ecosystems Act as well as The Species at Risk Act (federal). Wetlands are considered a priority under The Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation.

How will we determine potential effects on vegetation and wetlands?

We will undertake field surveys and review existing data sources to understand the potential effects of the Project on vegetation and wetlands. Feedback received throughout the public engagement process, as well as Traditional Knowledge studies, will assist in the assessment work. Abundance and locations of rare plants, such as orchids and tall grass prairie, will be part of the assessment.

What assessment activities are underway?

Field studies are being done on Crown and private lands. Field crews are reviewing the abundance and diversity of plant species as well as potential locations of rare or endangered species. Desktop review is also taking place using provincial and federal databases, including the forest resource inventory and land cover classification databases.



Rare plants, such as orchids, will be assessed.

What are some of the potential effects on vegetation and wetlands?

Potential effects on vegetation and wetlands that will be reviewed as part of the environmental impact statement related to the construction and operation of the transmission line could include, but are not limited to:

- change in species of conservation concern populations – federally and provincially regulated and have special status;
- change in native vegetation community structure – areas of native vegetation have high potential for species of conservation concern;
- change in weed populations – weed species are subject to the Noxious Weeds Act.
- change in wetland function – wetlands are subject to current and emerging federal and provincial policies and permits.

What measures are we considering to minimize the potential effects on vegetation and wetlands?

- a minimum low growth vegetation buffer width of 30 metres will be maintained from edges of wetlands and water bodies such as lakes, ponds and streams;
- Our agricultural biosecurity policy will be implemented to reduce the spread of invasive species or noxious weeds;
- existing access roads and trails will be used to the extent possible;
- herbicides will not be used in locations where species of conservation concern have been identified.



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.