

## 1 How does Manitoba Hydro make routing decisions?

Each stage of route selection includes route planning, feedback and analysis, and comparative evaluation. Our evaluation of route alternatives uses three broad perspectives- the built (human) environment, the natural environment, and the technical (engineering) environment. Balancing these perspectives throughout each routing decisions minimizes the overall impact of the project on people and the environment. Manitoba Hydro's route decision making process is based on a methodology called the EPRI-GTC methodology and a separate handout is available for a more detailed description.

## 2 Why are some new segments being considered while others have been eliminated?

A key objective of Round 1 was to gather information about land use and landscape characteristics to enable the selection of a border crossing and to refine alternative routes to be presented in Round 2.

Once a border crossing was selected, the information gained during Round 1 from a variety of stakeholders, open houses and the environmental assessment process was used to help route planners to refine or eliminate existing routes and develop potential new route alternatives to the border crossing near Piney, MB. In some cases, the route segments that were considered in Round 1 were determined to effectively balance the three perspectives in routing (natural, built, engineering), and were retained. In some cases they did not and were eliminated. New segments and refinements to existing segments were added to provide alternatives that achieve the routing objective of connecting the start and end point of the project.

## 3 Are there health effects related to electric and magnetic fields?

Manitoba Hydro acknowledges the concern of health effects related to transmission line development. As part of the Environmental Impact Statement, electric and magnetic fields (EMF) are reviewed and analyzed. Manitoba Hydro will design the transmission line to meet international standards and guidelines set forth by the ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection). These guidelines have been adopted by Health Canada and the World Health Organization. Manitoba Hydro provides information through meetings and through the website to assist in individuals' research on the topic:

- Manitoba Hydro Website <https://www.hydro.mb.ca/safety/emf/index.shtm>
- Manitoba Hydro's Alternating Current Brochure
- Manitoba Hydro's Alternating Current and Electronics Brochure
- Health Canada Handout "It's Your Health"
- Manitoba Clean Environment Commission "Consensus Statement on Electric and Magnetic Fields"

## 4 What are the potential effects of transmission lines on property values?

Current research suggests that property values will not be impacted with the presence of a transmission line and Manitoba Hydro continues to monitor property values around other transmission projects.

## 5 What does an environmental assessment consist of?

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a formal evaluation of potential effects of projects on people and the environment. Manitoba Hydro is currently conducting an EIA for the proposed MMTP project.

The EIA approach consists of a number of steps leading to the creation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which summarizes the results of the environmental assessment work conducted on the project. The EIS is required by regulators and is the main document reviewed during licensing and permitting processes. Mitigation measures are developed to minimize or eliminate potential effects identified in the EIA.

Further information on the environmental assessment process can be found in the Project newsletter and on the Project website.

## 6 How is public feedback incorporated into route selection and the environmental assessment?

Public input is collected throughout the route selection process and is considered by the project team along with information collected throughout the environmental assessment process. Site specific issues and concerns are documented, and route alterations are brought forward to the project team. This information assists in the understanding of the local landscape and is considered in the decision making process.

Information and feedback is used in the environmental assessment process for studying the various biophysical and socio-economic components of the environment. Issues are identified and site specific information on wildlife, land use, heritage, and other components are collected. This data assists in focusing the environmental assessment, the evaluation of potential effects, and the identification of appropriate mitigation measures.

## 7 Access to the right-of-way is a concern. How does Manitoba Hydro address access?

Manitoba Hydro obtains an easement for a transmission line right-of-way. The easement provides Manitoba Hydro access for construction, inspection, maintenance, and emergency events. Ownership of the land remains with the current landowner. The landowner can work with Manitoba Hydro to implement measures to limit access to or on the right-of-way. Fencing (with gate) and signage, supplied and installed by Manitoba Hydro, are the most common forms of restricting access to the right-of-way on private property.

## 8 Next Steps & Opportunities for Participation

The public is encouraged to provide feedback and be involved throughout the environmental assessment and route determination processes being undertaken for the Project. Feedback can be provided through various mechanisms including: meetings, emails, letters, comment sheets, or phone calls, and can be provided at any time to be considered in the decision making processes.

Upcoming opportunities for public input in the environmental assessment process include:

**Round 3 (Winter 2014):** A Preferred Route will be determined and local feedback and knowledge will be collected to assist in the refinement of the route to determine a Final Preferred Route.

**Submission to Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship (Spring/Summer 2015):** Upon filing of the Environmental Impact Statement, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship (MCWS) will provide a public review period where the EIS can be commented on and questions asked. This will assist in their licensing decision.

**Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (to be determined by Minister of MCWS):** If a public hearing is called, submissions to the Commission, in form of written or oral evidence, can be made to assist in their review of the Project. The Commission will then make a recommendation to Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship which will assist in the licensing decision.

**National Energy Board (date pending):** This federal review body will also review the Environmental Impact Statement. They may also review the findings of both Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship and the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission to assist in their decision making. They will also allow for submissions from members of the public to assist in their decision making process.

Manitoba Hydro requires approval from both Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship and the National Energy Board to proceed with the Project. It is also important to note that this Project, as part of Manitoba Hydro's Preferred Development Plan, recently was part of the "Needs For And Alternatives To (NFAT)" hearing undertaken by the Public Utilities Board.

## Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project

**We want to hear from you.**

Visit our webpage for more information,  
register for updates or complete a project survey  
at [www.hydro.mb.ca/mmtp](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/mmtp)

You can also phone **1-877-343-1631** or email  
[mmtp@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:mmtp@hydro.mb.ca) for more information.

