

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 EPPI-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 the public engagement process is to gather information about land use and landscape characteristics. This information as well as information provided by discipline specialists has enabled the selection of a border crossing, the refinement of alternative routes and now the determination of a preferred route.

The information gained during Rounds 1 & 2 from a variety of stakeholders, open houses and the environmental assessment process was used to help route planners 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 have been presented 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.

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: www.hydro.mb.ca/safety/emf/index.shtml
- Manitoba Hydro's Alternating Current Brochure
- Manitoba Hydro's Alternating Current and Electronics Brochure
- Health Canada Handout "It's Your Health" Manitoba
- 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. 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.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) 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.

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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.

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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.

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

Round 3 (Early 2015): A Preferred Route will be presented 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 (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 hearing (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 (NEB): The NEB will 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. (Date pending.)

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 approved by the Public Utilities board to proceed with an environmental assessment as part of the "Needs for and Alternatives to (NFAT) hearing undertaken in 2014.

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When is the transmission line considered final?

As outlined in question number eight, there are many venues for the public to provide their feedback into the final routing decision. Information and feedback received from the public and discipline specialists received during Round 3 of the public engagement process will assist in determining Manitoba Hydro's Preferred Route to submit to regulators.

The route will not be deemed final until an Environment Act Licence has been issued by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship and the Project receives approval from the National Energy Board.

During construction there is the possibility that tower placement and small route modifications could occur based on terrain, the location of other existing infrastructure, archaeological finds or other currently unknown constraints.

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/mntp

You can also phone **1-877-343-1631** or email
mntp@hydro.mb.ca for more information.