

Manitoba Hydro – St Vital Open House Survey, Summary of Findings

Response rate

In total 57 surveys were received from people who attended the Open House event.

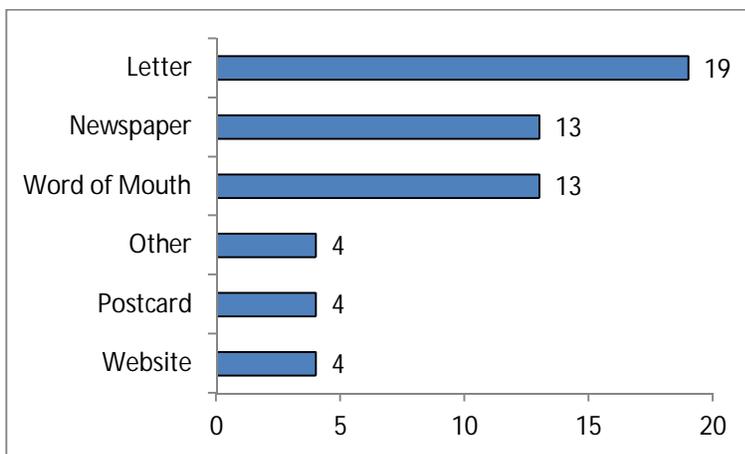
The table below shows the number of comment sheets received at each open house event, by date.

Date of event	Number of comment forms completed
November 4, 2013	4
November 5, 2013	11
November 6, 2013	10
November 7, 2013	7
November 13, 2013	1
November 20, 2013	1
November 21, 2013	1
November 22, 2013	2
November 25, 2013	1
November 28, 2013	1
December 09, 2013	14
December 10, 2013	3
December 11, 2013	1
Total	57

Respondent Profile

Attendees were asked how they heard about the open house, as figure 1 below shows, the majority of people heard about the event from a letter (19 respondents) while 13 attendees, each, said they heard about it through reading about it in a newspaper or via word of mouth.

Figure 1 – How Attendees Heard About the Open House



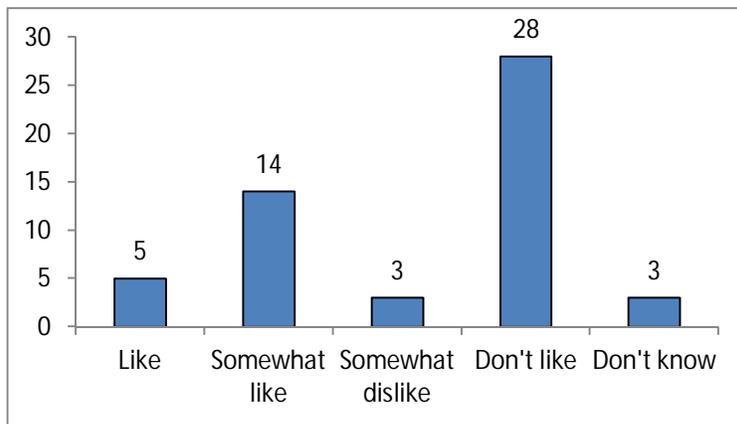
Base= 57 (Figure totals more than 57 as respondents could give more than one answer)

- Only 11 respondents out of 53 (who answered the question) had previously attended a Manitoba Hydro Open House event for this project.

Alternative routes

- The majority of respondents (over four fifths) lived near an alternative route – 48 out of 55 said this.
- Attendees were asked what they thought of the Preferred Route. As the figure below shows, 19 respondents out of 53 (who answered the question) said that they either liked it or somewhat liked it. A majority, 31, said they disliked or somewhat disliked it.

Figure 2 – Opinions on the Preferred Route



Base=53

Attendees were asked to elaborate on their reasons for this response; a summary is presented in the table below.

Opinion on the preferred route	Reasons
Like/Somewhat like	Good consideration of land uses
	Collaboration with wind farm projects in the area
	Maintains the Right of Way
	Avoids existing buildings and residential areas
	Avoids floodplains
	Fewer bends and turns
Somewhat dislike/Don't like	Loss of farmland
	Too close to residences
	Visual impacts
	Effects on agricultural practices
	Effects on land/property value
	Too many hydro lines in the area
	Not enough consultation on this route

When asked if they had any concerns regarding the Preferred Route, 37 respondents said that they did while 16 said that they did not. All 28 respondents who said that they did not like the alternative route said that they had concerns about it. Principal concerns include:

- Effects on health;
- Effects on livestock;
- Encroaching on personal property;
- Loss of farmland;
- Effects on agricultural practices (e.g. aerial spraying);
- Aesthetic impacts; and
- Effects on property values.

Twenty three respondents said that they thought there were specific sites along the proposed route that Manitoba Hydro should be aware of. Common locations included individuals' property, Sage Creek, Seine River, agricultural lands and RM Ritchot Landfill.

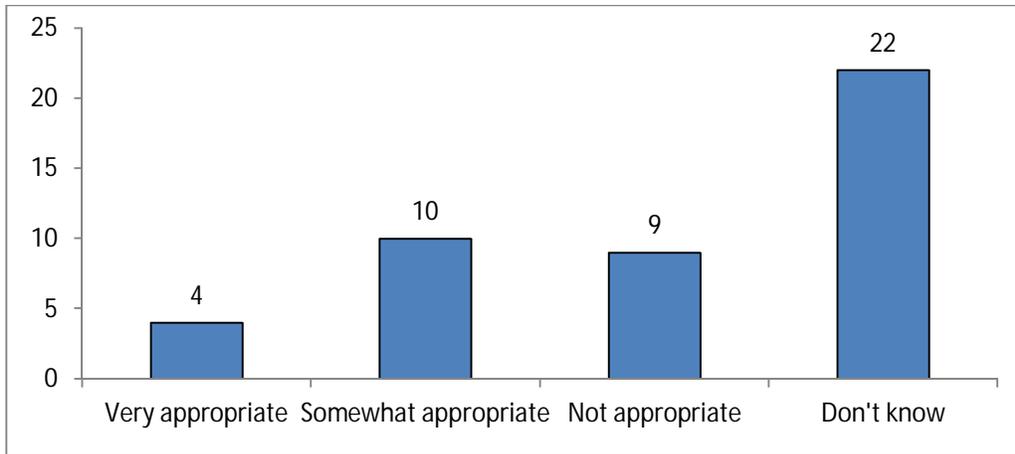
Project Effects

Twenty-four respondents said that they had recommendations for Manitoba Hydro on minimizing/mitigating potential effects from the project. These included:

- Keep trails open during construction;
- Keep the line straight and high to avoid agricultural operations;
- Provide financial compensation to landowners for inconvenience;
- Use existing rights of way, keep it away from residences;
- Go round Sage Creek;
- Run cables underground; and
- Try to avoid disturbing the soils.

Opinions on Methodology

Attendees were asked what they thought of the methodology adopted for determining the Alternative Routes. Fourteen respondents said that it was very or somewhat appropriate while 22 respondents said that they did not know.



Base=45

Of the nine respondents who said that the methodology was not appropriate, common reasons included a lack on consultation on the development of the proposed line, with one respondent calling the process “undemocratic”.

Overall Comments

Finally, respondents were offered the opportunity to provide some general comments on the project. Some of these responses are captured below.

“Very impressed with the information set-up...given a great deal of useful information. Thank you.”

“I hope this will help with power black outs and surges.”

“Much thought has gone into planning.”

“Thank you for inviting public input!”

“Please use right of ways as much as possible without going into people’s fields. You seem to be avoiding a lot of residences which is very appreciated.”

“Despite having gone to two meetings during round one, we were ignored and our concerns were not met.”

“Make the line big enough for taping in wind farms.”

“Landowner input will help direct the design of this project.”

“I have no problem with 1 or 2 hydro lines in the corridor ...but there are plans for 5 hydro lines in the corridor going through the middle of my property. This does not seem fair because the sacrifice I will have to make, in terms of decreased property values, the intangible cost of having to look at them every day and the potential health risks associated with 5 lines instead of one or two, is far greater than anyone else has to make.”

"We have beautiful, relatively untouched land in the Red River waterway area. Why do we continue to add these unsightly structures?"

"I am very concerned about EMF dangers, migratory bird strikes on lines and decrease property values."

"It seems like project wasn't presented to the community properly. [there will be] Negative effects on landscape with so many lines."

"We feel very disappointed in the non-disclosure of both MB Hydro and Qualico as to the possibility of this project and the ramifications to property owners."

Key word analysis

- Aerial applicator – 0 mentions
- Aerial spraying – 4 mentions
- Agricultural land – 1 mention
- Airstrip – 2 mentions
- Alternative route – 3 mentions
- Blind-sided – 0 mentions
- Bury line - 2 mentions
- Compensation payment(s) – 4 mentions
- Concerned – 8 mentions
- EMF – 8 mentions
- Environmental -3 mentions (2 as part of MidCanada Environmental Services)
- Expropriation – 0 mentions
- Happy – 1 mention (in a negative context)
- Houses(s) - 13 mentions
- Home – 10 mentions
- Hunting – 0 mentions
- Impacts - 9 mentions
- Lagoon – 0 mentions
- Landfill – 5 mentions
- Landing strip – 0 mentions
- Marginal land – 1 mention
- Property – 24 mentions (including 12 mentions of property value)
- New subdivision -1 mention
- Northern route – 0 mentions
- Other side – 0 mentions
- Relocate – 0 mentions
- Road – 6 mentions (5 in addresses)
- Route adjustment /change – 1 mention
- Runway – 0 mentions
- Southern route – 0 mentions
- Store hay – 0 mentions
- Swamps – 0 mentions
- Turning around structures – 0 mentions

- Underground lines – 6 mentions
- Weeds/ managing weeds -1 mention