Manitoba Minnesota Transmission Project

Round 3
Preferred Route

Winter 2015

Project Description

• 500 kV AC Transmission Line
  – From Dorsey Station to MB-MN Border
  – will connect to the Great Northern Transmission Line, constructed by Minnesota Power
• Improvements to three stations (Dorsey, Riel, Glenboro)
• Anticipated in-service date is 2020.
• Estimated cost is $350 million.

Project Description

• Anticipated tower heights: 40-60 m
• Anticipated right-of-way: 80-100 m
• Anticipated tower spacing: 400-500 m (typical 450 m)
Project Need

- Export electric power based on current sales agreements
- Increase access to markets in the United States
- Improve reliability and import capacity in emergency and drought situations

_This project was approved by the Public Utilities Board in July 2014 as part of Manitoba Hydro’s preferred development plan._

Preliminary Tower Design

[Images of tower designs]

[Image of tower installation in field]
Routing Process

Alternative Routes and Border Crossings

Refined Alternative Routes
Preferred Border Crossing

- Progressive refinement
- Deepening of analysis
- Completion of analysis and data collection

Preferred Route

Border Crossing Modification

- Border crossing modified due to ongoing discussions with Minnesota Power
  - Concerns regarding the Piney/Pinecreek Airport
- Notified local residents and landowners and stakeholders
- Undertook meetings and an Open House in November 2014
- Assisted in determining a preferred route in the Piney area
Evaluative Routes

- Developed in addition to routes presented in Round 2
  - Slight deviations from refined alternative routes
- Mitigate public and discipline specialist concerns
- Considered and evaluated as part of the route evaluation process

Routing Process

- Feedback was received from discipline specialists, public, stakeholders, First Nations
- Evaluative routes included for consideration
- +500,000 route options were considered
  - Back tracking removed
  - Longest 25% removed

Routing Process

- +15,000 routes remained for consideration and evaluation.
- Aimed to balance the engineering, natural and built environment
- Narrowed to 5 routes to be compared against one another
  - Community, Cost, Reliability, Risk to Schedule, Natural Environment, Built Environment
- Preferred route was determined
Regulatory

- Federal: National Energy Board
  - CEAA 2012 applies (designated activity)
- Provincial: Class 3 project under the Environment Act
  - Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
  - Manitoba's Clean Environment Commission

- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be developed for use in both processes

Anticipated filing with regulatory authorities will be summer of 2015

Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project will include:
- Study area characterization, obtained through site visits and background investigations
- Documentation of public engagement
- Assessment of potential environmental and socio-economic effects on valued components
- Assessment of cumulative effects of the transmission line
- Mitigation measures and monitoring plans developed for the Project
- An environmental protection program

Valued Components

- Evaluate and assess various components to help focus the environmental assessment
- Examples include:
  - Agriculture
  - Land and Resource Use
  - Heritage Resources
  - Community Health & Well-Being
  - Vegetation & Wetlands
  - Wildlife (mammals, birds, amphibians, etc.)

Materials have been developed to share the information known to date as we continue to assess these valued components
Engagement and Route Selection

Round 1: October - November 2013
- Introduce the Project
- Present alternative routes and proposed border crossings
- Answer questions
- Identify and document routing criteria and concerns
- Use input to refine alternative routes and border crossing areas

Round 2: Spring 2014
- Present what we heard
- Present refined alternative routes and preferred border crossing
- Answer questions
- Identify and document routing criteria and concerns
- Use input to guide preferred route selection

Round 3: Early 2015
- Present what we heard
- Present the Preferred Route
- Answer questions
- Identify and document outstanding concerns
- Provide opportunity to discuss potential effects and possible mitigation measures to minimize effects

Anticipated Timelines

Next Steps

- Meeting with Stakeholders, First Nations, MMF, & affected Landowners
- Public Open Houses & Landowner Centres
- Ongoing notification
  - Newspaper, emails, posters, postcards, registered/non registered mail, etc.
- Ongoing field investigations & evaluations
- Development and finalization of the EIS
Questions?

Thank you