

Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement (LWESI) Transmission Project

Public Engagement Program Technical Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Engagement Program (PEP) was developed to provide the public with meaningful opportunities to receive information on, and provide their input into, the Site Selection and Environmental Assessment process for the Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement (LWESI) Transmission Project (Project).

Two rounds of engagement were used to solicit feedback from local and First Nation communities, local and provincial organizations, non-governmental organizations, provincial government departments, land user groups, landowners and rights holders operating on Crown Land.

The PEP held meetings with identified community and government representatives and stakeholder groups, as well as conducted public Open Houses. Notification methods used throughout the PEP to engage with the public and interested parties included direct mailings, telephone communications and advertisements posted in local communities and published in local newspapers. The individual meetings used PowerPoint presentations and the public Open Houses used storyboards to provide information and solicit feedback on the Project. Maps, newsletters and comment sheets were distributed and made available throughout the PEP. The PEP also undertook Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge workshops in local First Nation communities, which were facilitated by the Heritage and Cultural Resources team working on the Project.

Participants in the process identified a strong desire to secure employment opportunities or construction contracts, such as right-of-way clearing for the Project. Concerns were raised regarding the potential effects of the Project on wildlife, particularly moose and furbearers, and many participants suggested that impacts could be minimized if the transmission line were to be located closer to Provincial Road (PR) #304. The use of herbicides and their effect on the forest ecosystem, and in particular, on medicinal plants and berries were a predominant concern of participants in the PEP. In response to the concerns raised by participants, Manitoba Hydro sited the transmission line closer to PR #304 and committed to develop a "Vegetation Management Protocol" with the local communities. Manitoba Hydro has committed to provide school presentations in the area with regard to the different types of employment opportunities within Manitoba Hydro. Additionally, several First Nation communities expressed a desire for Manitoba Hydro to make presentations in their communities on the results of the Environmental Assessment process and results. Participants expressed an appreciation for the opportunities provided to participate in the process and for addressing their identified concerns.

Two private landowners affected by the Project raised specific concerns regarding placement of the transmission line. Through discussions with the landowners, Alternative Routes for the transmission line were developed to address their localized concerns. Manitoba Hydro evaluated the proposed alternatives and realigned the final transmission line route, where feasible, to accommodate the feedback received.

Manitoba HydroLake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project

The PEP identified one sensitive site at the proposed Manigotagan Corner Station Site, through a Key Person Interview, for Manitoba Hydro's consideration in the development of the Environmental Protection Plan for the Project.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ATK	Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge
EA	Environmental Assessment
km	kilometre
kV	kiloVolt
KPI	Key Person Interview
Line PQ95	Pine Falls-Manigotagan 115 kV Transmission Line
LWESI	Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement
PEP	Public Engagement Program
PR	Provincial Road
RM	Rural Municipality
SSEA	Site Selection and Environmental Assessment
the Project	Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Overview

The Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement (LWESI) Transmission Project (the Project) is required to provide system upgrades in the region east of Lake Winnipeg. The Project will serve existing and new load growth, and provide firm transformation and adequate voltage support for the communities located in and around the region. It is expected that this new development will meet the electrical requirements for at least the next 20 years.

The Project includes the construction of a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Powerview-Pine Falls, Manitoba to Manigotagan [Pine Falls–Manigotagan 115 kV Transmission Line (Line PQ95)], approximately 75 kilometers (km) north of Powerview-Pine Falls. The project will require the development of a new 115-66 kV transmission station (Manigotagan Corner Station) west of the intersection of Provincial Road (PR) #304 and the Rice River Road, near the Community of Manigotagan. This station will serve as the terminal for the new Line PQ95 as well as the existing 66 kV sub-transmission lines in the Manigotagan area.

This technical report supports the Environmental Assessment (EA) Report to meet the licensing requirements of the *Manitoba Environment Act* for a Class II Licence for this project.

1.2 Purpose of the Public Engagement Program

Public and stakeholder engagement is an integral part of Manitoba Hydro's Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) process. Manitoba Hydro developed a two-round Public Engagement Program (PEP) to guide engagement for the Project. The approach reflects the experience of Manitoba Hydro's current practices and principles for engagement in a SSEA context.

The overall purpose of the program was to provide the public with meaningful opportunities to receive information on, and provide their input into, the SSEA for the Project. The goals and commitments made for the PEP to ensure participant involvement included:

- Opportunities for early involvement – this includes providing early notification and information about the Project so that parties can assess their interests and provide early comment, as well as become involved in ongoing planning and environmental review activities.
- Opportunities for ongoing involvement – this includes providing ongoing opportunities to learn about the Project and key planning activities, to provide input with respect to any concerns, to resolve issues raised, to have commentary and input recorded, and to learn about actions that occur as a result of studies and planning activities for the Project.

- Opportunities at various stages – this includes opportunities to provide input: a) when community concerns are being initially identified; b) when Alternative Routes/sites are being considered; c) when initial effects are described, mitigation measures identified and ways to enhance positive effects are being considered; and d) when the EA Report has been filed with regulators for review and comment.
- Variety of mechanisms – this includes utilizing a variety of tools to communicate, to receive feedback and to engage in ongoing meaningful dialogue.
- Adaptive approach – this includes adjusting the program, as required and feasible, throughout the course of the planning, the EA and regulatory review process, in response to issues, concerns and challenges raised by participants.

1.3 Report Outline

The purpose of this report is to describe the processes used to inform the public, local communities and stakeholders about the Project, and what feedback was received regarding the Project.

The PEP Report is organized into eight Sections as follows:

- **Section 1** of this report provides an overview of the Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project.
 - **Section 2** provides a general regional area description and lists the communities contained within the Project Study Area. A categorization of the stakeholder groups engaged for the unorganized Crown Land portion of the Project Study Area is also provided.
 - **Section 3** describes the methodology used for the PEP including the engagement audiences and materials developed for the two rounds of engagement that were undertaken. It also describes the notification methods utilized and lists the community and stakeholder meetings, Key Person Interviews (KPIs), public Open Houses and Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) workshops that were undertaken. Finally, Section 3 describes the PEP input into the Alternative Route evaluation process.
 - **Section 4** summarizes the Round 1 and 2 input received through community and stakeholder meetings, KPIs and public Open Houses. This section outlines the input received through the ATK workshops with regards to the Alternative Route evaluation process. Section 4 also identifies environmentally sensitive sites, defined through the engagement processes, for incorporation into Manitoba Hydro's Environmental Protection Plan.
 - **Section 5** identifies specific concerns that were presented to the Project Team during the PEP and describes the process in which Manitoba Hydro undertook to address the concerns. The key issues and requests are summarized, by round of engagement, and Manitoba Hydro's response or required action is provided.
 - **Section 6** contains conclusions and follow-up.
 - **Section 7** contains the references cited and websites used for the PEP Report.
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- **Section 8** provides a glossary for terms used in the PEP Report. Glossary terms appear in bold print in the report at their first occurrence.

The results of the PEP, provided in this report, are summarized and included in the *Manitoba Hydro Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project, Environmental Assessment Report* (Golder Associates Ltd. & Rawluk and Associates 2012), which Manitoba Hydro will submit to provincial regulators for review and comment.

2 STUDY AREA

2.1 General Regional Area Description

The Project Study Area includes an area of approximately 2,112 square kilometres and extends from south of the community of Powerview-Pine Falls, north to the Community of Manigotagan, and from the eastern boundary of Lake Winnipeg, to approximately 10 km east of PR #304. The Project Study Area was chosen to be of sufficient size to assess any potential Project effects on biophysical and socio-economic components.

2.2 Study Area

The Project Study Area is located along the eastern side of Lake Winnipeg, commencing on the south shore of the Winnipeg River and terminating east of the Community of Manigotagan. There are three Indian Reserves administered by their First Nation Governments within the Project Study Area. The local communities in the Project Study Area are administered by the Town of Powerview-Pine Falls and the Rural Municipality (RM) of Alexander at the southern extent and by Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs within the larger northern extent. Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Forestry Branch, administers the forest environment within the Crown Land portion of the Project Study Area. The Project Study Area is provided as Map 1, which outlines the Study Area, the three Alternative Routes which were presented during Round 1 of the PEP and the Preferred Route which was presented during Round 2.

The Project Study Area contains eight (8) communities and one political representative agency, which include First Nation communities, Northern Affairs communities, the Town of Powerview-Pine Falls and residents within the RM of Alexander. The proposed transmission line Alternative Routes are located outside of all populated areas, except where the Project originates in the RM of Alexander (Map 1).

The following communities and political agency, listed from south to north, are contained within the Project Study Area:

- Sagkeeng First Nation,
- Town of Powerview-Pine Falls,
- RM of Alexander,
- Black River First Nation,
- Community of Manigotagan,
- Community of Seymourville,
- Hollow Water First Nation,
- Community of Aghaming, and
- Manitoba Métis Federation.

The majority of the Project Study Area is forested provincial Crown Land. Stakeholders in the forested zone include trappers, wildlife outfitters, wildlife associations, resource associations, non-governmental organizations, provincial government departments and other stakeholder groups.

The communities, organizations, landowners and rights holders potentially affected by the Project are provided in Appendix A.

3 METHODS

3.1 Data Collection and Analysis

There were two Rounds of engagement conducted for the Project to solicit feedback from the public, local and First Nation communities, stakeholders and other interested parties. Round 1 of the PEP took place from June 2012 until the end of August, 2012. This Round provided the public with Project information and sought feedback from interested parties on the three alternative transmission line routes which were being evaluated. Round 2 of the PEP took place from September 2012 to the beginning of November 2012. In Round 2, the feedback received during Round 1 was provided, the route evaluation process was explained, and input on the Preferred Route was sought

The following sections describe the engagement process undertaken and the materials used throughout each Round of the PEP. Identifying environmentally sensitive sites, receiving feedback on the proposed Alternative Routes and Preferred Route, acquiring input on possible mitigation measures to minimize any potential effects on people and the environment and identifying community desires for involvement in the Project were the goals of the PEP.

3.1.1 Invited Participants

Communities and stakeholders potentially affected by the Project were identified and classified into three general groups for notification and potential involvement in the various engagement processes. The first group included First Nation communities, their advisory committees and towns and communities within the Project Study Area. The second group was classified as *Organizations* and includes local and provincial organizations, non-governmental organizations, provincial government departments and other user groups. The third group, classified as *Private Land and Rights Holders*, includes residential and business landowners, rights holders operating on Crown Land and other land use groups within the Project Study Area. The communities and stakeholders invited to be involved in the Public Engagement Program are classified and listed in Appendix A.

3.1.2 Engagement Materials

Informational material was developed for various phases of the PEP as follows:

Newsletters

Two newsletters were developed for use during Round 1 and 2, respectively, of the PEP. The Round 1 newsletter (July 2012) provided an overview of the Project components, the SSEA process being undertaken for the Project, the PEP process, Project timelines and presented a map of the Alternative Routes which were being considered. This newsletter solicited participation at the public Open Houses and provided contact information for the Manitoba Hydro Project representative.

The Round 2 newsletter (September 2012) maintained the Round 1 overview, SSEA process and Manitoba Hydro contact information. The Round 2 newsletter also summarized the outcomes of the Round 1 feedback, described the primary components of the feedback received and provided the response which was provided to participants by Manitoba Hydro representatives. It also provided a map of the Preferred Route and advertised the time and locations of the Round 2 public Open Houses.

The Round 1 and 2 newsletters are contained in Appendix D.

Comment Sheets

Two comment sheets were developed for use in Round 1 and 2 of the PEP respectively (provided in Appendix E).

The Round 1 comment sheet (11 X 17 inch format) provided a map of the Project Study Area and the three proposed Alternative Routes on one side. The opposite side requested feedback on the effectiveness of the PEP, requested participants to identify sites of concern and to provide and measures in which Manitoba Hydro could minimize any potential negative effects.

The comment sheet also requested participants to suggest a Preferred Route and/or to identify any site-specific concerns related to any of the Alternative Routes or portion thereof on the attached map.

The Round 2 comment sheet followed the same layout as the Round 1 comment sheet. The Preferred Route was added to the map as a solid line to differentiate it from the dashed lines of the Alternative Routes. The opposite side requested feedback on the effectiveness of the PEP, asked if local concerns had been addressed in the route selection process, to identify any concerns that may not have been addressed during Round 1 and requested participants to provide means to minimize any potential Project effects. The Round 1 and 2 comment sheets are contained in Appendix E.

Presentations

PowerPoint presentations were developed for use at the Round 1 introductory meetings held with town and community councils, community advisory committees, Government departments and stakeholder groups (Table 3-2). The introductory presentations described the need and description of the Project, outlined the SSEA process, described the outline of the PEP and described the opportunities available for the public to provide input. The presentation outlined the Project schedule and discussed the *Manitoba Environment Act* licensing process.

Round 2 PowerPoint presentations were developed for engaging Round 1 participants who identified a desire to meet with Manitoba Hydro following the determination of the Preferred Route. (Table 3-2). These presentations provided information on the project need, the project components, an overview of the PEP and a summary of the feedback which was received from participants during Round 1, along with Manitoba Hydro's response to the issue or concern. The presentation described the Alternative Route evaluation process which was undertaken and summarized the findings for each of the Alternative Route. Finally, the proposed Preferred Route, the SSEA process and overall project schedule was reviewed.

Orthophoto Map Series

Two series of **orthophoto** maps were developed for the Project Study Area, at a scale of 1:20,000. The Round 1 orthophoto map series displayed the Alternative Routes. The Round 2 orthophoto map series displayed the Preferred Route (solid line), while maintaining the Alternative Routes (dashed lines) to provide a perspective of the revisions that occurred as a result of the evaluation process. Both map series versions used an indexed key map to allow for quick reference to site-specific locations. The detailed orthophoto maps allowed individuals to visually identify geographic features crossed by the Alternative Routes and the Preferred Route.

Public Open Houses

There were two Rounds of public Open Houses conducted for the PEP, for a total of nine of Open Houses (Table 3-3). Manitoba Hydro representatives were present to explain the Project,

answer questions and solicit input from interested groups or individuals. Presentation storyboards for the Round 1 public Open Houses provided the following information:

- Purpose of the Open House;
- need and purpose of the Project;
- goals of Manitoba Hydro;
- Project description;
- map presentation of the alternative transmission routes;
- public involvement process;
- environmental assessment components;
- regulatory licensing process;
- site selection and environmental assessment schedule; and
- Project schedule.

Alternative Route maps (scale 1:250,000) and the orthophoto map series (scale 1:20,000) were displayed at each public Open House for use in reviewing and discussing the Project and the proposed Alternative Routes. Round 1 comment sheets, with the attached Alternative Routes map, were available for participants to complete at the public Open House or to take home for submission by mail. Additional informational brochures, including the Round 1 newsletter, were also made available for participants.

The Round 2 public Open Houses (Table 3-3) provided the same information as Round 1 with the following revisions/additions:

- Summary of the feedback received through all processes of Round 1 of the PEP,
- Overview of the Alternative Route selection process, and
- Maps of the Preferred Route (solid line) and Alternative Routes (dashed lines).

Maps of the alternative and Preferred Routes (scale 1:250,000) and orthophoto map series (scale 1:20,000), were displayed for use in discussing the Project and the Preferred Route. Round 2 comment sheets, with an attached preferred and Alternative Routes map, were available for participants to complete or take home for submission by mail. Additional informational brochures, including the Round 2 newsletter, were also made available for participants.

3.1.3 Notification Procedures

Procedures were developed to notify communities and stakeholders about the Project and to provide the public with methods to become involved in the PEP. Notification procedures included direct mailings, along with telephone follow-up for community and stakeholder meetings (Section 3.1.4), newspaper advertising and local radio and poster advertisements for all of the public Open Houses, as outlined below.

Mail

During Round 1 of the PEP, letters of invitation were sent to 25 community representatives/administrations and organizations, as classified in Appendix A. This invitation informed the groups of the Project and offered an opportunity to meet and share information, to have questions answered by Manitoba Hydro representatives and to discuss the proposed Project. The letters were followed up with a telephone call to determine the level of interest in the Project and to schedule a meeting, if requested. Community and stakeholder meetings are described in Section 3.1.4 and listed in Table 3-2.

Introductory letters were also sent to the 28 private land and Crown Land rights holders, as classified in Appendix A. The letters informed them of the proposed Project and invited them to attend one of the five scheduled public Open Houses. Prior to the Round 1 public Open Houses, a follow up letter was sent with a reminder of the public Open House times and locations as well as a copy of the Round 1 newsletter.

During Round 2, a second letter was mailed to the three groups categorized in Appendix A. The letter restated the Project purpose, described the newsletter content, including the Round 2 public Open House times and locations, and provided Manitoba Hydro contact information. These letters were accompanied by the Round 2 newsletter to ensure Project information was provided to affected individuals/groups.

Newspaper and Radio Advertisement

Newspaper and local radio advertisements were placed in regional and provincial publications to notify the general public about Round 1 and 2 public Open Houses as listed in Table 3-1. Samples of the public Open House advertisements utilized for the PEP are provided in Appendix F.

Posters

Public Open House advertisements were posted throughout all communities within the Project Study Area, prior to Round 1 and 2 public Open Houses. The posters notified the general public to attend for more information on the Project and to provide feedback on the proposed Alternative Routes (Round 1) and Preferred Route (Round 2). The posters were posted in areas of high public use such as band offices, community administrative offices, health clinics, schools, libraries, hotels, postal offices, convenience stores and gas stations.

Table 3-1 Public Open House Newspaper and Radio Advertisement

Public Open House	Newspaper	Publication Frequency	Publication Date
Round 1	Grassroots News	Monthly	July 10, 2012
	Lac du Bonnet Leader	Weekly	July 19, 2012
	The Clipper Weekly	Weekly	July 16, 2012
			July 23, 2012
	The Winnipeg River Echo	Weekly	July 11, 2012
			July 18, 2012
Sagkeeng Wolf FM 102.7	20 radio spots	July 27 to Aug 8	
Round 2	The Clipper Weekly	Weekly	Sept 24, 2012
			Oct 1, 2012
	The Winnipeg River Echo	Weekly	Sept 26, 2012
			Oct 3, 2012
	Lac du Bonnet Leader	Weekly	Sept 27, 2012
			Oct. 4, 2012
	Grassroots News	Monthly	Oct. 9, 2012

3.1.4 Community and Stakeholder Meetings

During Round 1 of the PEP, discussions were conducted with 25 community representatives/ administrations and organizations, as well as two Traditional Area Advisory Committees, as outlined in Appendix A. There were 15 requests for meetings; while the remaining representatives identified that the proposed public Open Houses would meet their requirement for providing feedback into the Project.

During Round 2 of the PEP, meetings were conducted with 11 community representatives/ administrations, Traditional Area Advisory Committees, Elder groups and organizations to discuss their concerns and comments with the Preferred Route.

Table 3-2 outlines the meetings conducted throughout the PEP. Meeting notes are compiled and organized by meeting date in Appendix B.

Following the first Round of engagement, Sagkeeng First Nation declined to participate in the second Round of the engagement process.

The Manitoba Métis Federation was contacted during each Round; however, a response was never received. Therefore, no meetings were conducted with the Manitoba Métis Federation.

Table 3-2 Community and Stakeholder Meetings

Engagement Period	Date	Community/Stakeholder
Round 1	June 20, 2012	Manitoba Model Forest – Board of Directors
	June 26, 2012	Rural Municipality of Alexander
	June 28, 2012	Manitoba Model Forest – Committee for Cooperative Moose Management
	June 28, 2012	Seymourville Community Council
	July 5, 2012	Manitoba Eco-Network
	July 10, 2012	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Eastern Region
	July 10, 2012	Town of Powerview- Pine Falls Council
	July 11, 2012	Hollow Water First Nation Chief and Council
	July 11, 2012	Manitoba Wildlife Federation & Manitoba Trappers Association
	July 12, 2012	Manitoba Wildlands
	July 20, 2012	Sagkeeng First Nation Chief and Council
	July 27, 2012	Black River First Nation Chief and Council
	July 27, 2012	Waabanong Anishinaabe Interpretive Learning Centre - Board of Directors
	Aug. 8, 2012	Black River First Nation Traditional Area Advisory Committee
	Aug. 21, 2012	Hollow Water First Nation Traditional Area Advisory Committee
Round 2	Sept. 10, 2012	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Eastern Region
	Sept. 13, 2012	Manitoba Model Forest – Committee for Cooperative Moose Management
	Sept 19, 2012	Black River First Nation Chief and Council
	Sept 26, 2012	Manitoba Eco-Network
	Sept 28, 2012	Waabanong Anishinaabe Interpretive Learning Centre - Board of Directors
	Oct 2, 2012	Mining Association of Manitoba
	Oct 4, 2012	Hollow Water First Nation Chief and Council
	Oct 4, 2012	Hollow Water First Nation Traditional Area Advisory Committee
	Oct 10, 2012	Black River First Nation Traditional Area Advisory Committee
	Oct 18, 2012	Hollow Water First Nation Elders
	Oct 30, 2012	Town of Bissett/San Gold Corp.

3.1.5 Key Person Interviews

Participants in the PEP were invited to identify other individuals that possessed valuable knowledge about the Project Study Area, but whom had not yet participated in the engagement process. Key Person Interviews were then scheduled to provide an additional, important mechanism to receive detailed input and identify specific Project effects.

There were a large number of potential KPIs identified from the ATK workshops conducted on August 22, 2012 in Hollow Water First Nation and Seymourville, Manitoba. It was determined

that two additional ATK workshops and a Hollow Water First Nation Elders meeting, subsequently conducted on September 17, 2012, and October 18, 2012 respectively, would better facilitate the collection of information, than would individual KPIs.

As a result, there was only one KPI, which was conducted on October 3, 2012. This interview resulted as a recommendation from the Waabanong Anishinaabe Interpretive Learning Centre, Board of Directors.

3.1.6 Public Open Houses

There were two Rounds of public Open Houses throughout the PEP. The purpose of the first Round of public Open Houses was:

- To provide information on the project,
- To provide information on the environmental assessment process,
- To provide an opportunity to provide comments and discuss concerns, and
- To receive input on alternative transmission line routes being considered.

The purpose of the second Round of public Open Houses was:

- To provide information on the project,
- To provide information on the environmental assessment process,
- To outline the information and feedback Manitoba Hydro received during Round 1,
- To provide information on the assessment and selection of the Preferred Route, and
- To provide an opportunity to provide comments and discuss concerns.

Table 3-3 lists the dates and locations of the public Open Houses conducted throughout the PEP. Public Open House notes are compiled and organized by meeting date are found in Appendix C..

Table 3-3 Public Open Houses

Engagement Period	Date	Location	Time
Round 1	July 24, 2012	Hollow Water First Nation Community Hall	2:00 PM to 8:00 PM
	July 26, 2012	Sagkeeng First Nation Arena Multiplex	10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
	July 30, 2012	Papertown Motor Inn, Powerview/Pine Falls, Mb.	2:00 PM to 8:00 PM
	July 31, 2012	Manigotagan Community Hall, Manigotagan, Mb.	2:00 PM to 8:00 PM
	Aug. 8, 2012	Black River First Nation Band Office	2:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Table 3-3 Public Open Houses (continued)

Engagement Period	Date	Location	Time
Round 2	Oct. 1, 2012	Papertown Motor Inn, Powerview/Pine Falls, Mb.	2:00 PM to 8:00 PM
	Oct. 4, 2012	Hollow Water First Nation Community Hall	2:00 PM to 8:00 PM
	Oct. 10, 2012	Black River First Nation Band Office	2:00 PM to 8:00 PM
	Oct. 11, 2012	Seymourville Community Hall, Seymourville, Mb.	2:00 PM to 8:00 PM

3.2 Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge

An ATK study was undertaken to provide relevant information on local knowledge and land use that were absent from the Project Study Area data record. Data on ATK was gathered during five workshops that were held in the communities of Hollow Water, Manigotagan, Black River, and Seymourville. Workshops were guided by a series of questions provided by discipline leads. Information was summarized in a series of map biographies on traditional and current land use practices, and interview summaries, and land use maps. Relevant information was integrated into the technical reports which support the EA Report. Table 3-4 lists the ATK workshops which were conducted.

Table 3-4 Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Workshops

Date	Location	Communities Represented
Aug. 15, 2012	Black River First Nation Band Office	Black River First Nation
Aug. 22, 2012	Hollow Water First Nation Band Office	Hollow Water First Nation
Aug. 22, 2012	Seymourville Council Office	Manigotagan and Seymourville, Mb.
Sept. 17, 2012	Wood'n Bell Motel, Manigotagan, Mb.	Manigotagan, Mb.
Sept. 17, 2012	Hollow Water First Nation Band Office	Hollow Water First Nation

3.3 Evaluation of Alternative Routes

The overall route selection process for the Line PQ95 component is described in Chapter 3.0 of the main EA Report. Evaluation of the Alternative Routes focused on a predetermined set of evaluation criteria. The evaluation criteria reflected the importance of known factors that are identified from various perspectives including socio-economic, biophysical, cost and technical aspects. These criteria, as well as valuable feedback obtained from the PEP, became the basis from which the Final Preferred Route was identified.

The Manigotagan Corner Station Site was selected on the basis of engineering and technical criteria. The Preferred Station Site was integrated into the PEP and received favorable feedback from local community representatives.

The feedback received, from the following components from Round 1 of the PEP, were compiled for the route evaluation process and are further described in Section 4.0.

- community and stakeholder meetings,
- Key Person Interviews,
- public Open House meetings, and
- Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge workshops.

4 ENGAGEMENT PROCESS FEEDBACK SUMMARY

4.1 Overview

Communities and stakeholders potentially affected by the Project were invited to provide input on the Project during two Rounds of engagement activities. Round 1 engagement activities took place from June 2012 until the end of August 2012. Round 2 engagement activities took place from early September 2012 until the beginning of November 2012.

4.2 Engagement Processes

The Public Engagement Program used a combination of community and stakeholder meetings, Key Person Interviews and public Open Houses to gather feedback on the Project.

4.2.1 Community and Stakeholder Meetings

There were 15 meetings (Table 3-2), conducted during Round 1. These meetings were held with local and First Nation communities, their designates, organizations and stakeholder groups. Meeting documentation is provided in Appendix B, organized by meeting date. General comments, questions and concerns raised during the process are summarized below:

- questions related to the design, operation, scheduling and maintenance of Line PQ95 and the Manigotagan Corner Station;
 - questions related to the Project effect on the forest environment and wildlife species;
 - questions related to Aboriginal Rights and Government-to-Government consultation;
 - questions related to the EA processes and procedures;
 - concern regarding effects of the Project on medicinal plants and wildlife species (particularly moose and furbearers);
 - strong concerns regarding the use of herbicides for transmission line maintenance;
-

- a desire to keep the transmission line closer to PR #304;
- a desire to secure firewood from the Line PQ95 clearing project; and
- a strong desire, by the First Nation and Northern Affairs communities, to secure training and employment opportunities resulting from the Project.

There were 11 meetings (Table 3-2), conducted in Round 2, with local and First Nation communities, their designates, organizations and stakeholder groups. Meeting documentation is provided in Appendix B, organized by meeting date, and is summarized as follows:

- appreciation was expressed for the opportunities provided through the Public Engagement Program and for acting on recommendations received in Round 1;
- questions related to the design, operation, scheduling and maintenance of Line PQ95 and the Manigotagan Corner Station;
- questions related to the environmental assessment processes, procedures, reports and communication of the results;
- questions related to vegetation management on Line PQ95 and wildlife management in the Project Study Area;
- questions related to the awarding of contracts, the process to secure employment with contractors and training opportunities available through contractors;
- a desire for the transmission system to facilitate other users (fiber optic cables for high speed internet);
- requests for Manitoba Hydro to provide information on training and employment opportunities and present the results of the Environmental Assessment Report to the local First Nation communities; and
- the desire, by the First Nation and Northern Affairs communities, to secure employment opportunities, resulting from the Project, was strongly expressed.

4.2.2 Key Person Interviews

There was only one KPI conducted on October 3, 2012, as discussed in Section 3.1.5. The KPI meeting provided valuable information related to sites used for medicinal plant collection. Anonymity was requested and the medicinal plant list provided was identified as confidential information but three medicinal plant collection sites and a culturally sensitive site were mapped and incorporated into the spatial ATK database. The notes from the one KPI are incorporated in Appendix B, organized by meeting date, and the sites were identified as ATK 107 to 110 in the *Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project, Cultural Resources Technical Report* (Northern Lights Heritage Services Inc. 2012).

Two of the sites were also identified as environmentally sensitive sites, as discussed in Section 4.4.

4.2.3 Public Open Houses

There were five public Open Houses (Table 3-3) held in communities within the Project area during Round 1 of the PEP. Round 1 public Open House documentation is provided in Appendix C, organized by meeting date, and is summarized as follows:

- questions related to the design, operation, scheduling and maintenance of Line PQ95 and the Manigotagan Corner Station;
- concern regarding the use of herbicides for transmission line maintenance on the forest ecosystem and specifically on medicinal plants and berries;
- concerns by private landowners of the Project effect on on-going and potential future developments;
- a desire to keep the transmission line closer to PR #304; and
- a strong desire by local contractors and community members for training programs and employment in the Project.

There were 4 public Open Houses (Table 3-3) held in communities within the Project Study Area during Round 2 of the PEP. Round 2 public Open House documentation is provided in Appendix C, organized by meeting date, and is summarized as follows:

- appreciation that the Project would assist in reducing the frequency of power outages;
- concerns by private landowners of the Project effect on on-going and potential future developments, (discussed in Section 5.1);
- a strong desire by local contractors and community members for employment in the Project; and
- requests for Manitoba Hydro to provide information on training and employment opportunities and present the results of the Environmental Assessment Report to the local First Nation communities.

4.3 Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge

Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge workshops are discussed in Section 3.2 and reported in the *Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project, Cultural Resources Technical Report* (Northern Lights Heritage Services Inc. 2012).

The additional information secured through the ATK process (Northern Lights Heritage Services Inc. 2012) was incorporated into the various LWESI Technical Reports and the *Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project, Environmental Assessment Report* (Golder Associates Ltd. & Rawluk and Associates 2012).

4.4 Sensitive Sites

Site specific information or sites, provided through the PEP, that are directly intersected by the **Project footprint** or may be affected during the construction phase of the Project are classified as sensitive sites . Two sites have been identified, through the KPI process (Section 4.2.2), as sensitive sites for potential incorporation into an Environmental Protection Plan for the Project.

Table 4-1 provides a site identification number, the source, a brief description, the projected environmental effect and prescribed mitigation measures. Only site ATK_107 has been displayed on Map Series 100 because of the sensitivity of site ATK_110. Sensitive site location information, for future incorporation into the Environmental Protection Plan, has been provided to Manitoba Hydro as Geographic Information System shape files to ensure correct geo-referencing.

Table 4-1 Public Engagement Program Sensitive Sites

ID No.	Source	Description	Environmental Effect	Mitigation Measures
ATK_107	KPI	Area of concern	Potential for damage outside of project footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit all equipment to project footprint only, unless approved in writing by the Construction Supervisor/Site Manager Where debris disposal is by burning, pile at least 15 m from forest stands Burn during frozen conditions only Ensure fires are extinguished prior to spring breakup
ATK_110	KPI	Culturally sensitive site	Potential for damage outside of project footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit all equipment to project footprint only, unless approved in writing by the Construction Supervisor/Site Manager Where debris disposal is by burning, pile at least 15 m from forest stands Burn during frozen conditions only Ensure fires are extinguished prior to spring breakup

5 RESPONSES TO FEEDBACK

5.1 Response to Specific Landowner Concerns

Two private landowners, in the Powerview-Pine Falls Community area, raised specific concerns during Round 1 and 2 of the PEP, related to the three Alternative Routes and the Preferred Route. During Round 1, a local business owner was concerned that one Alternative Route would affect their proposed developments and would encroach on on-going and proposed recreational activities in the vicinity. The business owner promoted the use of the other 2 Alternative Routes (both of which follow the same corridor).

The following steps were undertaken by the Project team;

- An assessment determined that the other Alternative Routes would affect 5 to 10 residential properties and that the route of concern had the least effect on private land entitlements and that it maximized the use of Manitoba Hydro owned property. Manitoba Hydro is negotiating a lease agreement, with the concerned business owner, for their proposed development to take place on Manitoba Hydro property. The lease agreement would allow for the landowner's proposed development to take place and the siting of Line PQ95 to both occur on Manitoba Hydro property.

During Round 2, the same business owner raised concern over the location of the line that would be located in proximity to their proposed development and requested that the alignment be modified to avoid the proposed development area.

The following steps were undertaken by the Project team;

- An on-site meeting was held with the business owner. The business owner requested that an underground cable be used for the Line PQ95 segment along the Winnipeg River to a point north of their proposed development. Manitoba Hydro explained that the use of an underground cable would be more expensive and was not a feasible option. Tower placement options were discussed, and Manitoba Hydro realigned Line PQ95 to locate the transmission line solely on Manitoba Hydro property while avoiding encroachment on the business owners property, where feasible. The location of the Final Preferred Route was acceptable to the business owner.

During Round 1, a private landowner raised concerns about Alternative Route C but also raised general concerns about the other two Alternative Routes (A and B). The predominant concern, from the landowner, was the perception that the transmission line would lower property values and create problems for any potential future development. The landowner provided Manitoba Hydro with proposed modifications to Alternative Routes A and B.

The following steps were undertaken by the Project team;

- An assessment determined that the other Alternative Routes promoted by the landowner would affect 5 to 10 residential properties and that the specific route of concern had the least effect on private land entitlements and maximized the use of Manitoba Hydro property. It was also determined that the modifications proposed by the landowner would further effect a commercial operation and could potentially affect additional residential properties. For these reasons, Manitoba Hydro rejected the landowners proposed modifications.

During Round 2, the landowner provided another alternative alignment for the route of specific concern, which was the Preferred Route. The alternative provided by the landowner adjusted the Preferred Route to the opposite side of an adjacent waterbody and off of their property.

The following steps were undertaken by the Project team;

- An assessment of the proposed route alignment modification showed that it made use of Manitoba Hydro property; however, the location of the water body (large creek) crossing would potentially require the involvement of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Transport Canada. The proposed alignment traversed along and across the water body and would require the removal of a considerable extent of riparian vegetation that may result in erosion of unstable soils. The proposed alignment would also affect a commercial operation not currently in operation whose owner had not been notified directly of the proposed Project. For these reasons, Manitoba Hydro rejected the landowners proposed modifications.

The landowner reiterated their primary concern that the Preferred Route crossed three of their four properties, which severely affected potential subdivision options and waterfront values. The landowner proposed a new Alternative Route that intersected only one of their properties.

The following steps were undertaken by the Project team;

- An assessment identified the proposed alternative as a viable option. Manitoba Hydro realigned Line PQ95 to maintain the integrity of the landowner's development options and their waterfront values. The location of the final Preferred Route was acceptable to the landowner, as well as another landowner affected by the routing revision.

The specific route of concern was the same for both landowners and was realigned to address their concerns, where feasible. Map 2 provides the Preferred Route and the realignment of Line PQ95, which forms the Final Preferred Route.

5.2 Responses Resulting from the Round 1 Alternative Route Feedback Process

Questions, concerns or suggestions expressed during community and stakeholder meetings, key person interviews or public Open Houses are summarized in Section 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 respectively. Complete documentation of the meeting and interview queries and responses are provided in Appendix B, while summaries of the public Open houses are provided in Appendix C. Table 5-1 provides a summary of the key issues or requests resulting from Round 1 of the Public Engagement Program, exclusive of those discussed in Section 5.1, and the responses or actions taken by Manitoba Hydro to address the issues.

Table 5-1 Responses Resulting from the Round 1 Alternative Route Feedback Process

Issue/Desire	Response/Action Plan
Requests to keep the transmission line closer to PR #304	The Alternative Route evaluation process combined components of Alternative Routes A, B and C resulting in a Preferred Route that was closer to PR #304
Concerns regarding the effects of the transmission line on hunting, in particular related to moose.	Manitoba Hydro will incorporate buffers along the transmission line to reduce the line of sight. In locating the route closer to PR #304, new corridors further out in the forest were avoided, which minimized hunting opportunities extending further into the forest environment.
Concerns regarding the use of herbicides in transmission line maintenance activities	Manitoba Hydro committed to work with local communities in developing a "Vegetation Management Protocol" for the region.
Concern about an Alternative Route crossing a river in close proximity to a community trapping cabin	The Preferred Route was selected closer to PR #304, which moved the transmission line approximately 2 km from the cabin.
Concern about the transmission line effect on trapping	Manitoba Hydro will meet with the trappers that are active on the Community Traps and the Registered trapper affected by the Project for application of the Manitoba Hydro "Trapper Notification/Compensation Policy".
Many local communities and individuals expressed interest in the employment opportunities that the Project could provide	Manitoba Hydro will meet with the community leadership to discuss the community's capacities to participate in the Project. Manitoba Hydro will deliver presentations in the local schools to discuss the educational requirements for the various types of careers within Manitoba Hydro and explain the Manitoba Hydro training programs in place that may lead to employment opportunities.

5.3 Responses Resulting from the Round 2 Preferred Route Feedback Process

Questions, concerns or suggestions expressed during community and stakeholder meetings, key person interviews or public Open Houses are summarized in Section 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 respectively. Complete documentation of the meeting and interview queries and responses is provided in Appendix B, while summaries of the public Open Houses are provided in Appendix C. Table 5-2 provides a summary of the key issues or requests resulting from Round 2 of the Public Engagement Program, exclusive of those discussed in Section 5.1, and the responses or actions taken by Manitoba Hydro to address the issues.

Table 5-2 Responses Resulting from the Round 2 Preferred Route Feedback Process

Issue/Desire	Response/Action Plan
Concern that additional interviews, as identified, were not conducted	Manitoba Hydro representatives invited people identified on the list to additional ATK workshop established to document their input. A subsequent elders meeting was conducted, in Ojibwe, which served to address the concern.
Desire for the transmission line to carry fiber optic lines for community use	Manitoba Hydro will assess their need for a fibre optic line to serve their Project needs and initiate discussions with the community leadership(s) on the potential to extend the service into the communities.
Desire by local communities and individuals to secure employment opportunities	Manitoba Hydro has commenced discussions with First Nation leadership regarding potential mechanisms that could be used for participation in clearing and/or construction contracts. Manitoba Hydro will include a clause in any clearing and/or construction contract stipulating a local hiring requirement.
Request for school presentations regarding training and employment opportunities	Manitoba Hydro will deliver presentations in the local schools to discuss the educational requirements for the various types of careers within Manitoba Hydro and explain the Manitoba Hydro training programs in place that may lead to employment opportunities.
Requests for community presentations on the results of the Environmental Assessment Reports	Manitoba Hydro will prepare printed copies of the Environmental Assessment Report for the communities in the Project area. Manitoba Hydro will present the results of the Environmental Assessment Report to communities that request a presentation.
Request from Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, for Manitoba Hydro to participate in a jointly funded Wildlife Monitoring Project within the Project Study Area and other locations within the Lake Winnipeg East area.	Manitoba Hydro will work with MCWS, Eastern Region to finalize a draft Wildlife Monitoring Project and seek budgetary approval.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

Two private landowners identified concerns, in the Powerview-Pine Falls Community area, regarding the proposed location of Line PQ95. Feedback provided to Manitoba Hydro, by the landowners, resulted in the realignment of Line PQ95. The location of the Final Preferred Route was acceptable to both landowners.

Concerns identified in the provincial Crown Land portion of the Project area were addressed by Manitoba Hydro and resolved to the satisfaction of the participants. Participants were appreciative of the processes provided by the PEP, as well as Manitoba Hydro's resolution of their concerns. However, Sagkeeng First Nation declined to participate in Round 2 of the PEP and the Manitoba Métis Federation did not respond to any invitations to participate in the PEP.

Following the regulatory submission of the EA Report, Manitoba Hydro will provide printed copies of the Report to Black River and Hollow Water First Nations and schedule community presentations that explain the EA Report, as requested.

Prior to awarding contracts for the clearing and construction of Line PQ95, Manitoba Hydro shall have discussions with the local First Nation and Northern Affairs communities on processes that will allow interested individuals and contractors to secure employment opportunities in the Project. Discussions with the community leadership should also include the feasibility of the Project to provide ancillary services to the communities, such as fiber optic communication services.

Prior to commencing clearing operations for Line PQ95, Manitoba Hydro will meet with affected trappers for application of the Manitoba Hydro “Trapper Notification/Compensation Policy”.

Prior to implementing any new maintenance programs in the Project Study Area that may involve the use of herbicides, Manitoba Hydro will work with the local First Nation and Northern Affairs communities in developing a “Vegetation Management Protocol” that addresses the use of herbicides by Manitoba Hydro.

Manitoba Hydro will work with Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Eastern Region to review, revise and potentially approve the draft, proposed Wildlife Monitoring Project titled “*Natural and Anthropogenic Factors Influencing Wolf-Moose Interactions in Relation to Linear Corridor Developments*”.

As a result of the PEP, Manitoba Hydro has commenced the development of a school presentation program, in the Project Study Area, to discuss the educational requirements for career opportunities within Manitoba Hydro and to explain the Manitoba Hydro training programs that may lead to employment opportunities.

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Literature Cited

Dunster, J., K. Dunster. 1996. Dictionary of Natural Resource Management. ISBN 0-7748-0503-X. UBC Press. University of British Columbia. Vancouver, British Columbia.

Golder Associates Ltd. & Rawluk and Associates. 2012. Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project, Environmental Assessment Report. Prepared for Manitoba Hydro, Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department. Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Northern Lights Heritage Services Inc. 2012. Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project, Cultural Resources Technical Report. Prepared for Golder Associates Ltd. and Manitoba Hydro, Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department. Winnipeg, Manitoba.

7.2 Websites

Manitoba Hydro. 2012. "Site Selection and Environmental Assessment Process"
<http://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/bipoleIII/ssea.shtml> (2012/08/20).

8 GLOSSARY

Glossary terms appear in bold print in the report at their first occurrence.

Environmental Assessment – The actual technical assessment work that leads to the production of an environmental impact statement. The technical methodologies used must be scientifically sound, and explainable and defensible in a court of law. The scope of the assessment is typically outlined at the start of the project so that the project has some well-defined boundaries (Dunster & Dunster 1996).

Orthophoto – Images based on air photos, but which are true to scale and free of distortion. Orthophotos resemble air photos but, in fact, are maps (Dunster & Dunster 1996).

Project Footprint: The land and/or water surface area affected by a project. This includes direct physical coverage and direct effects. Consequently, a project footprint may be larger than its physical dimensions if off-site activities are involved.

Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) – The SSEA process is a phased approach, employing increasing levels of study area refinement leading to a balanced and comprehensive choice for a Preferred Route (Manitoba Hydro website 2012)