

Ouimet, Darrell (CON)

From: Flynn, Heather [CEAA] [Heather.Flynn@ceaa-acee.gc.ca]
Sent: January-28-13 9:30 AM
To: Ouimet, Darrell (CON)
Cc: Farmer, Kristina [CEAA]
Subject: 5444 (MC File 5624.00) Manitoba Hydro - Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project

Good morning,

This email is to confirm receipt of the Environment Act Proposal for the construction of the Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project by Manitoba Hydro (MC File 5624.00).

As you know, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) came into force in July 2012, focusing federal attention on those project proposals that have a greater potential for significant adverse environmental effects in areas of federal jurisdiction. The *Regulations Designating Physical Activities* identify the activities which, if carried out individually or in combination, would constitute a "designated project" that is subject to the requirements of CEAA 2012.

The proponent is responsible for confirming its federal regulatory responsibilities associated with its project. In your response to the proponent, please advise it to review the noted regulations (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2012-147/index.html>) and contact the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency if its proposal includes any activity described.

Thank you for your effort to ensure coordination and close communication between provincial and federal levels of government. If you require any further clarification on the requirements of CEAA 2012, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,
Heather

Ouimet, Darrell (CON)

From: Janusz, Lauren R (MWS)
Sent: February-26-13 5:11 PM
To: Ouimet, Darrell (CON)
Cc: Long, Jeff (MWS)
Subject: File 5624.00 Manitoba Hydro - Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project due Feb. 26, 2013

Hi Darrell,

Fisheries Branch has reviewed this proposal from Manitoba Hydro to construct 75 kms of new 115 kV transmission line from Powerview-Pine Falls to Manigotagan, a new 115-66kV transmission station (Manigotagan Corner Station-1.8 km from any surface water) and upgrade the Pine Falls Generating Station Switchyard. The preferred route follows as close as possible to PR 304 with 19 overhead line water crossings (10 natural watercourses and 9 manmade), including four watercourses which the consultant has identified as important fish habitat (O'Hanly, Black, Sandy and Manigotagan Rivers). Fish habitat, which includes both physical and chemical parameters, was selected as the valued environmental component.

The proponents appear to have identified all the associated risks with every activity related to the construction and operation of the transmission line. The process in determining the final route selection and proposed mitigation measures (including adhering to a number of provincial guidelines and DFO operational statements) should minimize any potential fisheries concerns.

There are a number of locations where the preferred route does not cross but comes close to waterbodies. The route is well within the 30 m and in some cases 15 m riparian area that we request be retained adjacent to 1st and 2nd order streams (15 m) and 3rd order and higher watercourses and lakes (Provincial Land Use Policies). In some situations this appears understandably to be due to physical limitations as well as an attempt to accommodate concerns expressed by stakeholders; in other situations the justification is not so apparent. We would hope that every effort has been made to minimize the need to infringe on riparian features even if erosion and sediment control measures will be incorporated as required.

While they have indicated complying with DFO's operational statements the crossing at O'Hanly appears to be at a bend in the river. The DFO statement on transmission lines recommends avoiding bends. Is there a reason why this crossing had to be placed at a bend?

The only monitoring suggested for aquatics is a *visual inspection of all riparian areas within the ROW and at water crossing locations along temporary access trails and roads for signs of erosion and sedimentation. Any disturbed site will be re-vegetated. If necessary, more aggressive erosion control methods such as erosion control blankets or other means will be used.*

While at least on paper, the potential project effects and what is required to minimize these effects have been addressed, this does not always translate to what happens on the ground during the construction phase. Monitoring of the riparian areas within the ROW, at temporary crossings and at those locations that infringe significantly on riparian areas is important in identifying and addressing issues. It would be ideal to check these areas during the spring runoff or significant precipitation events following construction. If no issues are identified then the need to re-visit areas could be eliminated or reduced. Also it would be good to see a summary of the temporary and transmission crossing inspections, where there were issues, how they were addressed, timeframe and follow up inspections. Ideally it would be best if regional fisheries staff were notified of an issue when it occurs.

In general, the EAL should identify, if possible, the key management plans and protection measures the proponent has identified in the EAP. They do indicate in one plan that vehicles are to be clean and inspected for seed. We would want

to ensure that any equipment that is to be used in or near water and is moved between watershed basins, is visually inspected and cleaned to minimize the potential to transfer foreign aquatic biota.

Please note under the section that lists all relevant federal and provincial legislation, guidelines, etc., under federal legislation Fishery (General) Regulations was listed. These regulations do not apply to Manitoba. They are relevant to those provinces/territories where there has been no delegation of the day to day administration of fisheries management. The Manitoba relevant legislation would be THE FISHERIES ACT (F90) and Fishing Licensing Regulation and under the Federal Fisheries Act, the Manitoba Fishery Regulations.

Laureen Janusz
Fisheries Science and Fish Culture Section
Fisheries Branch
Conservation and Water Stewardship
Phone: 204 945-7789
Cell: 204 793-1154
Email: Laureen.Janusz@gov.mb.ca

From: Steele, Tania (CON)

Sent: January-24-13 1:56 PM

To: Schindler, Dennis (MAFRI); Kaita, Adara (CON); Labossiere, Don (CON); Molod, Rommel (CON); Streich, Laurie (CON); Duncan, James (CON); Elliott, Jessica (CON); Dojack, John (CON); Gilbertson, Mike (CON); Missyabit, Ron (CON); Gurney, Sharon (MWS); Phipps, Graham (MWS); Janusz, Laureen R (MWS); Stibbard, James (MWS); Matthews, Rob (MWS); Reimer, Geoff P (MWS); +WPG574 - HRB (CHT); Cunningham, Neil (CON); Crone, Jim (IEM); Roberecki, Susan (HEALTH); Roberts, Tracy (HEALTH); +WPG969 - MIT Environmental Services Section (MIT); Armitt, Ernest (IEM); Lowdon, Keith (IEM); Shaler, Samantha (MLG); 'CEAAPrairieProjects@ceaa-acee.gc.ca'; Stonehouse, Perry (CON); 'EASouthPNR@ec.gc.ca'; Allum, Brad (MIT); Walker, Mitch (CON); Prosser, Cheryl (CON)

Cc: Ouimet, Darrell (CON)

Subject: Request for TAC Review/Comments - Manitoba Hydro - Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project - File: 5624.00 - Comment deadline: Feb. 26, 2013

Your review and comment would be appreciated for the attached Proposal submitted pursuant to *The Environment Act*:

http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eal/registries/5624lake_winnipeg/index.html

The contact person assigned to co-ordinate review and assessment of the Proposal is:

Darrell Ouimet

Telephone: 204-803-1389

E-Mail: darrell.ouimet@gov.mb.ca

Please indicate to the contact person if you are unable to review the proposal. A non-reply will be considered as indicating your department has reviewed the proposal and has no concerns.

Any comments you have on the Proposal should be emailed by February 26, 2013.

Replies to this email will automatically go to **Darrell Ouimet**.

****No hard copies will be provided****

Thank you.

Att.

Sent on behalf of:

Darrell Quinnet, B.Sc.
Environment Officer
Environmental Approvals
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
123 Main Street, Suite 160
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5
Tel. 204-803-1339
Fax. 204-945-5229
Darrell.Quinnet@ccm.mb.ca

From: Stibbard, James (MWS)
Sent: February-25-13 10:13 AM
To: Ouimet, Darrell (CON)
Subject: Re: 5624.00 Manitoba Hydro Lake Winnipeg East Transmission Line

Mr. Ouimet,

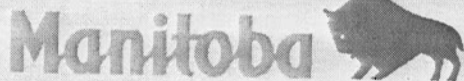
I reviewed the above noted EAP for any concerns respecting safety of public or semi-public water systems. The EAP made general mention that the project is not anticipated to have any significant impact on surface or groundwater resources, but gave no specific information on public water systems in the project area. There are several public water systems in the project area which use surface water (Lake Winnipeg or rivers into it) as water sources. ODW would recommend, at a minimum, that the names and contact information for these water systems be included in emergency response plans for spills into the water courses during construction or operation of the transmission line and its terminal facilities.

Beyond this, ODW cannot comment further on this EAP based upon the information provided.

I hope this is satisfactory, but if you have any questions, please call.

Regards,

James Stibbard P. Eng.
Approvals Engineer
Office of Drinking Water
1007 Century Street
Winnipeg MB R3H 0W4
phone: (204) 945-5949
fax: (204) 945-1365
email: James.Stibbard@gov.mb.ca
website: www.manitoba.ca/drinkingwater



Infrastructure and Transportation
Highway Planning and Design Branch
Environmental Services Section
1420 - 215 Garry St., Winnipeg, MB R3C 3P3
T (204) 819-4359 F (204) 945-0593

February 21, 2013

Tracey Braun, M. Sc.
Director, Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
123 Main St., Suite 160
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

RE: MB Hydro – Lake Winnipeg East Transmission Improvement Project
Client File No 5624.00

Dear Ms. Braun:

MIT has reviewed The Environment Act Proposal noted above and while we do not have concerns with the development as proposed, we would like to offer the following comments:

- A permit from MIT is required for any construction above or below ground level within 38.1 m (125 ft) from the edge of any Provincial Road (PR) right-of-way or 76.2 m (250 ft) from the edge of any Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) right-of-way.
- Agreements are also required for any proposed new installations within or crossing any PR or PTH right-of-way.

For more information on crossing agreements and permits, please contact:

Mr. Murray Chornoboy
Regional Planning Technologist
(204) 346-6287
Murray.Chornoboy@gov.mb.ca

Thank you very much for providing us the opportunity to review the proposal.

Sincerely,

Ryan Coulter, M. Sc., P. Eng.
Manager of Environmental Services

Ouimet, Darrell (CON)

From: Kroeger, Heidi (CON)
Sent: February-26-13 3:56 PM
To: Ouimet, Darrell (CON)
Cc: Lasuik, Jason (CON); Innes, Kris (CON)
Subject: TAC Review/Comments - Manitoba Hydro - Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project - File: 5624.00

Importance: High

Hello Darrel, 2 comments

Mitigation section 7.5.2 states:

- All spills and leaks will be reported to regulatory authorities in accordance with provincial requirements including regulations under the *Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act*.
- Any spills of hazardous substances will be cleaned up immediately and reported to the local Natural Resources Officer.

Comment:

After reporting any spill to the 24 hr Emergency Hotline at 1-204-944-4888 as per the regulatory requirements, it should be reported to an Environment Officer (not a NRO).

Comment on Wastewater:

Manitoba Hydro should seek written confirmation from an approved wastewater facility, that the facility is able to handle and accept the wastewater.

Note: Sullage pits are only suitable when there is no electrical service, or generators on site, to pressurize tap water.

Sincerely,

Heidi Kroeger, M.Sc. C.E.

Environment Officer
Conservation and Water Stewardship
Box 4000 Lac du Bonnet MB R0E 1A0
1-204-345-1490

Ouimet, Darrell (CON)

From: Kaita, Adara (CON) on behalf of +WPG1212 - Conservation_Circulars (CON)
Sent: February-27-13 8:37 AM
To: Ouimet, Darrell (CON)
Cc: Hebert, Joann (CON)
Subject: EA Proposal - Manitoba Hydro - Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project - File: 5624.00

The Sustainable Resource and Policy Management Branch has no concerns. The Lands Branch has no concerns, conditional upon the following:

Mitigation:

Construction:

- Maintain a 100 m buffer of standing vegetation between existing (open) right-of-ways and the new right-of-way.
- At those points where the new right-of-way crosses PR 304 and/or other existing right-of-way s, establish vegetation screening to obscure line of sight along both (existing and new) right-of-ways.
- Regional approval from the Eastern Integrated Resource Management Team (IRMT) is required for any work involving the creation of new access roads/trails, or improvements to existing roads/ trails.
- Any roads and/or trails which are created and/or improved for construction purposes must be decommissioned and rehabilitated at completion of the construction phase

Maintenance

- Minimize the creation of new access roads and/or trails for right-of-way maintenance (no new roads is preferred). IRMT approval is required for any new road/trail proposals and/or improvements to existing roads/trails.
- Investigative maintenance surveys should be conducted by air rather than on-ground.
- On-ground maintenance should occur in one pass in late fall/early winter when ground is frozen/snow is minimal (preferred), or alternately, in late March . Maintenance plans (including proposed method of access, equipment needs and timing) must be submitted annually to the IRMT for review and approval.

Monitoring:

- Manitoba Hydro must establish a program to monitor moose, wolf, deer and human use of new right-of-way and adjacent lands. The program should include pre-project monitoring , as well as monitoring during the construction and post construction phases. Moose and wolf monitoring should be accomplished via the use of GPS collars, and deer and human use through other means, in collaboration with wildlife staff. The post-construction phase should include research to assess use of the right-of-way under various mitigative scenarios: e.g. utilizing techniques designed to impede movements.

Other:

- Conservation and Water Stewardship is contemplating taking steps to prohibit moose hunting within 300 m of the new right-of-way. Such action will require prior consultations with First Nations and Aboriginal communities; as well as; revisions to a Director of Surveys Plan if a moose hunting closure is eventually implemented. We are asking that Manitoba Hydro commit to paying the costs of the revised Director of Surveys Plan.
- It is our understanding that the First Nations will have consultation as initiated through Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Consultation Unit as part of the EA process.

Memorandum

Date: February 8, 2012

To: Darrell Ouimet

Climate Change and Environmental
Protection Division
Environmental Approvals Branch
123 Main Street, Suite 160
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5

From: Kevin Jacobs

Water Quality Management Section
Manitoba Conservation and Water
Stewardship
123 Main Street, Suite 160
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5

<http://www.gov.mb.ca>

Subject: MANITOBA HYDRO - LAKE
WINNIPEG EAST SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENT
TRANSMISSION PROJECT -
FILE: 5624.00

Telephone: 204-945-4304

Facsimile: 204-948-2357

E-Mail: Kevin.Jacobs@gov.mb.ca

Hello Darrell,

Please find below comments regarding Manitoba Hydro's proposed east side transmission project on behalf of the Water Quality Management Section of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship.

The mitigation measures identified in the proposal and supplementary documents should provide a reasonable level of protection to water quality in the vicinity of the project.

As identified in the proposal potential impacts from construction activities could include damage to the riparian areas, release of sediment or other contaminants into water bodies, and potential effects from spills of petroleum hydrocarbons. Effects during maintenance operations could include accidental herbicide release into water bodies.

Should vegetation control be required, we recommend manual grubbing in areas adjacent to water crossings instead of chemical application.

We also recommend utilizing to the extent practicable existing infrastructure in the area such as forestry roads, and existing water crossings instead of clearing new right of way.

Pursuant to the proposal the practice of maintaining machine free zones adjacent to water crossings is encouraged. As eluted to in the proposal reference to these zones can be found in the Forest Management Guidelines for Riparian Management Areas developed by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship. Should riparian areas be disturbed they should be immediately stabilized with biodegradable erosion control materials and then re-vegetated using a seed mix native to the area.

Standard conditions such as fueling equipment a minimum of 100 metres distance from water, and prevention of uncured concrete or washwater from entering water courses are recommended as license conditions.

It is not known if blast rock will be required for construction of the proposed transmission lines. Should blast rock be required the proponent should ensure that any rock utilized for the proposed road is of a quality such that it is not acid or alkali generating. The proponent will also have to ensure that if ammonium based explosives are used, residual ammonia from blasting operations does not leach into surface water.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above telephone number.

Kevin Jacobs
Water Quality Management Section



DATE: March 1, 2013

TO: Darrell Ouimet
Environmental Approvals
Manitoba Conservation and Water
Stewardship
1218 – 123 Main Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5

FROM: James Duncan
Director
Wildlife Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Water
Stewardship
Box 24, 200 Saulteaux Crescent
Winnipeg MB R3J 3W3

PHONE NO.: (204) 945-7465

SUBJECT: Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project (File #5624.00)

Wildlife Branch has reviewed Environmental Impact Statement for the "Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project (LWESI)" (File #5433). Wildlife Branch appreciates involvement in the early planning portion of this project, especially in providing input to routing options. Wildlife Branch does not anticipate any significant impacts to woodland caribou or any other rare and endangered species as a result of this project. However, due to conservation concerns for low moose populations in eastern Manitoba, the Wildlife Branch has considered the contents of this report and formed the following specific comments:

- Game Hunting Area (GHA) 26 is currently being managed under a partial moose hunting conservation closure. This closure is in place because of a recent precipitous decline in this moose population and suspends hunting for all First Nations, Métis and licensed hunters.
- The LWESI Wildlife Technical Report, scientific literature, and previous Wildlife Branch experience suggests that the development of the Final Preferred Route (FPR) or any of the Alternate Routes (AR) will create human access, disease transmission, and wolf predation challenges for the management of moose in GHA 26.
- Habitat fragmentation, disease transmission from whitetail deer, and the development of new access routes into previously inaccessible regions are considered to contribute to recent declines in the moose population in GHA 26.
- Over the last three years, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship has applied considerable effort to remove unnecessary human access points, lower the population of whitetail deer, and encourage the trapping of wolves for the benefit of moose in GHA 26. These efforts have been done in cooperation with First Nations and stakeholders in the region.
- In reviewing this application, the Wildlife Branch considered all available information relevant to moose management in eastern Manitoba, including habitat quality, habitat fragmentation, historical fragmentation, disease transmission, historical and current moose population densities, predation levels, local knowledge, and past effectiveness of access mitigation efforts.
- After considering all available wildlife information, the Wildlife Branch notes that moose management concerns will be reduced by adopting the FPR. However, impacts to moose will need to be mitigated.
- The proponent is expected to collaborate with Wildlife Branch staff to fund and implement mitigation efforts. These efforts shall include, but will not be limited to the following:
 - Minimizing line of sight:
 - Vegetation screens must be maintained at all points where the corridor bisects an existing roadway (e.g. PR 304) or access trail, to limit the ability of humans to observe wildlife along the corridor.

- Minimizing human access points:
 - Construction phase: All new access roads and/or trails proposed to develop the project will require Integrated Resource Management Team (IRMT) review and approval. New access roads and trails should be kept to the minimum extent possible, and any new roads/trails created must be fully decommissioned and removed upon completion of the construction phase of the project, according to direction provided by the IRMT. This may include road ripping, trenching, and spreading of woody debris and/or the placement of berms, boulders or other physical obstructions.
 - Operations and Maintenance Phase: IRMT approval will be required for any new roads/trails, and/or any improvements to existing roads/trails which may be proposed to facilitate maintenance of the new right of way.
- Vegetation management
 - To the best extent possible, the vegetation understory should be allowed to grow in a manner that minimizes line of sight along the right of way.
- Hydro Line Maintenance:
 - Investigative/reconnaissance surveys should be conducted using aircraft rather than by on-ground means.
 - When on-ground maintenance work is required, it should occur in one pass in late fall/early winter when the ground is frozen and snow cover is minimal (preferred), or alternately, in late March.
 - Maintenance plans (including proposed method of access, equipment needs, planned works and timing/schedule for works) shall be submitted annually to the IRMT for review and approval.
- The proponent is expected to collaborate with Wildlife Branch staff to fund and implement wildlife mitigation monitoring in the affected area (GHA 26). This shall include a pre and post moose monitoring component area that employs various techniques, including the placement of GPS collars on moose and wolf, to evaluate moose, wolf, human and white-tailed deer use of, response to, and movements associated with, the new right of way. The results of this monitoring will need to be provided to the Wildlife Branch.
- Conservation and Water Stewardship will be consulting with First Nations on a proposed expansion of the GHA 26 Moose Protection Zone to include the new transmission line right of way. Any revisions to the Moose Protection Zone will require that the corresponding Director of Survey Plan be revised. We are requesting that the proponent pay the costs associated with revising the Plan.

Please contact Jonathan Wiens, Habitat and Mitigation Specialist at (204) 945-7764 if you have any further questions.

Thank you.



James Duncan