
2015 12 14

Tom Nevakshonoff
Minister
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
330 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Kelvin Shepherd
President & CEO
Manitoba Hydro
360 Portage Ave (22)
Winnipeg MB R3C 0G8

Dear Sirs:

As co-chairs of the steering committee we are pleased to provide you with the Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment for Hydro Developments on the Churchill, Burntwood and Nelson River Systems: Phase II Report. This report was prepared cooperatively between Manitoba Hydro and the Manitoba Government in accordance with the requirements of the Terms of Reference for the second phase of the Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment (RCEA). It will fulfill the Clean Environment Commission's (CEC) non-licensing recommendation 13.2 of the Bipole III Transmission Project Report on Public Hearing (June, 2013), which states:

“Manitoba Hydro, in cooperation with the Manitoba Government, conduct a Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment for all Manitoba Hydro projects and associated infrastructure in the Nelson River sub-watershed; and that this be undertaken prior to the licensing of any additional projects in the Nelson River sub-watershed after the Bipole III Project.”

As the Phase II report is extensive, with five volumes and over 6,000 pages, we will also be producing a plain language summary report expected early in 2016.

Although the Phase II report fulfils the CEC recommendation, Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro are committed to the RCEA public outreach process to be conducted by the CEC in 2016. As directed in the CEC Terms of Reference for public outreach, communities affected by hydroelectric development in the region of interest will be invited to offer input on the RCEA,

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including its accuracy in presenting past and current effects and community perspectives and

concerns, and to identify any additional information relevant to the assessment.

If you require any further information on the RCEA we would be pleased to assist you.

Yours sincerely,

“original signed by”

Shelley Matkowski
Department Manager
Environmental Licensing & Protection
Manitoba Hydro

“original signed by”

Tracey Braun
Director
Environmental Approvals Branch
MB Conservation & Water Stewardship