

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Hydro
PROPOSAL NAME: The Riel Reliability Improvement Initiative
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 3
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transmission
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5385.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was dated January 26, 2009 and received on January 27, 2009. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal and supporting Environmental Impact Statement has been filed by Manitoba Hydro to obtain environmental authority to construct and operate the Riel Reliability Improvement Initiative Project (Riel Sectionalization). In order to improve the reliability of the existing transmission system, Manitoba Hydro is proposing to sectionalize the existing 500 kV international transmission line on a parcel of land owned by Manitoba Hydro known as the “Riel Site.” The Riel Site is located in the R.M. of Springfield, east of the Red River Floodway, west of Provincial Road 207 and north of the City of Winnipeg’s Deacon water supply reservoir in the eastern half of Section 26, Township 10, Range 4 EPM. The existing 500 kV international transmission line originates at Dorsey Station, runs north and east of Winnipeg and terminates at Forbes Station, in Minnesota.

The 500 kV line is used for power export to the United States and also to maintain Hydro’s current import capability. Maintaining import capability is critically important to supplying electricity to Manitoba during prolonged periods of drought, prolonged outages at Dorsey Station and/or critical transmission lines and managing emergency situations on the transmission system. Sectionalization of the existing 500 kV transmission line at the Riel Site will provide a contingency for a broader range of outages within Manitoba’s upstream electrical grid by establishing an alternative terminal station which is well separated from the existing Dorsey Station.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Winnipeg Free Press on Saturday, January 31, 2009. It was placed in the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Millennium Public Library and R.M. of Springfield Municipal Office and was posted on the EA&AB website. It was distributed to the "Transportation" TAC members for comment. All comments were requested by March 4, 2009.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No comments were received from the public in response to the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Historic Resources No concerns

Mines Branch No concerns

Transportation and Government Services Note the following:

- MIT requires permits under The Highways and Transportation Act for any proposed driveway accesses or modifications or installation of any structures within the control area adjacent to Provincial Road 207 (within 125' of the edge of highway right-of-way).
- Permits are required from the Highway Traffic Board (under The Highways Protection Act) for the proposed railway crossing of Provincial Trunk Highway 15 and 101 control areas (within 250' of the edge of highway right-of-way).
- Plans for drainage of the transmission station property should be forwarded to MIT for review in order to ensure that there will not impacts to the PR 207 drainage system.

Disposition: This information will be forwarded to the proponent for direct follow-up with MIT.

Intergovernmental Affairs No land use or development concerns

Conservation

Sustainable Resource Management Branch No concerns.

Environmental Services No concerns

Winnipeg District No concerns

Water Stewardship Comments as follows:

- *The Water Rights Act* indicates that no person shall control water or construct, establish or maintain any “water control works” unless he or she holds a valid licence to do so. “Water control works” are defined as any dyke, dam, surface or subsurface drain, drainage, improved natural waterway, canal, tunnel, bridge, culvert borehole or contrivance for carrying or conducting water, that temporarily or permanently alters or may alter the flow or level of water, including but not limited to water in a water

body, by any means, including drainage, OR changes or may change the location or direction of flow of water, including but not limited to water in a water body, by any means, including drainage. If a proposal advocates any of the aforementioned activities, an application for a Water Rights Licence to Construct Water Control Works is required. Application forms are available from any office of Manitoba Water Stewardship.

- Any construction activities, erosion and sediment control measures should be implemented until all of the sites have stabilized.
- A potential hazard identified for the water quality of downstream watercourses would be a large volume, large flow oil spill and fire of electrical equipment. While it is recognized that concrete containment vessels will be constructed under each of the largest autotransformers, an Emergency Response Plan for the facility should consider the capacity of the oil water separator and possible mitigation in the unlikely event of a transformer fire and fire suppression event using the full 200,000 gallons (900,000 litres) of reserve water.
- Concerning monitoring:
 - It is recommended that the Environmental Protection and Monitoring Plan identified in section 11.2 Page 128 include periodic monitoring (during the open water season) of discharge water from the oil water separator for BTEX.
- Concerning stream crossings and drainage activities during construction:
 - There must be no net increase in nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) to waterways as a result of drainage activities.
 - Removal of vegetation and soil should be kept to a minimum during the construction and the placement of culverts.
 - Erosion control methodologies should be used according to the Manitoba Stream Crossing Guidelines for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat.
 - The proponent should re-vegetate exposed areas along drainage channels.
 - Surface drainage should be constructed as shallow depressions and removal of vegetation and soil should be minimized during construction.
 - A strip of vegetation 1 to 3 metres wide should be maintained along surface drainage channels as buffers. These will reduce erosion of channels and aid in nutrient removal.

Disposition: Comments can be included as conditions of licensing.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CCEA) Application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act will not be required. Health Canada, and Transport Canada offered to provide specialist advice on the project, if requested. Fisheries and Oceans Canada provided a Letter of Advice acknowledging that the project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish and fish habitat after taking into account implementation of mitigation measures.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing is not recommended for this project on the basis that no comments or concerns were received in response to the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

The comments received from the technical review of the Proposal can be accommodated as conditions of licencing. It is recommended that the project be licenced pursuant to the Environment Act in accordance with the terms and conditions described in the attached draft Environment Act Licence.

Bryan Blunt
Environmental Approvals
Environmental Land Use Approvals
March 17, 2009
Telephone: (204) 945-7085
Fax: (204) 945-5229
E-Mail Address: bryan.blunt@gov.mb.ca