

August 26, 2015

Client File No. 5433.00

Licence No. 3055

Ms. Tracey Braun
Director
Environmental Approvals
Manitoba Conservation
Suite 160, 123 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

Dear Ms. Braun:

RE: Bipole III Transmission Project (Licence 3055) – GHA 19A Ammendment

Manitoba Hydro requests amendment of *Environment Act* Licence 3055 Condition 49, regarding construction and maintenance of the Bipole III transmission line through Manitoba Game Hunting Area (GHA) 19A, as discussed during our meeting on August 10, 2015.

The proposed amendment reduces the maximum allowable tree height from 17m to 15m and introduces allowance for a contiguous access trail along the right-of-way.

Reducing the maximum allowable tree height to 15m allows the vegetation maintenance cycle to be set to a frequency that reflects normal operational conditions, and does not discernibly increase tree clearing volumes according to assessment of available tree height distribution information.

Introducing an access trail along the corridor facilitates safe, efficient travel between cleared tower locations. Specific wildlife mitigation features of the access trail include:

- Clearing widths will be limited to 24m wherever possible.
- Shear-blade clearing low-growth vegetation such as willows will be avoided where possible to promote its re-emergence.
- Between tower locations, the route will skirt along opposing edges of the right-of-way or will otherwise meander within the right-of-way limits to avoid introducing sightlines conducive to hunting or predatory conditions.
- Cleared portions will be allowed to re-vegetate after construction except where required to remain cleared for access or safety.
- Additional access and sightline barriers can be introduced within and especially near the outer extents of the 8 kilometer long section in question. Such features will be designed and installed in consultation and collaboration with regional Manitoba Conservation staff.

A travel route developed in this manner prevents extremely high costs, challenging logistics and dangers associated with helicopter-based construction and maintenance without discernibly affecting the key moose habitat protection value of GHA 19A, namely, limited access into the area and limited sightlines within the area.

We trust that the description of the need for this amendment and the associated construction and maintenance methodology are consistent with our presentation on August 10, 2015, and we hope the proposed strategy can be accepted in time for implementation during this winter's construction season.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification of our comments please do not hesitate to contact me at 204-360-4394.

Regards,

Original signed by Shannon Johnson

Shannon Johnson
Manager
Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department
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