

Appendix C Public Open House Notes

Manitoba Hydro

Title: Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project

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RECORD OF MEETING

Title:	Hollow Water First Nation Open House (Round 1)
Date of Meeting:	July 24, 2012
Time:	2-8pm
Location:	HWFN Band Hall
In Attendance:	James Matthewson, Trevor Barker – MB Hydro Brian Kotak & Vince Kuzdak – Engagement team 11 local visitors.

Item	Description	Action By
1	The scheduled HWFN Traditional Area Advisory Committee (TAAC) meeting has been postponed due to lack of attendees resulting from a local family matter. TAAC Chairman Rene Barker is to re-schedule ASAP. Rene was informed about the need to conduct an Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge workshop through the TAAC in the month of August.	R Barker to arrange for next TAAC meeting
2	One attendee was interested in how wide the corridor would be and what type of towers would be required.	
3	Employment and training was of high interest. One local logger expressed interest in clearing the RoW and was curious if the wood would be salvaged. A question was raised if MB Hydro would single source the work required to build the line. MB Hydro responded that MB Hydro typically tenders out these projects but emphasizes the need for local involvement concerning potential for training and employment opportunities.	
4	There were some concerns and opposition about the use of herbicides to control vegetation (natural foods and medicinal plant concerns).	
5	A member of the Waabanong Anishinaabe Interpretive Centre (at the English Brook Campground) was curious if power could be made available to the centre via the new sub-station?	Separate meeting arranged for WAIC Board
6	One visitor was concerned about loss of berry picking areas near the Manigotagan Station site.	
7	During the next open house it was suggested that the local radio station be used for advertising.	Engagement team to contact radio station
8	Visitors were interested to know if Chief and Council were aware of the project? MH reps indicated that C+C were provided a presentation on two occasions and being kept in the loop.	

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Several people asked if the project was related to Bipole III.

10

Several people commented that they appreciated seeing poster advertisements placed around the community.

Recorded By: Vince Kuzdak
Name of recorder

RECORD OF MEETING

Title: Sagkeeng First Nation Open House (Round 1)

Date of Meeting: July 26, 2012

Time: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Location: Sagkeeng Arena Complex

In Attendance: James Matthewson, Trevor Barker, Bob Monkman, Duane Hatley and Carmen Hebert – Manitoba Hydro
Vince Keenan and Brian Kotak – Engagement Team
Approximately 15 to 20 visitors (none after 4:00 PM)

Item	Description	Action By
1	Many attendees just stopped in to see what project was about while attending to other matters in the arena complex. No project related issues were identified.	
2	One attendee identified erosion along the Winnipeg River within the Sagkeeng First Nation Reserve as an issue.	
3	Representatives from the local radio station discussed advertising for the Open Houses. They were informed that we had not been able to contact the station by phone. We were given a tour, introduced to staff and given an advertising rate sheet.	V. Keenan returned on July 27 and left advertising copy to be used for the July 30 and Aug 1 Open Houses
4	One attendee, from Turtle Lodge, discussed the spiritual values of the area and the need to protect the “natural grid”. He supported soliciting traditional knowledge from elders and provided T. Barker with the names of some elders for follow up.	T. Barker to discuss approach with V. Kuzdak. Turtle Lodge may be a potential avenue to follow up with to develop an ATK process

Recorded By: V. Keenan
Name of recorder

RECORD OF MEETING

Title: Powerview-Pine Falls Open House (Round 1)

Date of Meeting: July 30, 2012

Time: 2-8pm

Location: Paper Town Motor Inn, Powerview

In Attendance: David Block, Trevor Barker – MB Hydro
Brian Kotak & Vince Keenan – Engagement team
20 local visitors.

Item	Description	Action By
1	2 individuals with logging equipment expressed interest in line clearing contracts	
2	One private land owner (husband and wife) expressed concern about one alternate route of the transmission line going across their private land along Pine Creek (south of Broadlands Road). They felt that the line would reduce their property value and do not want the line going across or near their property. They would prefer to see the line follow HWY 304. They took a map/comment sheet and indicated that they would be writing a formal letter to D. Block. They also indicated that the RM roll map was out of date. They have an updated map and will provide this to the Engagement Team.	
3	The owner of a campground expressed concern about the effects of the transmission line on his business. He indicated that he has been in discussion with The RM of Alexander and MB Hydro regarding plans to create a beach and a boat launch on Pine Creek, which he indicated would be impacted by the transmission line. He would prefer to see the line follow HWY 304. Note: the owner's plans for the beach and boat launch would involve Hydro lands along Pine Creek. His understanding of his property title, along the Winnipeg River, did not correspond with the property roll maps obtained from the RM of Alexander.	
4	One individual, who has a logging business along HWY 304 was not concerned about the alternate routes. However, he was concerned about the recent line clearing in front of his property along the current 66 kV line. He indicated that the contractor left stumps and tree limbs scattered on his property along HWY 304.	
5	Several attendees asked if the project was related to Bipole III.	
6	MB Hydro and the Engagement Team met with 2 representatives of Sagkeeng First Nation to determine the best approach for obtaining ATK from their community for the EIS. Sagkeeng indicated that they would develop an ATK proposal for MB Hydro review.	Block/Barker to follow up with Sagkeeng
7	One private land owner north of the Winnipeg River and along Hwy 304, did not have a problem with any of the proposed routes	

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Name of recorder

RECORD OF MEETING

Title: Manigotagan Open House (Round 1)

Date of Meeting: July 31, 2012

Time: 2-8pm

Location: Manigotagan Community Hall

In Attendance: David Block, Trevor Barker, Carmen Hebert – MB Hydro
Brian Kotak & Vince Keenan – Engagement team
2 local visitors.

Item	Description	Action By
1	One person expressed concerns about spraying of herbicides and how this could affect wildlife such as moose, as well as medicinal plants. This person also indicated that he would prefer that the new line stay as close to the highway as possible.	
2	One person pointed out the location of a historical plane crash site next to the Manigotagan River. Alternate routes B&C would cross very close to the site. It would be good for the new transmission line to avoid the crash site. The crash site is a locally important area (historical site) for the locals, and should not be disturbed. The same person also complained about trees growing over power lines in the region, and that Hydro needs to do a better job at keeping trees off the lines.	

Recorded By: Brian Kotak
Name of recorder

RECORD OF MEETING

Title: Black River First Nation Open House (Round 1)

Date of Meeting: August 8, 2012

Time: 2-8pm

Location: BRFN Band Office

In Attendance: Trevor Barker, Carmen Hebert – MB Hydro
Vince Keenan, Brian Kotak – Engagement team
Approx 35 visitors (10 of which signed the registration sheet)

Item	Description	Action By
1	A meeting of the Black River First Nation Traditional Area Advisory Committee (TAAC) occurred earlier in the day, before the open house.	
2	Several attendees expressed interest in work on the project with respect to clearing. There was concern that employment opportunities must be made available to community members, and that the rate of pay must be the same as to what Hydro pays contractors from Pine Falls. One attendee indicated that he would like to see the line cleared by hand (chainsaws, brush saws) to maximize employment. Given the clearing timeline, this may not be realistic.	
3	There was concern by one person about the effects of the line on wildlife. However, she was glad to see that the 3 alternate routes were relatively close to the highway. Her preference is for the line to be as close to the highway as possible.	
4	One person inquired about other employment opportunities within Manitoba Hydro. Carmen Hebert provided the individual with information.	
5	There was concern by one person about the use of herbicides along the line.	
6	There were several comments about power outages in the community and that the new transmission line would help to eliminate these. One person commented that the project will help provide reliable power to their proposed cottage subdivision.	

Recorded By: Brian Kotak
Name of recorder

RECORD OF MEETING

Title: Powerview-Pine Falls Open House (Round 2)

Date of Meeting: October 1, 2012

Time: 2-8pm

Location: Paper Town Motor Inn, Powerview

In Attendance: David Block, Carmen Hebert – MB Hydro
Brian Kotak & Vince Keenan – Engagement team
6 local visitors.

Item	Description	Action By
1	2 individuals were interested in whether the transmission line would cross the property boundary of the cemetery on Broadlands Road. It does not.	
2	The owners of a campground expressed continued concern about the effects of the transmission line on his business. They have built a beach and boat launch on Pine Creek, which they indicated would be effected by the transmission line. Several options were discussed with the owners to minimize the effects. The owners would like Hydro to investigate if it is possible to put the corner tower near the junction of the Winnipeg River and Pine Creek, closer to the Winnipeg River. This would keep the tower farther away from their beach/boat launch. David Block will meet with the owners and tour the campground and potential tower locations on October 5. The owners seemed pleased with the idea of a site visit.	D. Block to visit campground owners on Oct 5
3	A few attendees inquired about work, and left copies of their resume.	
4	One private land owner north of the Winnipeg River and along Hwy 304, did not have a problem with the preliminary proposed route.	

Recorded By: Brian Kotak
Name of recorder

RECORD OF MEETING

Title:	Hollow Water First Nation Open House (Round 2)
Date of Meeting:	October 4, 2012
Time:	2:00 – 8:00 pm
Location:	HWFN Band Office
In Attendance:	Approximately 15 local visitors (no names provided on the sign in sheet) Trevor Barker – Manitoba Hydro Brian Kotak & Vince Keenan – Engagement team

Item	Description	Action By
1	<p>The Open House was preceded by two meetings with the Hollow Water First Nation Councilors and the Traditional Area Advisory Committee (TAAC). Some Open House participants came in at the end of the TAAC meeting and further discussions resulted in the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Will there be local employment? Yes. The employment will be done through contactors, so it is important that you make sure that you talk to the main contactors in the region who may bid on the work. Most of the clearing work will be using machines, with only hand brushing done in sensitive areas (e.g., near water bodies).b) The community would like firewood. How can this be done? Very little of the area being cleared actually has merchantable size wood. However, in areas where larger trees exist, Hydro can make arrangements for this wood to be provided to communities.c) What environmental assessment is taking place? Technical assessment reports are being produced for forestry, vegetation, aquatics, wildlife, and heritage resources and socio-economic. These reports will be compiled into an Environmental Assessment Report. All the reports will be submitted to Manitoba Conservation for public comment, regulatory review and licensing.d) Can the technical and environmental assessment report be provided to the community? The documents will be available on the Manitoba Conservation and the Manitoba Hydro website.e) Can we get printed copies of the reports? Manitoba Hydro does not make printed copies of the reports because of the large size of the documents. Manitoba Hydro would probably provide copies of the reports if they received a formal request from Chief and Council	

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- f) If the community requests that the experts, who wrote the technical reports for the environmental assessment, come to the community to talk about their findings, would Hydro support this? There are too many experts to bring out to each community, but a Hydro staff person could give an overview of each technical report. Hydro would need a request from Chief and Council.
- g) What happens if the First Nation says no to the project? It is unlikely that the First Nations will say no to the project. Communities have been asking for more reliable power for many years. They do not like the blackouts and brownouts. During the first round of meetings with the communities, no one indicated that the project should not occur.
- 2 h) How come Hydro does not just use wind farms? Manitoba Hydro does buy some power from wind farms in the province, but Hydro does not own these installations. They are owned by private companies. Black River First Nation completed a study last year to determine if a wind farm could be developed on the shore of Lake Winnipeg near their community. Wind speeds were not consistent enough to make it viable. Manitoba Hydro has information on their website with respect to all forms of alternative power (solar, wind, etc.).
- i) One community member indicated that Hydro should meet with the Elders in the community, not just the TAAC. Manitoba Hydro indicated that they would meet with the Elders if requested by Chief and Council.
- j) A meeting participant requested the names of the participants that attended the two Hollow Water, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge workshops.

j) V. Keenan
to secure and
provide the
participant
list.
Completed
Oct 5, 2012

Recorded By: Vince Keenan
Name of recorder

RECORD OF MEETING

Title: Black River First Nation Open House (Round 2)
Date of Meeting: October 10, 2012
Time: 2-8 PM
Location: Black River First Nation Band Office
In Attendance: Trevor Barker, Carmen Hebert – Manitoba Hydro
Brian Kotak, Vince Keenan – Engagement Team
Approximately 15 people attended

Item	Description	Action By
1	There were several questions about employment and training. Hydro will work through Bertha Sayer and Rhonda Abraham to set up career presentations in the school and also to unemployed youth in the community.	Carmen Hebert to work with the community on career awareness
2	There were no concerns with the routing of the preferred route.	

Recorded By: Brian Kotak
Name of recorder

RECORD OF MEETING

Title: Community of Seymourville Open House (Round 2)

Date of Meeting: October 11, 2012

Time: 2:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: Seymourville Community Hall

In Attendance: Approximately 8 local visitors
Trevor Barker – Manitoba Hydro
Carmen Hebert – Manitoba Hydro
Vince Keenan – Engagement team

Item	Description	Action By
1	Many of the participants identified that power failures occurred frequently in the community and that more reliable service would be welcomed.	
2	Many of the participants asked about employment opportunities that may arise from the project. Manitoba Hydro representatives explained the project tendering process and that contractor would be advertising in the communities for qualified personnel and potentially for contractor sponsored training programs.	

Recorded By: Vince Keenan
Name of recorder