

January 14, 2014

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) – Licence Clause 21**

Pursuant to the Bipole III Transmission Project Licence #3055 licence clause #21 states, “The Licencee shall consult the Wildlife Branch and include in the plan required in Clause 18, regarding the design and implementation of mitigation measures and monitoring for impacts to birds of prey including the species at risk such as the peregrine falcon and ferruginous hawk.”

The following mitigation measures and monitoring activities were developed in consultation with Dr. James Duncan, Director, Wildlife Branch. Manitoba Hydro (MH) will implement these mitigation measures and monitoring for impacts to birds of prey and include these items in its report on Bipole III monitoring programs (licence clause #18).

**1. Species at Risk**

- Ferruginous Hawk
  - In Manitoba it primarily occurs outside the Bipole III area therefore are not of concern.
- Short-eared Owl
  - These ground nesting grassland and arctic owls will likely benefit from an increase in early succession habitats. Not a concern.
- Peregrine Falcons & Rough-legged Hawks
  - Breeding sites for these typical cliff or cut bank nesting raptors are not likely affected by Bipole III, but avoiding disturbing river cut bank areas with any active raptor nests (gyrfalcons, bald eagles and ferruginous hawks - not SAR but also known to use river cut banks to nest) during the breeding season (May to August) when possible, and reporting situations where disturbance is unavoidable, is deemed appropriate mitigation.
  - Peregrine Falcon collisions with hydro towers/wires is known to occur, especially for falcons in migration/dispersal. Monitoring along the entire Bipole III is neither practical nor feasible, but MH's past and current funding of Isabel Martinez-

Welgan's PTT-marked Peregrine Falcon Ph.D. will suffice as monitoring for this species as it will generate statistics to allow better estimates of impacts of such mortality to Peregrine populations.

- Mitigation of this mortality may include MH's continued support for captive breeding/release of a limited number of Peregrines annually, and/or the successful establishment of addition nesting sites through control-release breeding methods, to offset such losses, such as that currently occurring at Parkland Mews.

## **2. Raptors in general.**

- During construction and maintenance of Bipole III avoidance (during the breeding season (April/May to August) and retention of non-danger raptor trees (trees with stick nests and/or cavities or dead/decayed trees with DBH >30 cm), and a protective buffer of habitat around them, where possible and when safe, will be deemed sufficient mitigation. Reporting the location and type of nest trees encountered (retained and removed) would be appreciated and would demonstrate to a broader audience that MH is proactive in this regard.
- Incidental observations (date, location, documentation if any, and observer) by MH staff regarding mortality and/or nest use by raptors shall be provided to the Wildlife Branch and will be deemed sufficient as monitoring raptors.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification 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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Winnipeg, Manitoba  
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Attachments: 0

Cc: James Duncan, Director, Wildlife Branch