

**DATE:** November 6, 2012

**TO:** Elise Dagdick  
Environmental Approvals  
Manitoba Conservation and Water  
Stewardship  
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**FROM:** James Duncan  
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**PHONE NO.:** 945-7465

**SUBJECT: Bipole III Transmission Line Environmental Impact Statement (File 5433.00)**

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Wildlife Branch has reviewed the rerouting of the proposed transmission line with regard to the Bipole III Transmission Line Environmental Impact Statement (File 5433.00) and provides the comments below.

We understand that a change in the final preferred route, particularly one that falls outside the study area, will necessitate that supplemental information be provided by the proponent regarding the potential physical, biological and socio-economic environments effects of the proposed change. Our comments are subject to possible revisions and elaboration that may be required once we review the supplemental information.

Given the Moose Meadows revised route is in a moose conservation closure area it is especially critical that Hydro has contacted those affected communities to consider the impact on *Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by Aboriginal person* as outlined in the Bipole III Scoping documents.

Specific comments regarding Manitoba Hydro's proposed re-routing of the Bipole III transmission line.

1) Moose Meadows Revised Route

- With respect to moose management, Wildlife Branch still prefers that this portion of the proposed transmission line be routed parallel to PTH#10 (as per TAC letter dated March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012). However, Wildlife Branch does note that moose management concerns will be reduced by adopting this revised route through Game Hunting Area 14A.
- The new proposed route will reduce the development of new access sites and linear corridors through areas that are known to support high moose populations.
- The proponent is still expected to collaborate with regional wildlife staff to implement mitigation strategies to further minimize impacts to moose as part of the environmental protection plan (brush management, minimizing line-of-sight, line maintenance schedule, etc.).
- The proponent is also still expected to work with regional wildlife branch biologists to implement wildlife mitigation monitoring with respect to project effects on moose.

2) Game Hunting Areas 19/19A Revised Route

- Moose management concerns will be reduced by rerouting the proposed transmission line through this portion of Game Hunting Areas 19/19A.

- The new proposed route will minimize the development of new access sites and linear corridors through areas that are suspected to support high moose populations.
- The proponent is still expected to collaborate with regional wildlife biologists to implement mitigation strategies to further minimize impacts to moose as part of the environmental protection plan (brush management, minimizing line-of-sight, line maintenance schedule, etc.).

3) Wabowden Revised Route

- With respect to woodland caribou management, Wildlife Branch still prefers that this portion of the proposed transmission line be routed parallel to PTH#6 (from north of Wabowden to near the intersection with PTH#39).
- However, Wildlife Branch does note that woodland caribou management concerns will be reduced by adopting this revised route around Wabowden.
- The new proposed route will reduce the development of new access sites and linear corridors through areas known to support woodland caribou habitat.
- The proponent is still expected to collaborate with regional wildlife staff to implement mitigation strategies to further minimize impacts to caribou as part of the environmental protection plan (brush management, minimizing line-of-sight, line maintenance schedule, etc.).

Please contact Jonathan Wiens, Habitat and Mitigation Specialist at (204) 945-7764 if you have any further questions.

Thank you.



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James Duncan