

6.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

6.1 PURPOSE AND GOALS

The purpose of the Public Engagement Process (PEP) was to provide the public with meaningful opportunities to receive information on and provide their input into the route selection and environmental assessment processes. The goals and commitments made for the PEP to ensure participant involvement included:

- Opportunities for early involvement;
- Opportunities for ongoing involvement;
- Opportunities to provide input at various stages;
- Use of a variety of mechanisms to communicate, receive feedback and engage in ongoing meaningful dialogue; and
- Use of an adaptive approach to adjust the program in response to issues, concerns and challenges raised by participants.

6.2 METHODS

There were two Rounds of engagement conducted to gather feedback on the Project. Round 1 took place in May and June 2013. This Round provided Project information and solicited comments on the Project and input on values for the site selection process. Round 2 took place from August to October 2013. In Round 2, the feedback received during Round 1 was shared, the route selection process was explained and input on the Preferred Route and a potential route adjustment was sought.

6.2.1 Participants

A preliminary list of participants was developed prior to Round 1 of engagement. The project team identified Communities and stakeholders potentially affected by the Project. The team added additional stakeholders throughout the process.

Participants included:

- First Nation communities;
- The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF);
- Provincial Government regulators;
- Towns;
- Rural municipalities;
- Local government districts within the Project area;
- Local and provincial organizations;
- Non-government organizations;
- Other users groups deemed to have an interest in the Project area;
- Private land owners potentially affected by the Preferred Route; and
- Rights holders operating on Crown Land.

The engagement list identified for potential involvement is provided in Appendix D. Participants that attended the Round 1 & 2 Open Houses and voluntarily provided contact information were added to the distribution list for subsequent Project information that was distributed through the PEP (Appendix D).

6.2.2 Engagement Materials and Activities

The following materials were developed and activities were conducted as part of the PEP.

6.2.2.1 Project Web Page

A Project information web page (Manitoba Hydro website, 2013) was developed on the Manitoba Hydro website (www.hydro.mb.ca/pdbtransmission). The Project site was updated as the PEP progressed and provided links to the project description and schedule, the PEP, the environmental assessment process, telephone and email contact information for questions and concerns and a Document Library where engagement materials and route information could be viewed and downloaded.

6.2.2.2 Newsletters

Two newsletters were developed for use during Round 1 and 2 of the PEP (Appendix D).

The Round 1 newsletter included:

- Project description information;
- Site selection and environmental assessment process;
- PEP process;
- Project timelines; and
- Map of the General Project Area under evaluation.

The newsletter also solicited participation at the Round 1 Open Houses and provided Manitoba Hydro contact information and the Project web page address.

The Round 2 newsletter included:

- Project description information;
- Site selection and environmental assessment process;
- Summary of Round 1 comments or concerns and Manitoba Hydro responses;
- Map of the Preferred Route;
- Project timeline;
- Manitoba Hydro contact information; and
- Description of the next steps in confirming a Final Preferred Route.

6.2.2.3 Comment Sheets

Two comment sheets were developed for use in Round 1 and 2 of the PEP, as presented in Appendix D.

The Round 1 comment sheet was developed for use in conjunction with the General Project Area map during the Round 1 Public and Community Open Houses. Participants were requested to:

- Identify how they heard about the Open House;
- Identify concerns regarding the Project;
- Identify areas of concern or opportunity on the comment sheet and/or map; and
- Provide recommendations on minimizing potential Project effects.

The Round 2 comment sheet incorporated the Preferred Route map on one side. The opposite side requested input on:

- General comments;
- Concerns regarding the location of the Preferred Route; and
- Recommendations to minimize any potential effects.

Participants were also requested to identify any known sensitive sites and identify the sites on the attached map, if possible.

6.2.2.4 Presentations

A PowerPoint presentation was developed for use at the Round 1 introductory meetings held with town and community councils, First Nation communities, the MMF, community advisory committees and stakeholder groups. The introductory presentations provided the following information:

- The Project need and description;
- A description of the PEP;
- An outline of the site selection process;
- The proposed Project schedule; and
- The environmental assessment and Environment Act (Manitoba) licensing processes.

Round 2 PowerPoint presentations were developed and provided information on:

- The project need and description;
- The public engagement program;
- “What We Heard” during Round 1;
- The route selection process and resultant Preferred Route;
- The environmental assessment and regulatory licensing processes;
- The next steps in confirming a Preferred Route; and
- Environment Act (Manitoba) licensing and the proposed construction and Project schedule.

6.2.2.5 Project Area Maps

Five maps were developed for use in Round 1 and 2 of the PEP, as follows:

- A General Project Area map was developed to solicit feedback on site-specific values during Round 1. The extent of the map defined the Study Area, and displayed and defined the towns and communities, municipal administrative boundaries, provincial highways, provincial parks and forest boundaries and existing Manitoba Hydro generating and switching stations and transmission lines;
- A Geographic Information System (GIS) map was used during the Round 1 engagement processes to spatially capture values, areas of concern or polygons of opportunity identified by participants. The GIS map captures points, lines or polygons drawn on a spatially encoded map designed to digitally capture the feature that is drawn;
- A Preferred Route map was developed to solicit feedback during Round 2. The map presented the Preferred Route on the General Project Area base map;
- An orthophoto map series was developed for Round 2 to provide detailed locational data for use at the Round 2 Public Open Houses. The orthophoto map used an indexed key map, which referenced small-scale orthophoto map sheets along the Preferred Route; and
- A Potential Route Adjustment map was developed to solicit feedback on a potential route adjustment resulting from the feedback received during Round 2. The Preferred Route map was modified to present the Potential Route Adjustment in relation to the Preferred Route.

6.2.3 Engagement Process

The following engagement methods were used during Round 1 & 2 of the PEP.

6.2.3.1 Direct Mail

There were 7 direct mailings used to communicate Round 1 and 2 activities and solicit feedback, as follows:

- In Round 1, newsletters were distributed to post office boxes in the Lac du Bonnet, Pinawa, Pointe du Bois and Seven Sisters Falls areas. The Round 1 Newsletter included information on the scheduled Open Houses and Project contact information;
 - In Round 1, information letters were sent to 38 communities and stakeholders. The letters described the Project and invited participation to one of the scheduled Public Open Houses. A copy of the Round 1 newsletter was also included with the letter. The Round 1 information letter is provided in Appendix D;
 - In Round 2, a Public Open House invitation postcard was distributed to post office boxes in the Lac du Bonnet, Pinawa, Pointe du Bois, and Seven Sisters Falls. The postcard summarized the Project need and description and invited participation at one of the Public Open Houses to provide feedback regarding the Preferred Route or the Project;
 - In Round 2, information letters were sent to all 68 communities, stakeholders and interested participants identified at this point of the PEP. The letters advised that a Preferred Route had been selected and that Public Open Houses had been scheduled to provide information, respond to questions and seek feedback on the Preferred Route. A copy of the Round 2 newsletter was also included with the letter. The Round 2 information letter is provided in Appendix D;
 - In Round 2, letters were sent to 77 private landowners within 0.9 km (½ mile) of the Preferred Route. The letters described the Project and Environment Act (Manitoba) licensing process and informed them that the preferred route is traversing land within 0.9 km of the property they own or manage. The letter included a map of the Preferred Route and identified the Project website and contact information and requested any feedback to assist in the final placement of the transmission line. The Round 2 information letter to the private landowners adjacent to the Preferred Route is provided in Appendix D;
 - The Preferred Route traverses one private property owned jointly by two individuals. A letter was sent to the owners describing the Project and Environment Act (Manitoba) licensing process. The letter included the orthophoto map sheet of the Preferred Route on their property and identified the Project website. The letter informed the landowners that a Manitoba Hydro representative would contact them shortly by telephone to discuss the Project; and
 - Feedback received during Round 2 resulted in a potential route adjustment. There were 107 letters sent to Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship (MCWS) Branch
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representatives, community representatives, stakeholders and public Open House participants identified at this point of the PEP. The letters sought feedback on the potential route adjustment and included a map of the potential route adjustment in relation to the Preferred Route. The letter also identified that the project website contained mapping and GIS files for further use and review. Further questions or comments were directed to a Manitoba Hydro telephone number. The Round 2 potential route adjustment letter is provided in Appendix D.

Appendix D provides the distribution list for the Round 1, 2 and Potential Route Adjustment letters.

6.2.3.2 Key Person Interviews

In Round 1, there were 7 rights holders (trappers and outfitters), with defined geographic areas of operation in the Study Area, who were deemed to potentially have site-specific areas of concern or opportunity. There were 4 that requested interviews. Site-specific values (areas of high use, high sensitivity) and areas of concern (Trapper's Cabins) and/or opportunity (areas with limited access) were mapped for incorporation into the site selection process (Chapter 4).

6.2.3.3 Stakeholder Meetings

During Round 1 of the PEP, 7 introductory meetings and 3 telephone discussions were conducted with town/community administrations and stakeholder groups. During Round 2 of the PEP, Preferred Route meetings were conducted with 9 town/community administrations and stakeholder groups.

Table 6-1 outlines the public meetings conducted throughout the PEP.

Table 6-1: Community and Stakeholder Meetings

Engagement Period	Date	Community/Stakeholder
Round 1	May 22, 2013	Whiteshell Trappers Association
	May 28, 2013	Rural Municipality of Alexander
	May 28, 2013	Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet
	May 30, 2013	Manitoba Eco-Network (no attendees)
	June 5, 2013	Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association (invited regional wildlife associations)
	June 6, 2013	Whiteshell Outfitters (telephone discussion)
	June 11, 2013	Local Government District of Pinawa
	June 12, 2013	Rural Municipality of Whitemouth
	July 3, 2013	Eastman SnoPALS (telephone discussion)
	July 3, 2013	Lee River Snow Riders (telephone discussion)
Round 2	August 13, 2013	Local Government District of Pinawa
	August 14, 2013	Rural Municipality of Whitemouth
	August 15, 2013	Town of Lac du Bonnet
	August 16, 2013	Manitoba Eco-Network (no attendees)
	August 20, 2013	Rural Municipality of Alexander
	August 20, 2013	Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet
	August 25, 2013	Pointe du Bois Cottage Association
	August 26, 2013	Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association (invited regional wildlife associations)
	October 9, 2013	Whiteshell Trappers Association

6.2.3.4 Public Open Houses

Public Open House advertisements were placed in regional and provincial newspapers and posted throughout all communities, within and adjacent to the Study Area, prior to the Round 1 and 2 Public Open Houses. The posters were placed in areas of high public use such as community administrative offices, post offices, libraries, hotels, shopping centers and local stores and businesses.

There were two Rounds of Public Open Houses conducted, for a total of seven Public Open Houses (Table 6-2). Large and small-scale Project maps, orthophoto maps, newsletters and

comment sheets were available to facilitate discussion and solicit feedback. Manitoba Hydro representatives were present to explain the Project, answer questions and solicit input from interested groups or individuals. There were two additional Open Houses conducted in a First Nation community (Table 6-3). Presentation storyboards for the Round 1 & 2 Public Open Houses are provided in Appendix D.

Table 6-2: Public Open Houses

Engagement Period	Date	Location	Time
Round 1	June 18, 2013	Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba	3:00 PM to 8:00 PM
	June 19, 2013	Pointe du Bois Manitoba	3:00 PM to 8:00 PM
	June 20, 2013	Seven Sisters Falls, Manitoba	3:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Round 2	Aug. 24, 2013	Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba	Noon to 4:00 PM
	Aug. 27, 2013	Pointe du Bois Manitoba	3:00 PM to 7:00 PM
	Aug. 28, 2013	Seven Sisters Falls, Manitoba	3:00 PM to 7:00 PM
	Aug. 29, 2013	Seven Sisters Falls, Manitoba	3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

The purposes of the Public Open Houses were:

Round 1:

- To provide information on the project;
- To provide information on the site selection and environmental assessment process;
- To gather input to assist in the selection of a Preferred Route; and
- To provide an opportunity to discuss comments, provide answers and identify concerns.

Round 2

- To provide information on the project;
- To provide information on the site selection and environmental assessment process;
- To provide a summary of the feedback Manitoba Hydro received during Round 1;
- To gather feedback on the Preferred Route for input into the final route selection process; and
- To provide an opportunity to discuss comments, provide answers and identify concerns.

Table 6-2 lists the dates and locations of the Public Open Houses conducted throughout the PEP. There were two Open Houses conducted in Seven Sisters Falls, during Round 2.

Participants that voluntarily provided contact information on the sign in sheet were added to the distribution list to receive subsequent notification materials (Appendix D).

Project Information Telephone Line and Email

A Project information toll free telephone line (1-877-343-1631) and email address (LEAprojects@hydro.mb.ca) were available to participants as a way to solicit feedback from them and for Manitoba Hydro to reply to queries. The telephone number and email address were provided on the Project web site, newsletters, Open House newspaper advertisements and posters and in all direct mailings, as described in section 6.2.3.

There were 12 calls to the toll-free telephone line and 22 emails requesting further information related to the Project. Manitoba Hydro replied to all inquiries. Table 6-3 lists the inquiries in chronological order.

Table 6-3: Telephone and Email Inquiries

Engagement Period	Date	Source	Inquiry
Round 1	June 3	Email	Request to revise contact person
	June 13	Phone	Concern cottagers not available to attend Open House on weekdays
	June 14	Email	Concern cottagers not available to attend Open House on weekdays
	June 21	Email	Request for additional information
	June 25	Email	Request to remove de-energized Manitoba Hydro infrastructure outside of P1-P4 decommissioning
Round 2	August 8	Phone	Question regarding P1-P4 decommissioning
	August 14	Phone	Question regarding the use of underground transmission lines
	August 17	Email	Question regarding infrastructure outside of Project area
	August 19	Phone	Question regarding the portion of P1-P4 occupied by the Preferred Route
	August 19	Email	Request for additional information
	August 24	Email	Question regarding P1-P4 decommissioning
	August 25	Email	Question regarding specific location of the Preferred Route
	August 26	Phone	Question regarding the use of underground transmission lines

Table 6-3: Telephone and Email Inquiries

Engagement Period	Date	Source	Inquiry
	August 28	Phone	Question regarding P1-P4 decommissioning
	August 28	Email	Questions regarding P4-P4 decommissioning, municipal taxes and engagement of snowmobile associations
	August 30	Email	Follow-up information from a Trans Canada Trail representative
	September 9	Phone	Response regarding August 26 inquiry re: underground transmission lines
	September 10	Phone	Response from Planning District
	September 10	Phone	Wildlife Association support for Potential Route Adjustment
	September 10	Phone	Question regarding response period for Potential Route Adjustment
	September 19	Email	Question regarding Pointe du Bois town site
	September 29	Phone	Question regarding P1-P4 decommissioning
	August 18 to November 22	Emails, Letters and Phone	Communication between the Pinawa Game and Fish Association and Manitoba Hydro regarding a request to move the Preferred Route away from the associations shooting range and goose sanctuary (Section 6.3.4). The association's requested move was supported by a Resolution from the LGD of Pinawa.

6.2.4 Aboriginal Engagement

Manitoba Hydro provided opportunities for early and ongoing involvement regarding the proposed Project by sending letters to First Nation communities and the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) at the start of the project and then during each Round. The letters included Manitoba Hydro contact information and the Project website. In total, seven First Nation communities and the MMF were notified and invited to participate.

Manitoba Hydro provided a variety of mechanisms to communicate, receive feedback and engage in ongoing meaningful dialogue by holding community open houses and leadership meetings.

Manitoba Hydro used an adaptive approach by asking communities during meetings how their community would like to be engaged during the project instead of using one approach for all the communities.

Manitoba Hydro will offer to hold Environment Protection Plan (EnvPP) meetings with communities that have expressed an interest in receiving updates on the Project. At the EnvPP meetings, Manitoba Hydro will present what we have heard from the community and how we are planning to address what we have heard.

Communications, meetings and community Open Houses are summarized in the following tables. Feedback received through the Aboriginal engagement process has been summarized in section 6.3 with all the feedback received through the PEP.

6.2.4.1 Community Open Houses

Community Open Houses provided communities with an opportunity to access information and to provide feedback regarding the Project to Manitoba Hydro representatives and were held at various stages of the Project. This method of communication also provided an opportunity for direct discussions with community members.

A wide variety of information was provided at the Community Open Houses including Project storyboards, Project newsletters, localized mapping and comment sheets.

6.2.4.2 First Nation Leadership Meetings

Leadership meetings provided opportunities for early and ongoing involvement regarding the proposed Project and were held with interested communities to communicate Project activities, receive feedback, and discuss engagement plans and concerns.

Meetings began with a PowerPoint presentation (hard copy or on screen). Participants received printed copies of the presentation and a newsletter.

In total, fifteen meetings were held with two communities.

During a leadership meeting, Black River First Nation indicated that they thought that Pinaymootang First Nation and Lake St. Martin First Nation might have interest in the project. While these communities are outside the study area, Manitoba Hydro shared project information with both communities.

6.2.4.3 First Nation and MMF Engagement

Black River First Nation

Manitoba Hydro involved Black River First Nation early in the planning process for the Pointe du Bois Transmission Project. An initial meeting was held on May 28, 2013 (Table 6-4). Manitoba Hydro notified Black River First Nation by letter on June 13, 2013 to inform them of the Project. The initial package included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping. Manitoba Hydro sent a package for Round 2 on August 16, 2013 that included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping. Manitoba Hydro sent a letter to Black River First Nation on October 10, 2013 to inform the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate this.

Table 6-4: Black River First Nation Engagement

Date	Activity	Description
May 28, 2013	Meeting	Meeting with Black River First Nation Chief and Council to discuss the Pointe du Bois (PDB) Transmission Project
June 4, 2013	Meeting	Meeting with TAAC to provide an update on the Lake Winnipeg System Improvement Project and introduce the Pointe du Bois Transmission Project.
June 13, 2013	Letter	Round One letter from Manitoba Hydro to inform the community of the Project. The initial package included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping
June 25, 2013	Meeting	Black River First Nation TAAC Meeting
June 25, 2013	Community Open House	Community Open House for the Pointe du Bois Transmission Project.
August 16, 2013	Letter	Round 2 letter from Manitoba Hydro that included a newsletter, and available public mapping
September 30, 2013	Meeting	Meeting in Black River to update Chief, Council and the Elders on the progress of the PDB Transmission and LWESI Projects.
October 10, 2013	Letter	Letter to inform the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate the adjustment

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October 15, 2013	Meeting	Black River First Nation TAAC Meeting
October 15, 2013	Community Open House	Community Open House for the Pointe du Bois Transmission Project.
January 24, 2014	Letter	Letter from Manitoba Hydro including draft notes taken during previous meetings regarding the Pointe du Bois Transmission Project was sent to Black River First Nation for review by leadership

Manitoba Hydro met with Black River First Nation leadership and the Traditional Area Advisory Council (TAAC) during both rounds. Manitoba Hydro also held two community open houses in the community to share information on the project, answer questions and receive site specific information. An Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge workshop was planned for the community; however, at the community's request the workshop was not held. The community expressed concerns about the use of the consent form and there could be possible implications related to Treaty rights from participating in the workshop. Manitoba Hydro indicated that the consent form is intended to ensure that Manitoba Hydro will only use the information for the intended and agreed upon purposes. Manitoba Hydro indicated that the consent form does not indicate support for the Project. Manitoba Hydro plans to continue meeting with the community to present what we heard and how we are planning to address what we heard.

Brokenhead Ojibway Nation

Manitoba Hydro sent a letter to Brokenhead Ojibway Nation on June 13, 2013 to inform them of the Project (Table 6-5). The initial package included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping. Brokenhead Ojibway Nation indicated that the community would contact Manitoba Hydro if there was interest in meeting to discuss the Project. Manitoba Hydro spoke with a community representative on July 2, 2013 who indicated that they would call Manitoba Hydro if Chief and Council were interested in meeting to discuss the Project. Manitoba Hydro sent a package for Round 2 on August 16, 2013 that included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping. Manitoba Hydro sent a letter to Brokenhead Ojibway Nation on October 10, 2013 informing the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate the adjustment. The letter indicated that if the community would like to meet to discuss the potential route adjustment to please contact Manitoba Hydro by October 30, 2013. Manitoba Hydro did not receive a response from the community.

Table 6-5: Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Engagement

Date	Activity	Description
June 13, 2013	Letter	Round One letter from Manitoba Hydro to inform the community of the Project. The initial package included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping
August 16, 2013	Letter	Round 2 letter from Manitoba Hydro that included a newsletter, and available public mapping
October 10, 2013	Letter	Letter to inform the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate the adjustment

Hollow Water First Nation

Manitoba Hydro sent a letter to Hollow Water First Nation on June 13, 2013 to inform them of the Project and invited the community to contact Manitoba Hydro with any comments or questions regarding the proposed Project prior to the end of August 2013 (Table 6-6). The letter requested that if the community would like to meet to discuss the Project to please contact Manitoba Hydro directly. The initial package included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping. Manitoba Hydro sent a package for Round 2 on August 16, 2013 that included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping. The Round 2 letter invited the community to contact Manitoba Hydro with any comments or questions regarding the proposed Project prior to the end of September 2013. The letter requested that if the community would like to meet to discuss the Project to please contact Manitoba Hydro directly. A letter was sent to Hollow Water First Nation on October 10, 2013 informing the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate the adjustment. The letter indicated that if the community would like to meet to discuss the potential route adjustment to please contact Manitoba Hydro by October 30, 2013. Manitoba Hydro did not receive a response from the community.

Table 6-6: Hollow Water First Nation Engagement

Date	Activity	Description
June 13, 2013	Letter	Round One letter from Manitoba Hydro to inform the community of the Project. The initial package included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping
August 16, 2013	Letter	Round 2 letter from Manitoba Hydro that included a newsletter, and available public mapping
October 10, 2013	Letter	Letter to inform the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate the adjustment

Lake St. Martin First Nation

Manitoba Hydro sent a package to Lake St. Martin First Nation on August 16, 2013 during Round 2 that included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping (Table 6-7). The Round 2 letter invited the community to contact Manitoba Hydro with any comments or questions regarding the proposed Project prior to the end of September 2013. The letter requested that if the community would like to meet to discuss the Project to please contact Manitoba Hydro directly. A letter was sent to Lake St. Martin First Nation on October 10, 2013 to inform the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate the adjustment. The letter indicated that if the community would like to meet to discuss the potential route adjustment to please contact Manitoba Hydro by October 30, 2013. Manitoba Hydro did not receive a response from the community.

Table 6-7: Lake St. Martin First Nation Engagement

Date	Activity	Description
August 16, 2013	Letter	Letter from Manitoba Hydro that included a newsletter, and available public mapping
October 10, 2013	Letter	Letter to inform the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate the adjustment

Manitoba Métis Federation

Manitoba Hydro has involved the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) early in the planning process for the Pointe du Bois Transmission Project. On June 13, 2013, a letter was sent to the MMF requesting the opportunity to share information and discuss the Project. An initial meeting was held on August 21, 2013 to discuss providing the MMF an opportunity to provide input through a Traditional Land Use and Knowledge Study (TLUKS) for the Project.

Manitoba Hydro provided the MMF with updates at various stages of the planning process by sending letters and meeting on six occasions to discuss the MMF's engagement in the Project and the development of their TLUKS. The anticipated study would provide the MMF with the opportunity to communicate with their members about the Project through a project information session, a notice in a community paper and a post-interview meeting. The approach to the MMF's engagement in the Project is adaptive as Manitoba Hydro and the MMF are working together to develop a mutually agreeable work plan and budget for a TLUKS. The results of this type of study would help inform the Environmental Protection Plan for the Project. Manitoba Hydro will continue to engage with the MMF to share information and address potential concerns related to this project. Table 6-8 provides a summary of the engagement, which Manitoba Hydro has had with the MMF on the Project:

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Table 6-8: Manitoba Métis Federation Engagement

Date	Type of Engagement	Description
June 13, 2013	Letter	Round One letter from Manitoba Hydro to inform the community of the Project. The initial package included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping.
August 16, 2013	Letter	Letter from Manitoba Hydro that included a newsletter, and available public mapping.
August 21, 2013	Meeting	Meeting to discuss the MMF's engagement in the Pointe du Bois Transmission
September 12, 2013	Meeting	Meeting with the MMF to discuss community engagement.
October 2, 2013	Meeting	Follow-up meeting with the MMF to discuss their engagement in the Pointe du Bois Transmission Project.
October 10, 2013	Letter	Letter from Manitoba Hydro to inform the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate the adjustment.
October 15, 2013	Meeting	Meeting to discuss the MMF's engagement in the Pointe du Bois Transmission Project
October 18, 2013	Letter	Letter from Manitoba Hydro regarding the MMF's TLUKS proposal.
October 28, 2013	Letter	Letter from the MMF regarding the MMF's TLUKS proposal.
November 8, 2013	Meeting	Meeting to discuss the status of the MMF's Pointe du Bois Transmission Project
November 15, 2013	Letter	Letter from Manitoba Hydro regarding the MMF's TLUKS proposal.
January 13, 2014	Meeting	Meeting to discuss the MMF's engagement in the Pointe du Bois Transmission Project
February 28, 2014	Letter	Letter from Manitoba Hydro regarding the MMF's TLUKS proposal.

Peguis First Nation

Manitoba Hydro sent a letter to Peguis First Nation on June 13, 2013 to inform them of the Project (5 individuals were contacted as previously requested by the community) [Table 6-9]. The initial package included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping. Manitoba Hydro sent a package for Round 2 on August 16, 2013 that included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping. Manitoba Hydro sent a letter to Peguis First Nation on October 10, 2013 to inform the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate the adjustment. The letter indicated that if the community would like to meet to discuss the potential route adjustment to please contact Manitoba Hydro by October 30, 2013. Manitoba Hydro did not receive a response from the community.

Table 6-9: Peguis First Nation Engagement

Date	Activity	Description
June 13, 2013	Letter	Round One letter from Manitoba Hydro to inform the community of the Project. The initial package included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping
August 16, 2013	Letter	Round 2 letter from Manitoba Hydro that included a newsletter, and available public mapping
October 10, 2013	Letter	Letter to inform the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate the adjustment

Pinaymootang First Nation

Manitoba Hydro sent a package that included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping to Pinaymootang First Nation on August 16, 2013 as part of Round 2 (Table 6-10). The Round 2 letter invited the community to contact Manitoba Hydro with any comments or questions regarding the proposed Project prior to the end of September 2013. The letter also notified the community that should they want to meet to discuss the Project to please contact Manitoba Hydro directly. Manitoba Hydro sent a letter to Pinaymootang First Nation on October 10, 2013 informing the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate adjustment. The letter indicated that if the community would like to meet to discuss the potential route adjustment to please contact Manitoba Hydro by October 30, 2013. Manitoba Hydro did not receive a response from the community requesting a meeting.

Table 6-10: Pinaymootang First Nation Engagement

Date	Activity	Description
August 16, 2013	Letter	Letter from Manitoba Hydro that included a newsletter, and available public mapping
October 10, 2013	Letter	Letter to inform the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate the adjustment

Sagkeeng First Nation

Manitoba Hydro sent a letter to Sagkeeng First Nation on June 13, 2013 to inform them of the Project (Table 6-11). The initial package included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping. Manitoba Hydro sent a package for Round 2 on August 16, 2013 that included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping. Manitoba Hydro sent a letter to Sagkeeng First Nation on October 10, 2013 to inform the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate this potential adjustment. The letter indicated that if the community would like to meet to discuss the potential route adjustment to please contact Manitoba Hydro by October 30, 2013. Manitoba Hydro did not receive a response from the community.

Manitoba Hydro met with Sagkeeng First Nation on August 27, 2013, October 3, 2013, November 7, 2013 and December 3, 2013 to discuss their engagement in the Point du Bois Transmission Project.

Manitoba Hydro continues to meet with Sagkeeng First Nation to discuss the Project and endeavor to develop a mutually agreeable work plan and budget for conducting a Traditional Land Use and Knowledge Study to inform the Environmental Protection Plan for the Project.

Table 6-11: Sagkeeng First Nation Engagement

Date	Activity	Description
June 13, 2013	Letter	Round One letter from Manitoba Hydro to inform the community of the Project. The initial package included a newsletter, letter and available public mapping
August 16, 2013	Letter	Round 2 letter from Manitoba Hydro that included a newsletter, and available public mapping
August 27, 2013	Meeting	Meeting to discuss Sagkeeng First Nation's engagement in the project
October 3, 2013	Meeting	Meeting to discuss Sagkeeng First Nation's engagement in the project

Table 6-11: Sagkeeng First Nation Engagement

Date	Activity	Description
October 10, 2013	Letter	Letter to inform the community of a potential route adjustment and included a map to illustrate the adjustment
November 7, 2013	Meeting	Meeting to discuss Sagkeeng First Nation's engagement in the project
November 27, 2013	Conference call	Meeting to discuss Sagkeeng First Nation's engagement in the project
December 3, 2013	Meeting	Meeting to discuss Sagkeeng First Nation's engagement in the project

6.2.4.4 Next Steps

Upon submission of this report, Manitoba Hydro will notify the seven First Nations and the MMF by letter that the regulatory process has been initiated. The letter will include the Project information line and website that will continue to be updated with current information.

6.2.5 Manitoba Government Engagement

Manitoba met with MCWS, Eastern Region, Integrated Resource Management Team. A summary of these meetings is provided in Table 6-12.

Table 6-12: Manitoba Government Engagement

Engagement Period	Date	Meeting Description
Round 1	February 20, 2013	Introductory presentation and discussion of the proposed project
Round 1	June 17, 2013	Presentation on new routing methods and discussion on the methods and potential routing criteria.
Round 2	September 27, 2013	Presentation of preferred route and discussions on potential concerns with preferred route.

6.2.6 Public Engagement Input to Site Selection

The site selection process for the Project is described in Chapter 4. Factors identified during Round 1 of the PEP were incorporated into the site selection process.

6.3 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS FEEDBACK

The following section outlines the common concerns and feedback provided by public engagement process participants.

Table 6-13: Round 1 Feedback and Response

What We Heard	Response or Action Required
Access Management and Wildlife Protection	
Public access, except for rights holders, should be prohibited or managed to reduce the impact by people and the creation of travel corridors by wildlife predators (e.g., wolves).	Only Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship has the authority to restrict or prohibit public access on crown land.
A First Nation community indicated that there are sites that the community does not want people to access.	Manitoba Hydro will seek input on the Preferred Route through subsequent meetings with the community.
A rights holder asked if Manitoba Hydro imposed travel restrictions on transmission lines.	No. Only Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship has the authority to impose travel restrictions on crown land.
Protection of areas with moose needs to be a priority.	Wildlife and habitat factors were incorporated into the route selection process, minimizing potential impacts to moose.
Interest in the use of the Manitoba Hydro ROW for additional snowmobile trails was identified	
Agriculture	
The use of self-supporting towers was recommended for agricultural lands.	Self-supporting towers will be considered on agricultural land.
Construction, Maintenance & Decommissioning	
Many participants recommended the proposed transmission line should follow existing transmission lines, with most favoring use of the ROW planned for decommissioning.	The existing corridors were identified as favourable opportunities in the site selection process and ultimately a portion of P1-P4 was selected as part of the Preferred Route.
Recommendations were made to avoid Whiteshell Provincial Park, existing trail systems and high density residential and cottage areas, if possible.	These features were identified as sensitive areas in the site selection process and were taken into consideration.
Towers and transmission lines should be removed during decommissioning.	All towers, footings and conductors along the P1-P4 transmission lines will be removed during decommissioning, except for select towers. Some will

Table 6-13: Round 1 Feedback and Response

What We Heard	Response or Action Required
	be used temporarily for distribution and some located within water bodies will remain in place until permits can be secured. The remaining infrastructure will be marked for safety purposes.
A question was raised regarding processes followed if human remains are found.	Construction activities are stopped and authorities are contacted immediately.
Engagement	
Some communities felt they had not been consulted on past projects.	Manitoba Hydro representatives acknowledged the concerns regarding lack of consultation in the past and reiterated that a priority of Manitoba Hydro is to keep the community informed.
Some communities were concerned that their participation with Manitoba Hydro would be construed as consultation.	Manitoba Hydro indicated that, as the proponent, they are responsible for undertaking engagement for the Project while the Crown is responsible for any activities related to Crown Consultation.
There was concern that communities must be involved after the Environmental Assessment Report is submitted.	Manitoba Hydro plans to return to the communities that have expressed an interest in receiving updates to present what they heard and how they are planning to address any issues and concerns.
Public Input	
Many participants identified the use of alternative routes as a preferable process for seeking input.	The site selection process sought to identify all values in the study area in order to select the best possible option. Participants had the opportunity to provide input on the Preferred Route during Round 2.
Participants expressed concern that cottagers were not present to attend Open Houses during the week.	An Open House was held Saturday August 24, 2013 during Round 2. In addition, phone numbers, email addresses and the project website were provided in all engagement materials. The Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners was sent all materials to pass on to all associated Cottage Associations.
Recommendations were made to avoid trapper cabins and trail warming huts	
Registered trappers expressed interest in Manitoba Hydro's Trappers Compensation Policy	

Table 6-14: Round 2 Feedback and Response

What We Heard	Response or Action Required
Construction, Maintenance & Decommissioning	
A First Nation community expressed a desire for employment opportunities or joint ventures in clearing, decommissioning, construction and maintenance.	Manitoba Hydro recommended the community to develop a list of community equipment and companies and provided a Manitoba Hydro contact responsible for maintenance opportunities.
Recommendation made to only use self-supporting steel lattice towers for public safety reasons.	Self supporting steel lattice towers are used on cultivated land. Guyed structures are used in most other situations.
A participant expressed concern about the potential spread of noxious weeds from construction equipment.	Manitoba Hydro has developed a new Agricultural Biosecurity Corporate Policy, that addresses these types of concerns. The policy will apply to all Hydro activities.
Potential concerns were identified related to established infrastructure, public encroachment on private land and aesthetic viewsapes. Questions were posed regarding the potential to use underground transmission lines for aesthetic reasons.	Underground transmission lines are 10 to 15 times more expensive than above ground towers and therefore are only used in extreme circumstances.
A participant asked about weed control under towers on private land.	The landowner compensation policy is designed to reflect the long-term cost of maintenance under and around the towers.
Question on herbicide application methods.	Pesticides are typically applied using a variety of methods including, backpack or hose and handgun on a flex track machine targeting specific tree species.
Identification of soil and ground water conditions that may present potential construction issues were identified	
Preferred Route Questions & Concerns	
Concern identified regarding potential effect on a local associations established infrastructure	The concern was incorporated into the determination of the Final Preferred Route.

Table 6-14: Round 2 Feedback and Response

What We Heard	Response or Action Required
Concern identified regarding potential effect on the Pinawa Game and Fish Association established infrastructure (i.e., shooting range and a goose sanctuary).	The concern was incorporated into the Final Preferred Route selection process and a proposed alternative route was selected approximately 760 m east of the Preferred Route location near the shooting range and the goose sanctuary.
Concerns identified regarding the potential visibility of the transmission towers from private property.	The route selection process identified residences as “areas of least preference” and gave the highest protection to these.
Concern identified regarding potential ATV use and hunters crossing private property to access the proposed route.	The route selection process sought separation from private property, where possible, to reduce potential negative effects.
Questions were posed regarding the distance of the Preferred Route from specific points identified by stakeholders.	The requested distances were provided and no subsequent comments or concerns were identified.
Questions were posed regarding future expansion of the Pointe du Bois Generating Station and transmission projects out of the Whiteshell Station.	There are currently no proposed expansion projects for the Pointe du Bois Generating Station and system upgrades out of the Whiteshell Station have been completed.
Potential benefits were identified regarding new access, along the new Hydro ROW, that would be available to regional snowmobile associations for maintenance of the existing trail system.	
Project Costs and Hydro Rates	
A participant questioned the overall cost of the Project.	Manitoba Hydro representatives indicated that they were not aware of the cost; however, they could provide a response at a later date. The estimated cost was provided.
Trails	
Questions were posed regarding the scope and consideration of established trails in the route selection process.	Snowmobile and cross-country ski trails along with associated warming huts and the Trans Canada Trail were considered. The Snoman and Trans Canada Trail systems traverse the Project area and the transmission line will cross them at some point. The location of

Table 6-14: Round 2 Feedback and Response

What We Heard	Response or Action Required
	known, favoured viewscape sites were sought along these trail systems as part of the route selection process.
A local trails association representative identified proposed work in the area and expressed potential conflicts between their project and the right-of-way clearing activities.	Locational data for the work was obtained and determined to be over 300 meters away from the Preferred Route. No further concerns were expressed.
Wildlife	
Questions were posed regarding the potential effect of the electromagnetic field on nesting geese.	Manitoba Hydro indicated that there is no scientific evidence to show that EMF has a negative health affect. An electric and magnetic field profile for the Project was provided.
Questions were posed by a potentially affected Registered Trap Line holder regarding construction schedules and clearing requirements.	Construction schedules and clearing requirements were identified and the trapper expressed appreciation for the engagement process. More detailed information will be provided once available.
There were concerns expressed about the use of herbicides on the roadways and the potential impact on moose.	While Manitoba Hydro does not spray provincial roadways, they do exceed all regulatory requirements for application of herbicides related to their projects.

6.3.1 Recommendations and Follow-up Requirements

Participants of the PEP requested data, provided recommendations related to the Project or existing infrastructure and identified concerns or requests to Manitoba Hydro, some of which were not related to the Project.

The following recommendations and requests arose from the Round 1 & 2 engagement processes and require follow-up responses or actions, as specified in Table 6-10. Follow-up requirements will be completed during the construction phase of the Project have also been identified in Table 6-15.

Table 6-15: Round 1 & 2 Recommendations and Follow-up Requirements

Recommendation or Request	Response or Follow-up Required
Printed copy of Preferred Route orthophoto map series requested.	Completed. Digital copies were emailed and a printed copy mailed to participant.
R.M. of Whitemouth expressed concern regarding transmission line maintenance on rural and residential property.	Completed. Concern relayed to Lac du Bonnet, Systems Operations Department to follow up with the R.M. of Whitemouth.
Request to decommission a derelict tower, not related to planned decommissioning project, near Winnipeg River.	Completed. The tower has been added to the decommissioning project for P1-P2, to be completed by early 2014.
Recommendation to move the Preferred Route 805 meters east of the Pinawa Game and Fish shooting range and goose sanctuary on PR #211.	Completed. The Preferred Route was moved approximately 760 metres east of the original routing. From this new location, the Final Preferred Route is approximately 430 metres east of the goose sanctuary, and approximately 1050 metres from the entrance to the shooting range on PR #211.
Black River First Nation requested information on processes to be followed under Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act</i> and indicated a desire to maximize employment and business opportunities.	Completed. Manitoba Hydro provided the name of a contact person at Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs regarding consultation under Section 35 and provided the desire for Project contracts to the Manitoba Hydro Transmission Line and Civil Construction Department.
A First Nation community requested a list of training and equipment requirements for participation in Manitoba Hydro contracts and contact information for construction companies that have worked for Manitoba Hydro in the past.	Completed. Lists of training and equipment requirements and construction company contact information were provide to Sagkeeng First Nation.
Recommendation by a Trans Canada Trail representative to site towers as far away as possible from the intersection of their trail system and the Preferred Route, for aesthetic reasons.	Completed. The request was documented in the PEP Report and the trail intersect with the Final Preferred Route was identified as a Sensitive Site (Chapter 6) to minimize disturbance to the trail system.

Table 6-15: Round 1 & 2 Recommendations and Follow-up Requirements

Recommendation or Request	Response or Follow-up Required
Eastman SnoPal's requested a digital copy of the Final Preferred Route to assist in their trail management program.	GIS shape files and Google Earth KML files of the Preferred Route to be provided by T. Joyal (Manitoba Hydro), once finalized. Engagement team to provide contact information.
The Town of Lac du Bonnet inquired about the potential to move existing steel lattice towers, not included in the Project, outside of town limits.	Completed. Manitoba Hydro followed up with the Town of Lac du Bonnet Council.
The Manitoba Trappers Association requested a workshop be conducted for the open zone trapping area trappers.	D. Hatley (Manitoba Hydro) to follow up with the Manitoba Trappers Association.
Recommendation made to make firewood available, if commercial markets not available.	The Manitoba Hydro Transmission Line and Civil Construction Department to work with clearing contractor and/or Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship to utilize firewood, where feasible.
Soil stability on the south-west shore of the Winnipeg River, adjacent to Whitemouth Falls Provincial Park, was identified as a potential issue.	Manitoba Hydro to consider area for inclusion as a Sensitive Site (Section 6.4).
Identified Mud Lake, near west boundary of Whiteshell Provincial Park, as area of concern due to very deep (up to 35 meters) organic soils.	Manitoba Hydro to consider area for inclusion as a Sensitive Site (Section 6.4).
A First Nation community expressed interest in employment opportunities created through the Project.	Completed. The Manitoba Hydro Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department informed the Transmission Line and Civil Construction Department of the community's interests.
Interest expressed by local logging contractor in securing a clearing contract.	The Manitoba Hydro Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department to inform the Transmission Line and Civil Construction Department of the contractors interests. Engagement team to provide contact information.

6.3.2 Route Adjustment

During Round 2, a local stakeholder group requested an adjustment to the preferred route to avoid a sensitive area. The proposed adjustment was reviewed against other criteria and discussed with other stakeholders. The Final Preferred Route was sent to all identified stakeholders (Appendix D) for feedback. No additional concerns were raised with the final preferred route.

6.4 FUTURE FOLLOW-UP REQUIREMENTS

Manitoba Hydro will undertake the following activities as the regulatory review process continues (including the post-licencing period if a licence is granted for the Project).

Table 6-16: Future Follow-up Requirements

Recommendation or Request	Follow-up Requirement
The Manitoba Trappers Association requested a workshop be conducted for the open zone trapping area trappers.	Manitoba Hydro will continue discussions with the Manitoba Trappers Association.
Recommendation to make firewood available, if commercial markets not available.	The Transmission Line and Civil Construction Department to work with clearing contractor and/or Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship to utilize surplus timber for firewood, where feasible.
Recommendation by a Trans Canada Trail representative to site towers as far away as possible from the intersection of the Trans Canada Trail and the Final Preferred Route, for aesthetic reasons.	The Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department to inform the Transmission Line and Civil Construction Department of the Trans Canada Trail's request.
Eastman SnoPal's requested a digital copy of the Final Preferred Route to assist in their trail management program.	GIS shape files and Google Earth KML files of the Preferred Route to be provided by Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department (Manitoba Hydro), once finalized. Engagement team to provide contact information.
Soil stability on the south-west shore of the Winnipeg River, adjacent to Whitemouth Falls Provincial Park, was identified as a potential issue.	Manitoba Hydro will consider area for inclusion as a Sensitive Site (Chapter 6.4).
Identified Mud Lake, near west boundary of Whiteshell Provincial Park, as area of	Manitoba Hydro will consider area for inclusion as a

Table 6-16: Future Follow-up Requirements

Recommendation or Request	Follow-up Requirement
concern due to very deep (up to 35 meters) organic soils.	Sensitive Site (Chapter 6.4).
Interest expressed by local logging contractor in securing a clearing contract.	The Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department to inform the Transmission Line and Civil Construction Department of the contractors interests.