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February 25, 2013

Ms. Elise Dagdick
Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Suite 160, 123 Main St., Winnipeg, MB
R3C 1A5

Dear Ms. Dagdick:

## RE: RESPONSE TO LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 20, 2013

Further to your letter of February 20 2013, Manitoba Hydro wishes to confirm our commitment to mitigation measures in relation to the GHA 19a/14a area where there is an issue with the Adjusted Final Preferred Route (AFPR) as described in the Supplement Report on the AFPR. These enhanced mitigation measures are presented to deal with the potential for increased access along the original Final Preferred Route (FPR) in the GHA 19a/14a in the event that the AFPR is not selected.

There are specific mitigation measures that could be implemented to reduce impacts to moose in GHA 19a/14a area. These measures would be designed to prevent access to approximately 8 km of the FPR located on forested land currently inaccessible by existing fence lines and trails within GHA 19a as per prior discussion. Mitigation measures may include only clearing of tower locations, minimizing access trails to tower locations, excavated trenches, extensive fencing at road crossings, use of multiple gates at access points, surveillance and frequent monitoring of mitigation measures. In addition Manitoba Hydro will only clear danger trees and trees in excess of 17 meters along the right-of-way in this section.

Manitoba Hydro is committed to working with Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship (MCWS) Wildlife Branch to determine the best combination and design of mitigation measures to alleviate any access concerns relative to the FPR in GHA 19a/14a. The selection of measures and design cannot be finalized until the route is licensed and we have had time to review with MCWS Wildlife Branch.

Sincerely,

Patrick McGarry
Licensing & Environmental Assessment Department