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January 23, 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) – Assiniboine River Crossing - Licence Condition 52**

Manitoba Hydro (MH) is providing for your review, at the request of Swan Lake First Nation, our approach to meeting Clause 52 of the Bipole III licence in regards to a riparian area, in the vicinity of where Bipole III crosses the Assiniboine River. Swan Lake First Nation wants to ensure that the current location of the FPR will not be altered due to Clause 52 concerning a small creek just north of the Assiniboine River crossing.

Licence clause 52 states:

*To ensure no net loss of wetlands, the Licencee shall, during construction and maintenance of the Development, maintain a minimum 30 meter riparian buffer zone immediately adjacent to wetlands and the shoreline of lakes, rivers, creeks, and streams. Within the riparian buffer zone:*

- a) trees that must be removed shall be cleared using only low impact methods including hand clearing;*
- b) all existing low growth vegetation such as grasses, shrubs, and willows shall be maintained;*
- c) the application of herbicides shall be prohibited; and*
- d) any affected wetland area will be restored, replaced or offset as approved by the Director to ensure no net loss of wetlands.*

Riparian area is defined in the licence as:

*“Riparian area” means an area of land on the banks or in the vicinity of a waterbody, which due to the presence of water supports, or in the absence of human intervention would naturally support, an ecosystem that is distinctly different from that of adjacent upland areas (The Water Protection Act 2005)*

The final preferred route will be within 30 m of a small intermittent creek north of the Assiniboine River (Map 1). As such the conditions a), b), and c) of Clause 52 will be met. Manitoba Hydro is committed to meeting these conditions that will protect the adjacent stream and riparian areas in this location by using low impact clearing methods, retaining low growth vegetation and not using herbicides.

Please confirm your acceptance of this approach.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me at 204-360-4394.

Regards,

Shannon Johnson  
Manager  
Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department  
Manitoba Hydro  
820 Taylor Ave (3)  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3M 3T1

Attachments: 1 Map

cc. Chief Francine Meeches  
Mr. David Scott