Manitoba Hydro's Response to Public Review and TAC Comments File 5433.00

Pg 4: MCWS/MH-TAC-001b

- Hydro has identified that the main driver for routing Bipole III FPR southeast of Ponton through critical caribou habitat of the Wabowden range was the Manitoba Mining Association. Mitigation was offered by Hydro to CaNickel and the Mining Association to accommodate adverse effects of Bipole III development but was not accepted.
- Hydro also acknowledged that routing Bipole III north of the railway tracks along PTH 6 would reduce adverse effects to caribou and would improve system security by increasing the distance between Bipoles I, II and III.
- Potential impacts to Wabowden caribou have been identified from the current FPR routing as negative and significant and still recommends that Bipole III be positioned adjacent PTH 6 and the railway from Wabowden to Ponton and north of Hargrave Lake.

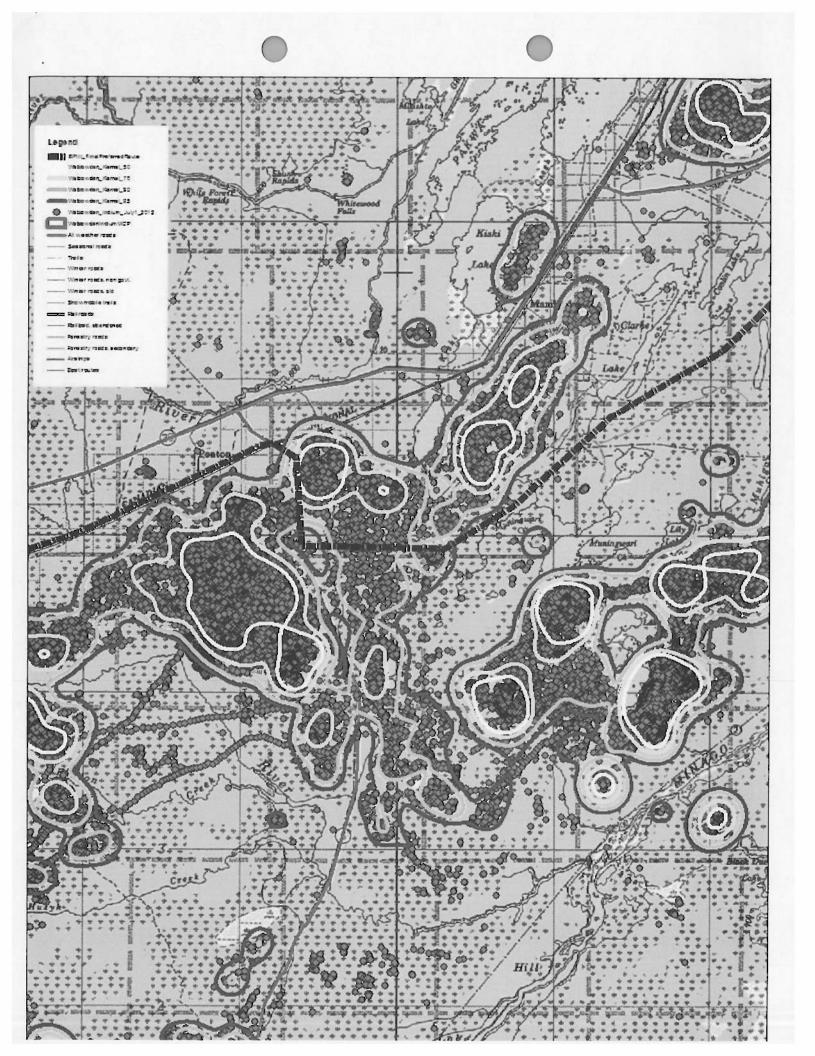
Attached are 2 maps of the Wabowden range showing areas used by caribou related to Bipole III FPR.

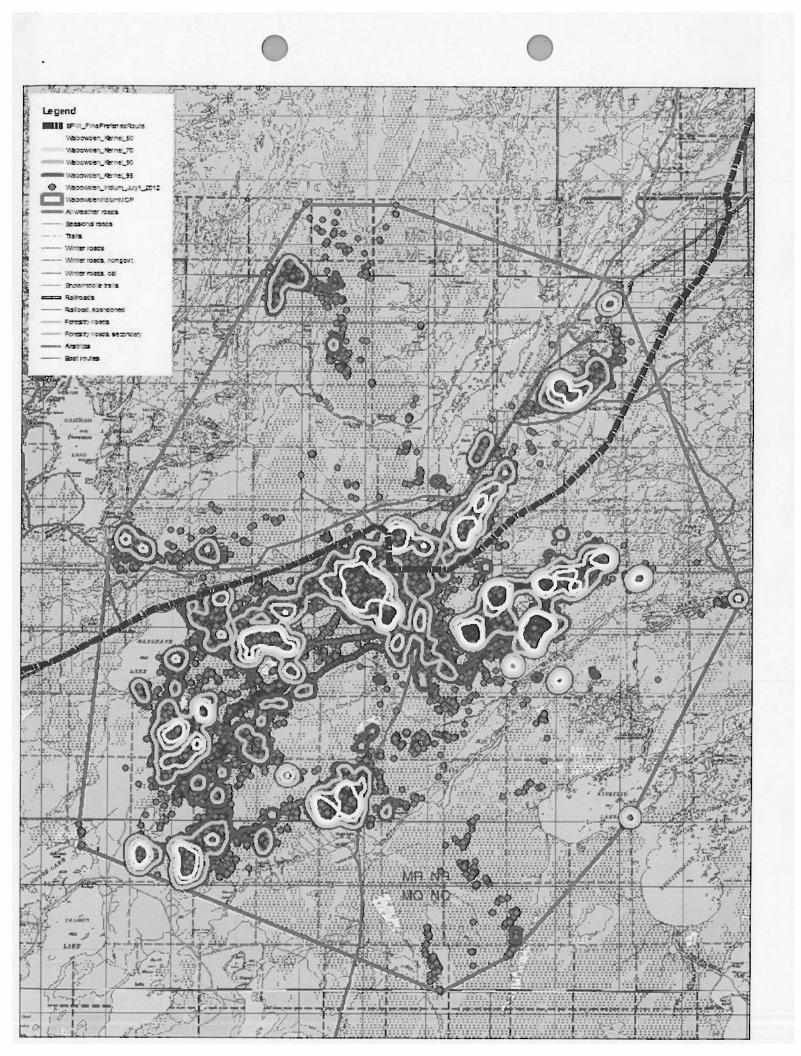
The first map shows a zoomed in area around Ponton. You can see that even 95% of all locations from collared caribou are grouped into a very small area over the entire range. And...Bipole III FPR south of Ponton intersects two very core areas of use, potentially causing a barrier to movement between the two areas.

The second map shows a large polygon around all relocations of collared Wabowden caribou. It also shows 4 "kernels" which illustrate percentages of range use, i.e. a 50% kernel outlines the areas where 50% of the total relocations are located, and a 95% kernel describes the areas where 95% of the total relocations are.

Recommendation/Impact:

The Lands Branch supports their original recommendation to move the FPR adjacent (even north) of hwy 6 and the rail line from Wabowden through Ponton west to Hargrave Lake to protect this critical caribou habitat/range.





Pg 21: MCWS/MH-TAC-002e

- This section indicates that no surveys have been conducted on Pen Island caribou since the mid 1990s. This is not accurate.
- Coordinated aerial surveys were completed by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in both 2008 and 2009. Summer surveys were flown through traditional Pen Island post-calving areas to determine current distribution and a minimum population estimate for the Pen Island herd. Results indicated a shift from traditional range use near the Pen Island east towards Cape Henrietta Maria on James Bay. The survey also illustrated a decrease in use of the Hudson Bay coast by Pen Island caribou during the postcalving period.
- Results of the 2008 and 2009 surveys are described in Rangifer, Special Issue No. 20, 2012 titled "Recent changes in summer distribution and numbers of migratory caribou on the Hudson Bay coast".

 From:
 Kaita, Adara (CON) on behalf of +WPG1212 - Conservation_Circulars (CON)

 Sent:
 August-07-12 9:33 AM

 To:
 Dagdick, Elise (CON)

 Subject:
 Additional Comments: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

 Attachments:
 Additional Comment - Bipole III.doc

Hi Elise,

In addition to the email below, please see the following comments:

- The Lands Branch (Northeast Region) met with Manitoba Hydro on June 25, 2012 to discuss the request for additional information pertaining.
- It was felt that it would be of great benefit to both Hydro and Conservation if an environmental biologist was placed in the Northeast Region with the primary responsibility of coordinating Hydro project work. The current and future work involving Bipole III, Keeyask and Conawapa would require this position for 10 years or more. Staff in Conservation are not always available for thorough review and input into all of these activities. A specialist in this area would be more efficient, would assist in training and providing guidance to other Conservation staff enhancing their skills and most of all would provide better continuity and timely response for Manitoba Hydro. If there is any interest in this, the Northeast Region has a job description for a position like this that I written in the 1980's. A dedicated NRO for permitting and compliance of these three projects could also be useful. During the Limestone project, Manitoba Hydro funded such a position which proved to be very successful. A recommendations in the Limestone EIS led to the creation of that position.
- Manitoba Hydro has provided additional satisfactory information for most of the items regarding clarification or correction of the information in the EIS.

One exception is page 4: MCWS/MH – TAC -001b. Manitoba Hydro correctly summarizes that routing the line north of the railway tracks in the Ponton area east of #6 Highway will:

- Increase separation between Bipole III and the existing Bipoles I and II, with a corresponding increase in system security. (desired)
- Decrease fragmentation of woodland caribou habitat, reduce potential adverse effects on woodland caribou, and would reduce uncertainty respecting the effectiveness of current proposed mitigation measures. (desired)
- c. Increase risk of interference to future mining exploration surveying activity.(not desired)

The Lands Branch recommends that the EAL not be issued at the present preferred route location. The Lands Branch (Northeast Region) is not satisfied with this response and would like to see further assessment and an alternate route presented for review north of the tracks. The route selection at this location reflects the risk of interference to future mining exploration surveying activity as outbalancing the risk of negative impacts to woodland caribou and the desire for separation between Bipole III and Bipoles I and II. (This proposed location has the least separation for the entire final preferred route). If it comes to this, the Lands Branch recommends that Manitoba Hydro be advised to prepare and submit an assessment report for an alternate route or routes north of the railways tracks for review. Background briefings of potential implications of both opposing positions on route location should then be presented to the Minister so a final decision on route location can be made and the licence can be issued.

While Manitoba Hydro did provide an assessment for an alternate route north of the railway tracks at this location, the comments do not commit to any further study or contemplation of moving the route north of the tracks.

Note: The Lands Branch (Northeast Regions) has recently heard that the concern for interference with exploration may not be at the same level since CaNickel has decided to pull out of Bucko Lake. This is unconfirmed verbal rumour more than anything, but should be followed up on to see if the position of the Manitoba Minerals Assoc. has changed.

- Adara

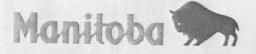
From: Kaita, Adara (CON) On Behalf Of +WPG1212 - Conservation_Circulars (CON)
Sent: July-27-12 3:51 PM
To: Dagdick, Elise (CON)
Subject: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

Hi Elise,

Please see the attached document for additional comments provided by the Lands Branch.

Adara Kaita

Crown Land Programs and Policy Manager Conservation and Water Stewardship Box 25, 200 Saulteaux Crescent Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3 P: (204) 945-6301 F: (204) 948-2197



Infrastructure and Transportation Highway Planning and Design Branch Environmental Services Section 1420 – 215 Garry St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3P3 T (204) 945-2389 F (204) 945-0593

July 25, 2012

Tracey Braun, M. Sc. Director, Environmental Approvals Branch Manitoba Conservation 123 Main St., Suite 160, Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

RE: MB Hydro – Bipole III Transmission Project Client File No 5433.00

Dear Ms. Braun:

MIT has reviewed the response from MB Hydro regarding the concerns raised during the circulation of the Environment Act Proposal.

Please be advised that a meeting was held between MB Hydro and MiT staff on June 21, 2012 to discuss potential concerns on MIT quarry areas. As part of the action plan agreed upon by MIT and MB Hydro at that meeting, MIT is in the process of confirming affected active and potential aggregate resource areas by field investigation this summer. The areas of concern, showing the dimensions and approximate distance from the Bipole III route, will be forwarded to MB Hydro for route adjustment consideration and setback requirements.

Thank you very much for providing us the opportunity to provide further comment on Manitoba Hydro's response to MIT's concerns.

Sincerely,

Ryan Coulter, M. Sc., P. Eng. Manager of Environmental Services



From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject: Jones, Chuck (IEM) July-19-12 9:03 AM Dagdick, Elise (CON) Miskimmin, Barb (IEM) Bipole III Transmission Project Environment Impact Statement - Your File No. 5433.00

Mines Branch has reviewed the southern portion of the Bipole III transmission project and provide the following background information:

- There are valid quarry mineral leases that are currently in good standing under The Mines and Minerals Act. The lease grants the holder the legal right to access the surface of the land for mineral exploration and extraction purposes. Mines Branch has contacted each of the disposition holders to provide comments concerning the establishment of the transmission right-of-way directly on top of the quarry mineral lease and have also requested an impact assessment.
- 2. It is our understanding that surface mining activity will be disallowed within the 66m transmission corridor and that the quarry lease will need to be amended to exclude the right-of-way. In cases where the quarry mineral lease holder objects to the proposed right-of-way, consideration will need to be given to the route selection.
- 3. There are deposits of sand and gravel located along the route selection. This non-renewable resource is required to support regional provincial and municipal infrastructure requirements. MIT has placed a withdrawal of mineral rights on some of these deposits located along the transmission corridor. In light of the potential for land access and use conflicts and that it is early in the route selection process, we are suggesting that consideration of impacts be done on a case by case basis.
- There are pending quarry leases for peat that are impacted by the route selection. We have written to the peat
 mining company and indicated that the right-of-way will be excluded from the leases when and if they are
 issued.

From: Sent: To: Subject: Lusk, Jennifer (CON) July-18-12 10:30 AM Dagdick, Elise (CON) RE: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

Parks and Natural Areas Branch has reviewed Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00. The Branch has no comments to offer.

Jennifer Lusk for Jessica Elliott

Jennifer Lusk Manitoba Conservation & Water Stewardship Tel: 204-945-4391

From: Dagdick, Elise (CON)
Sent: July-12-12 1:18 PM
To: Schindler, Dennis (MAFRI); Kaita, Adara (CON); Labossiere, Don (CON); Molod, Rommel (CON); Streich, Laurie (CON); Duncan, James (CON); Elliott, Jessica (CON); Dojack, John (CON); Gilbertson, Mike (CON); Missyabit, Ron (CON); Hay, David (MWS); Wang, Jianrong (MWS); Janusz, Laureen R (MWS); Stibbard, James (MWS); Matthews, Rob (MWS); Hill, Gordon C (CHT); Cunningham, Neil (CON); Roberecki, Susan (HEALTH); Roberts, Tracy (HEALTH); Coulter, Ryan (MIT); Allum, Brad (MWS); Shaler, Samantha (MLG); 'CEAAPrairieProjects@ceaa-acee.gc.ca'; Roberts, Wayde (CON); Armstrong, Mike (CON)
Cc: Braun, Tracey (CON)
Subject: RE: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

Please note the correction in green below.

Elise Dagdick Environmental Approvals Branch Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship Suite 160, 123 Main St., Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5 Ph: 204-945-8173 Fax: 204-945-5229

From: Steele, Tania (CON)

Sent: July-12-12 11:15 AM

To: Schindler, Dennis (MAFRI); Kaita, Adara (CON); Labossiere, Don (CON); Molod, Rommel (CON); Streich, Laurie (CON); Duncan, James (CON); Elliott, Jessica (CON); Dojack, John (CON); Gilbertson, Mike (CON); Missyabit, Ron (CON); Hay, David (MWS); Wang, Jianrong (MWS); Janusz, Laureen R (MWS); Stibbard, James (MWS); Matthews, Rob (MWS); Hill, Gordon C (CHT); Cunningham, Neil (CON); Roberecki, Susan (HEALTH); Roberts, Tracy (HEALTH); Coulter, Ryan (MIT); Allum, Brad (MWS); Shaler, Samantha (MLG); 'CEAAPrairieProjects@ceaa-acee.gc.ca'; Roberts, Wayde (CON); Armstrong, Mike (CON)

Cc: Dagdick, Elise (CON); Braun, Tracey (CON)

Subject: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

Please see the attached Manitoba Hydro response to the Environmental Approvals Branch's request for additional information dated May 17, 2012 for the Bipole III Transmission Project for comment.

From: Sent: To: Subject: Molod, Rommel (CON) July-19-12 11:53 AM Dagdick, Elise (CON) RE: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

Elise,

The Air Quality Section has reviewed the submitted document and have no air quality-related comments. Thank you for the opportunity to review.

Rommel

From: Steele, Tania (CON)
Sent: July-12-12 11:15 AM
To: Schindler, Dennis (MAFRI); Kaita, Adara (CON); Labossiere, Don (CON); Molod, Rommel (CON); Streich, Laurie (CON); Duncan, James (CON); Elliott, Jessica (CON); Dojack, John (CON); Gilbertson, Mike (CON); Missyabit, Ron (CON); Hay, David (MWS); Wang, Jianrong (MWS); Janusz, Laureen R (MWS); Stibbard, James (MWS); Matthews, Rob (MWS); Hill, Gordon C (CHT); Cunningham, Neil (CON); Roberecki, Susan (HEALTH); Roberts, Tracy (HEALTH); Coulter, Ryan (MIT); Allum, Brad (MWS); Shaler, Samantha (MLG); 'CEAAPrairieProjects@ceaa-acee.gc.ca'; Roberts, Wayde (CON); Armstrong, Mike (CON)
Cc: Dagdick, Elise (CON); Braun, Tracey (CON)
Subject: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

Please see the attached Manitoba Hydro response to the Environmental Approvals Branch's request for

additional information dated May 17, 2012 for the Bipole III Transmission Project for comment.

Any comments you have on the DRAFT LICENCE should be emailed to elise.dagdick@gov.mb.ca

by July 26, 2012.

Please e-mail if you are unable to review; a non-reply will be considered as indicating your department has reviewed and has no concerns.

Replies to this email will also go automatically to Tracey Braun.

Sent on behalf of:

Elise Dagdick Environmental Approvals Branch Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship Suite 160, 123 Main St., Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5 Ph: 204-945-8173 Fax: 204-945-5229

From: Sent: To: Subject: Matthews, Rob (MWS) July-31-12 12:49 PM Dagdick, Elise (CON) RE: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File; 5433.00

Elise,

I am not sure if I responded in any fashion before on this one but all that I can think of is the following:

"An authorization maybe required under The Water Rights Act for construction dewatering when and if it occurs. "

Rob

From: Dagdick, Elise (CON)
Sent: July-12-12 1:18 PM
To: Schindler, Dennis (MAFRI); Kaita, Adara (CON); Labossiere, Don (CON); Molod, Rommel (CON); Streich, Laurie (CON); Duncan, James (CON); Elliott, Jessica (CON); Dojack, John (CON); Gilbertson, Mike (CON); Missyabit, Ron (CON); Hay, David (MWS); Wang, Jianrong (MWS); Janusz, Laureen R (MWS); Stibbard, James (MWS); Matthews, Rob (MWS); Hill, Gordon C (CHT); Cunningham, Neil (CON); Roberecki, Susan (HEALTH); Roberts, Tracy (HEALTH); Coulter, Ryan (MIT); Allum, Brad (MWS); Shaler, Samantha (MLG); 'CEAAPrairieProjects@ceaa-acee.gc.ca'; Roberts, Wayde (CON); Armstrong, Mike (CON)
Cc: Braun, Tracey (CON)
Subject: RE: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

Please note the correction in green below.

Elise Dagdick Environmental Approvals Branch Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship Suite 160, 123 Main St., Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5 Ph: 204-945-8173 Fax: 204-945-5229

From: Steele, Tania (CON)
Sent: July-12-12 11:15 AM
To: Schindler, Dennis (MAFRI); Kaita, Adara (CON); Labossiere, Don (CON); Molod, Rommel (CON); Streich, Laurie (CON); Duncan, James (CON); Elliott, Jessica (CON); Dojack, John (CON); Gilbertson, Mike (CON); Missyabit, Ron (CON); Hay, David (MWS); Wang, Jianrong (MWS); Janusz, Laureen R (MWS); Stibbard, James (MWS); Matthews, Rob (MWS); Hill, Gordon C (CHT); Cunningham, Neil (CON); Roberecki, Susan (HEALTH); Roberts, Tracy (HEALTH); Coulter, Ryan (MIT); Allum, Brad (MWS); Shaler, Samantha (MLG); 'CEAAPrairieProjects@ceaa-acee.gc.ca'; Roberts, Wayde (CON); Armstrong, Mike (CON)
Cc: Dagdick, Elise (CON); Braun, Tracey (CON)
Subject: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

Please see the attached Manitoba Hydro response to the Environmental Approvals Branch's request for additional information dated May 17, 2012 for the Bipole III Transmission Project for comment.

Any comments you have on the-DRAFT LICENCE Manitoba Hydro's response should be emailed to elise.dagdick@gov.mb.ca

From: Sent: To: Subject: Jacobs, Kevin (MWS) July-26-12 10:30 AM Dagdick, Elise (CON) RE: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

Hello Elise,

Thank you for sending this additional information. Staff from Water Quality quickly reviewed it and have no comments at this time.

Kevin

Kevin Jacobs, M.Sc. Senior Water Protection Officer Water Science and Management Branch Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 123 Main Street Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1A5 Phone: 204 945 4304 Fax: 204 948 2357

From: Hay, David (MWS) Sent: July-13-12 10:38 AM To: Jacobs, Kevin (MWS) Subject: FW: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

Kevin,

I received this request from Environmental Approvals regarding their request to Manitoba Hydro for addition information dated May 17 2012 for the Bipole III Transmission Project. I had a quick look at the attached and it seems to have minimal relevance to our Section. Nonetheless, I thought I would forward so you could also have a quick look.

Comments are to be mailed to Elise Dagdick by July 26, 2012.

David

From: Steele, Tania (CON) Sent: July-12-12 11:15 AM

To: Schindler, Dennis (MAFRI); Kaita, Adara (CON); Labossiere, Don (CON); Molod, Rommel (CON); Streich, Laurie (CON); Duncan, James (CON); Elliott, Jessica (CON); Dojack, John (CON); Gilbertson, Mike (CON); Missyabit, Ron (CON); Hay, David (MWS); Wang, Jianrong (MWS); Janusz, Laureen R (MWS); Stibbard, James (MWS); Matthews, Rob (MWS); Hill, Gordon C (CHT); Cunningham, Neil (CON); Roberecki, Susan (HEALTH); Roberts, Tracy (HEALTH); Coulter, Ryan (MIT); Allum, Brad (MWS); Shaler, Samantha (MLG); 'CEAAPrairieProjects@ceaa-acee.gc.ca'; Roberts, Wayde (CON); Armstrong, Mike (CON)

Cc: Dagdick, Elise (CON); Braun, Tracey (CON)

Subject: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

From: Sent: To: Subject: Stibbard, James (MWS) July-24-12 2:37 PM Dagdick, Elise (CON) Re: 5433.00 Bipoe III Comments and Manitoba Hydro Response.

Ms. Dagdick,

I reviewed the list of questions/requests for additional information and responses by MB Hydro and found no issues in either the questions or responses which would cause concern to ODW respecting safety of drinking water. ODW's concerns with the Bipole III development were noted in my response to the EIS, which I sent to William Weaver on January 31, 2012.

I hope this is satisfactory, but if you have any questions, please call me. Regards,

James Stibbard P. Eng.

Approvals Engineer Office of Drinking Water 1007 Century Street Winnipeg MB R3H 0W4 phone: (204) 945-5949 fax: (204) 945-1365 email: <u>James.Stibbard@gov.mb.ca</u> website: www.manitoba.ca/drinkingwater

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From: Sent: To: Subject: Janusz, Laureen R (MWS) July-12-12 1:27 PM Dagdick, Elise (CON) RE: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

No worries Elise. In looking at the attached there does not appear to be anything specific to fisheries. I know we felt most of the project effects could be mitigated but was curious to see if anything had come in regionally or from the public. Doesn't appear to be so no comment from us on these. Have a great day.

Laureen Janusz Fisheries Science and Fish Culture Section Fisheries Branch Conservation and Water Stewardship Phone: 204 945-7789 Cell: 204 793-1154 Email: Laureen.Janusz@gov.mb.ca

From: Dagdick, Elise (CON) Sent: July-12-12 1:19 PM To: Janusz, Laureen R (MWS) Subject: RE: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

Sorry about the confusion. There is no draft licence, just the document attached to the e-mail.

Elise

From: Janusz, Laureen R (MWS) Sent: July-12-12 12:52 PM To: Dagdick, Elise (CON) Subject: Review Bipole III Transmission Project - MB Hydro response to request for Additional Info - File: 5433.00

Elise,

I was wondering when the draft EAL was sent out. I wouldn't mind having a quick look at it but I think I must have misplaced it. Thanks Elise.

Laureen Janusz Fisheries Science and Fish Culture Section Fisheries Branch Conservation and Water Stewardship Phone: 204 945-7789 Cell: 204 793-1154 Email: Laureen Janusz@gov.mb.ca

From: Steele, Tania (CON)
Sent: July-12-12 11:15 AM
To: Schindler, Dennis (MAFRI); Kaita, Adara (CON); Labossiere, Don (CON); Molod, Rommel (CON); Streich, Laurie (CON); Duncan, James (CON); Elliott, Jessica (CON); Dojack, John (CON); Gilbertson, Mike (CON); Missyabit, Ron (CON); Hay, David (MWS); Wang, Jianrong (MWS); Janusz, Laureen R (MWS); Stibbard, James (MWS); Matthews, Rob (MWS); Hill, Gordon C (CHT); Cunningham, Neil (CON); Roberecki, Susan (HEALTH); Roberts, Tracy (HEALTH); Coulter, Ryan