



Environment and Climate Change

Environmental Approvals Branch
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File No.: 6214.00

May 30, 2025

James Matthewson
Department Manager
Manitoba Hydro
360 Portage Avenue (18)
Winnipeg MB R3C 0G8
JMatthewson@hydro.mb.ca

Dear James Matthewson:

**Re: Manitoba Hydro - Radisson to Henday (R44H) Transmission Project -
Environment Act Licence No. 3437**

Please find enclosed the Environment Act Licence in response to your proposal dated December 21, 2023. You wish to build a 42-kilometre, 230-kilovolt transmission line (R44H) within an existing transmission corridor between the Radisson and Henday converter stations within the Town of Gillam (previously known as the Local Government District of Gillam).

All licence requirements and federal, provincial and municipal regulations and by-laws must be followed. The licensee must get approval from the director per The Environment Act to alter the development.

Anyone affected by this decision may appeal, in writing, to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change at minecc@manitoba.ca by June 29, 2025. The licence is available on the public registry at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/index.html>.

If you have any questions regarding this approval, please contact Cristal Huculak, Regional Supervisor, Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch at EnvCENorth@gov.mb.ca or 204-620-5797.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
Agnes Wittmann
Director
The Environment Act

Enclosure

- c. Jodine MacDuff - Manitoba Hydro
- Cristal Huculak - Environmental Compliance and Enforcement
- Bryce Wood – Environmental Approvals

LICENCE

File No.: 6214.00

Licence No. / Licence n°: 3437
Issue Date / Date de délivrance : May 30, 2025

In accordance with The Environment Act (C.C.S.M. c. E125)/
Conformément à la Loi sur l'environnement (C.P.L.M. c. E125)

Under Section 11(1) / Conformément au Paragraphe 11(1)

THIS LICENCE IS ISSUED TO: / CETTE LICENCE EST DONNÉE À:

Manitoba Hydro; "the licensee"

for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the development being a new 42-kilometre, 230-kilovolt transmission line within an existing transmission corridor between the Radisson and Henday converter stations, as identified in Schedule A of this licence, and in accordance with the proposal information filed under The Environment Act on December 21, 2023, and subject to the following specifications, limits, terms, and conditions:

DEFINITIONS

In this licence,

"accredited laboratory" means an analytical facility accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), or accredited by another accrediting agency recognized by Manitoba Environment and Climate Change to be equivalent to the SCC, or be able to demonstrate, upon request, that it has the quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) procedures in place equivalent to accreditation based on the international standard ISO/IEC 17025, or otherwise approved by the director;

"affected area" means a geographical area, excluding the property of the development;

"approved" means approved by the director or assigned environment officer in writing;

"camp safety plan" means a plan that includes:

- (a) cultural awareness training and onboarding;
- (b) vehicle security controls;
- (c) options for additional security measures;
- (d) improved entertainment facilities; and
- (e) an incident response plan;

"conservation officer" means an employee so designated under The Conservation Officers Act;

"contractor" means any party entered into a contract with the licensee;

"director" means an employee so designated under The Environment Act;

"environment officer" means an employee so designated under The Environment Act;

"herbaceous understory vegetation" means the non-woody plants that grow beneath the forest canopy, typically in the understory layer of a forest or woodland;

"noise nuisance" means an unwanted sound, in an affected area, which is annoying, troublesome, or disagreeable to a person:

- (a) residing in an affected area;
- (b) working in an affected area; or
- (c) present at a location in an affected area which is normally open to members of the public; if the unwanted sound
- (d) is the subject of at least five written complaints, received by the director in a form satisfactory to the director and within a 90-day period, from five different persons falling within clauses (a), (b), or (c), who do not live in the same household; or
- (e) is the subject of at least one written complaint, received by the director in a form satisfactory to the director, from a person falling within clauses (a), (b), or (c) and the director is of the opinion that if the unwanted sound had occurred in a more densely populated area there would have been at least five written complaints received within a 90- day period, from five different persons who do not live in the same household;

"pesticide" means any chemical or biological agent registered under The Pest Control Products Act of Canada and used or represented as a means for preventing, destroying, mitigating, or controlling any pest;

"waste disposal ground" means an area of land designated by a person, municipality, provincial government agency, or crown corporation for the disposal of waste and approved for use under the Waste Management Facilities Regulation, or any future amendments, or a licence under The Environment Act; and

"waterbody" means any body of flowing or standing water, whether naturally or artificially created, and whether the flow or presence of water is continuous, intermittent or occurs only during a flood, including but not limited to a lake, river, creek, stream, slough, marsh, swamp and wetland, including ice on any of them, as defined in The Water Protection Act.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Retain Copy of Licence

1. The licensee must at all times maintain a copy of this licence at the development or at the premises from which the development's operations are managed.

Environmental Accidents

2. The licensee must, in the case of physical or mechanical equipment breakdown or process upset where such breakdown or process upset results or may result in the release of a pollutant in an amount or concentration, or at a level or rate of release, that causes or may cause a significant adverse effect, immediately report the event by calling the 24-hour environmental accident reporting line at 204-944-4888 (toll-free 1-855-944-4888). The report must indicate the nature of the event, the time and estimated duration of the event, and the reason for the event.
3. The licensee must, following the reporting of an event following clause 2 of this licence: identify the repairs required to the mechanical equipment;
 - a) undertake all repairs to minimize unauthorized discharges of a pollutant;
 - b) complete the repairs following any written instructions of the director; and
 - c) submit a report to the director about the causes of breakdown and measures taken, within one week of the repairs being done.

Sampling

4. In addition to any of the limits, terms, and conditions specified in this licence, the licensee must, upon the request of the director:
 - a) sample, monitor, analyze, or investigate specific areas of concern regarding any segment, component or aspect of pollutant storage, containment, treatment, handling, disposal or emission systems, for such pollutants, ambient quality, aquatic toxicity, leachate characteristics and discharge or emission rates, for such duration and at such frequencies as may be specified;
 - b) determine the environmental impact associated with the release of any pollutant(s) from the development;
 - c) conduct specific investigations in response to the data gathered during environmental monitoring programs; or
 - d) provide the director, within such time as may be specified, with such reports, drawings, specifications, analytical data, bioassay data, flow rate measurements, descriptions of sampling and analytical procedures being used, and such other information as may from time to time be requested.
5. The licensee must, unless otherwise specified in this licence:
 - a) carry out all preservations and analyses of liquid samples in accordance with the methods prescribed in the most current edition of "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater" or in accordance with equivalent preservation and analytical methodologies approved by the director;
 - b) carry out all sampling of, and preservation and analyses on, soil, compost, air samples or other samples in accordance with methodologies approved by the director;

- c) have all analytical determinations undertaken by an accredited laboratory; and
- d) report the results to the director, in an electronic format acceptable to the director, within 60 days of the samples being taken.

Reporting Format

- 6. The licensee must submit all information required to be provided to the director or environment officer under this licence, in written and electronic format, in such form (including number of copies) and of such content as may be required by the director or environment officer, and each submission must be clearly labelled with the licence number and file number associated with this licence.

Compliance

- 7. The licensee must adhere to the commitments made in the proposal dated December 21, 2023, and any future alterations approved following Section 14(2) of The Environment Act during construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the development, except as otherwise required by this licence.
- 8. The licensee must obtain approval from the director for any proposed alteration to the development before proceeding with the alteration.
- 9. The licensee must, prior to construction of the development, arrange a meeting with the Manitoba Hydro construction project manager(s) and the assigned environment officer to review the Environmental Protection Plan.
- 10. The licensee must, during construction of the development, submit monthly reports regarding construction, environmental protection, and emergency response issues to the assigned environment officer.
- 11. The licensee must submit a concise annual report to the director documenting the licensee's engagement with Indigenous Nations during the construction of the development. The report must be submitted by June 30th of each year until the end of the construction. The report must include:
 - a) a summary of engagement activities;
 - b) issues raised by Indigenous Nations; and
 - c) how the licensee responded or plans to respond.
- 12. The licensee must make a Camp Safety Plan available to an environment officer upon request.
- 13. The licensee must, during construction of the development, have qualified environmental inspectors to monitor the work on a daily basis to ensure that all the environmental practices outlined in the proposal, supporting information, and the plans submitted pursuant to this licence are carried out.

Compliance With Other Acts and Regulations

- 14. The licensee must obtain all necessary provincial and federal permits and approvals for construction of relevant components of the development.

SPECIFICATIONS, LIMITS, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS

Notification

15. The licensee must notify the assigned environment officer prior to beginning construction of the development. The notification must include the intended starting date of construction and the name of the contractor responsible for the construction.
16. The licensee must, prior to construction, provide a copy of this licence to the contractor and subcontractor(s) involved in the development.
17. The licensee must, prior to construction of the development, notify engaged Indigenous Nations and other nearby communities when and where construction will be occurring, and provide them with a construction schedule.
18. The licensee must:
 - a) prior to construction of the development, develop a communication plan; and
 - b) prior to the occurrence of any impledes, notify impacted Indigenous Nations as identified in the communication plan developed per clause 18 a) of this licence.
19. The licensee must notify the assigned environment officer, no less than one week prior to the completion of the construction of the development, to allow for a final inspection.

Pre-Construction

20. The licensee must, upon request from the assigned environment officer, submit the Environmental Protection Plans to the department. The assigned environment officer may request separate Environmental Protection Plans for the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases, or for different components of the development.

The Environmental Protection Plan must:

- a) describe the approach to be used by the licensee to ensure that mitigative measures are applied systematically;
 - b) present mitigation measures in a manner consistent with the commitments made in the proposal; and
 - c) include a commitment to develop and follow mitigation measures to address concerns raised by engaged Indigenous Nations about important sites they have identified and potential adverse effects on rights-based activities as summarized in the proposal.
21. The licensee must:
 - a) work with local Indigenous Nations to identify important harvesting areas for inclusion in the Environmental Protection Plan, including restrictions on pesticide use in those areas; and
 - b) notify local Indigenous Nations about the location and timing of planned pesticide use.

22. The licensee must:
 - a) monitor the effectiveness of Environmental Protection Plans;
 - b) during the development's construction, provide opportunities for engaged Indigenous Nations to participate in monitoring activities. Monitoring may include field tours, ceremonial events, Indigenous Nation meetings, and other opportunities; and
 - c) provide opportunities for the monitors to be present during construction activities, to identify unmarked burial sites, heritage resources, or artifacts.
23. The licensee must, prior to construction of the development, contact the Regional Forester of the Forestry and Peatlands Branch related to the clearing of timber in association with the development.
24. The licensee must, prior to construction on Crown land, obtain a Crown Lands permit following The Crown Lands Act.
25. The licensee must, prior to construction on Crown land, apply for and obtain the appropriate land tenure allocations in accordance with The Crown Lands Act from the Real Estate Services Division of the Department of Central Services, or with other acts as applicable.
26. The licensee must provide engaged Indigenous Nations opportunities to participate in a ceremony or ceremonies prior to construction, and at project milestones identified by the engaged Indigenous Nations, at times that work for those who are interested in leading and/or participating in the ceremony or ceremonies.

Construction and Maintenance

27. The licensee must not cause or permit a noise nuisance to be created as a result of the construction, operation, or alteration of the development, and must take such steps as the director may require to eliminate or mitigate a noise nuisance.
28. The licensee must:
 - a) comply with the requirements of The Heritage Resources Act; and
 - b) if heritage resources are encountered during the construction of the development, suspend construction and immediately notify:
 - i. the Historic Resources Branch; and
 - ii. affected Indigenous Nations.
29. The licensee must provide cultural awareness training for staff working in construction areas within the development that is reflective of the Indigenous cultures in the area. The training must include recognizing cultural sites and management of any resources encountered.
30. The licensee must restrict construction and operational activities to only such lands to which the licensee possesses legal control, by ownership or by rental, lease, or other agreement.
31. The licensee must dispose of non-reusable construction debris from the development at a waste disposal ground.

32. The licensee must locate fuel storage and equipment servicing areas established for the construction and operation of the development a minimum distance of 100 metres from any waterbody, unless otherwise approved by an environment officer, and must comply with the requirements of the Storage and Handling of Petroleum Products and Allied Products Regulation, or any future amendment.
33. The licensee must comply with the requirements of the Hazardous Waste Regulation, or any future amendment.
34. The licensee must, during construction and maintenance of the development, operate, maintain, and store all materials and equipment in a manner that prevents any deleterious substances (fuel, oil, grease, hydraulic fluid, coolant, paint, uncured concrete and concrete wash water, etc.) and other similar substances from contaminating soil or entering any waterbody. Emergency spill kits for both land and in-water use must be readily available on site during construction.
35. The licensee must, during construction and maintenance of the development, prevent the introduction and spread of foreign aquatic and terrestrial biota by cleaning equipment prior to its delivery to the site of the development following the requirements of the Aquatic Invasive Species Regulation, or any future amendment.
36. The licensee must, during construction and maintenance of the development, adhere to the general recommendations on design, construction, and maintenance of stream crossings as specified in the Manitoba Stream Crossing Guidelines for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat, May 1996, and the current versions of applicable federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans codes of practice.
37. The licensee must, during construction and operation of the development, take all appropriate measures to prevent erosion and the deposition of sediment into any waterbody.
38. The licensee must adhere to the Pesticides Regulation, or any future amendment, for the storage, handling, and application of pesticides in conjunction with the development.
39. The licensee must, during construction of the development, dispose of all sewage and septage from on-site sanitary facilities following the Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation, or any future amendments.
40. The licensee must, within six months of the completion of construction of the development, submit for approval of the Director of the Environmental Approvals Branch, a plan for the management of vegetation along the transmission line right-of-way. The plan must describe the methods to be used for vegetation control and for communication to the public and Indigenous Nations during operation of the development.

41. The licensee must, during the planning, construction, operation, and decommissioning of roads and crossings associated with the development located in or adjacent to boreal wetlands, adhere to the mitigation sequence of avoid, minimize, or offset, outlined in Manitoba's Boreal Wetlands Conservation Codes of Practice to achieve a no-net-loss of wetland benefits.
42. The licensee must:
 - a) to the satisfaction of the local conservation officer, develop a construction resumption plan for any wildlife-related construction pause associated with migrating caribou. The plan must include, but not be limited to:
 - i. immediate cessation of all construction activities in the local construction area if caribou are observed in or adjacent to that area by Indigenous Nation monitors, environmental monitors, or construction staff;
 - ii. notification to local Indigenous Nations and the local conservation officer when caribou are observed in the local construction area and before resuming any construction activities; and
 - b) resume construction activities only in accordance with the approved plan.
43. The licensee must install bird diverters on the transmission line in areas of high collision risk to reduce impacts to birds in accordance with the Environmental Protection Plan.
44. The licensee must, if any trees contain large nests of sticks, or active animal dens or burrows are observed, leave them undisturbed until unoccupied, by maintaining a setback distance as outlined in the Environmental Protection Plan.
45. The licensee must, in riparian buffer areas:
 - a) maintain shrub and herbaceous understory vegetation a minimum distance of 30 metres upslope from the ordinary high-water mark for all natural water bodies and waterways. The distance must increase for slopes above 20 per cent as per the Environmental Protection Plan;
 - b) where access trails or stringing corridors are required, limit the width of clearing to no more than 9 metres and follow mitigation measures as outlined in the Environmental Protection Plan; or
 - c) where towers are required, follow mitigation measures as outlined in the Environmental Protection Plan.

Drawings

46. The licensee must:
 - a) prepare "record drawings" for the development and must label the drawings "record drawings". The drawings must include the transmission line route and the tower locations; and
 - b) provide to the director, within four months of the completion of the development, "record drawings" of the development.

Decommissioning

47. The licensee must, one year prior to decommissioning of the development or portion of the development, submit a formal decommissioning plan for the approval of the director. The plan must be developed with input from the engaged Indigenous Nations.
48. The licensee must implement the approved decommissioning plan as identified in clause 47 of this licence.

REVIEW AND REVOCATION

49. If, in the opinion of the director:
 - a) the licensee has exceeded or is exceeding or has or is failing to meet the specifications, limits, terms, or conditions set out in this licence, the director may, temporarily or permanently, revoke this licence; or
 - b) for purposes of effective environmental management, a change in the specifications, limits, terms, or conditions of this licence is necessary, the director may amend the licence accordingly and thereafter the licensee must comply with the licence as amended.
50. If, in the opinion of the director, new evidence warrants a change in the specifications, limits, terms or conditions of this licence, the director may require the filing of a new proposal pursuant to Section 11 of The Environment Act or a notice of alteration pursuant to Section 14 of The Environment Act.
51. If the licensee has not commenced construction of the development within three years of the date of this licence, the licence is revoked.

Original Signed By
Agnes Wittmann
Director
The Environment Ac

SCHEDULE A to Environment Act Licence No. 3437

The layout of the Radisson to Henday Transmission Line.

