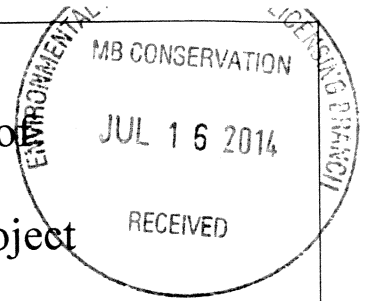




Regarding Manitoba Hydro of Point Du Bois Transmission Project



Public Registry 5716.00

Without Prejudice

For the use of the land included in the Local Government District of Pinawa there has been no effective involvement with the people other than obscure notification of Meetings in Adjacent Communities¹. While this incredible omission was brought to the attention of Hydro's "Environmental Employees" on several occasions it was ignored. This is an amazing oversight in consideration of the fact that "approximately 59 %² of the Project Study Area is in the Pinawa Ecodistrict." "Public Engagement" was planned and held in adjoining communities without serious impacts thereby creating the a corollary of concern for the residents of Pinawa, in particular the Pinawa Game and Fish Association who occupy property that is directly affected.

The program for public, excitingly described as "Public Engagement" was therefore fatally flawed by definition, design and by ignoring the Pinawa Community. Placing the total responsibility on the citizens living in the area to provide in-depth information regarding the flora, fauna, public usage and planning for the impacted area, then holding remote meetings for that public, while providing obscure and random notification during times and locations that ignore our Community activities and capabilities. This unconscionable technique is recognized as being only useful to a Corporate entity that is planning unpopular and unacceptable environmental impacts. What they did was to schedule meetings during summer vacation time in communities that did not include easy access for the people of Pinawa. Simply stated, this Public Corporation ignored these owners (who they called stakeholders³) by transferring their environmental information gathering responsibility onto the responsibility of people in our Community while at the same time planning a program that guaranteed a low response. For a public Corporation, this approach was simply irresponsible suggesting that more meetings should be held in the Community before the project is approved.

In addition Manitoba Hydro had apparently designed the transmission line on paper without examining the physical impacts it would cause. They were completely unaware of the historic facility owned and operated by the citizens of Pinawa who are members of the Pinawa Game & Fish Association. The impact on the facility was brought to the attention of the Pinawa Game & Fish Association, by accident, when a citizen from another location informed the membership about the planned route impacting the Wild Goose Breeding Ponds Sanctuary and the close by Certified Shooting

¹ Information regarding public meetings was random- notification postcards were received by only some residents apparently due to a short supply provided.

² Manitoba Hydro Point Du Bois Transmission Project Environmental Assessment Report 5.1 Existing Environment Introduction paragraph 4

³ 'Stakeholders' - is erroneously used to identify people that the author of this report thinks have a 'stake' in the activities of this project. Certainly they do, but they are more accurately described as 'owners' so long as Manitoba Hydro remains a public Corporation. Essentially every person living in Manitoba, or customers are of Manitoba Hydro, who pay taxes in Manitoba are the Owners and should be recognized as such.

Range⁴. The initial resistance from Manitoba Hydro to make adjustments was amazing, stating that they know how to build power lines over 'bird sanctuaries' and Community facilities without causing problems.

Initially Manitoba Hydro planned its transmission line so that it was crossing Highway 211 within the Local Government District of Pinawa at the location impacting the Historic Goose Breeding Ponds and the Pinawa Game & Fish Association Shooting Range. Manitoba Hydro indicated that they had no knowledge of this facility, however they could build power lines wherever they wanted. It required a series of phone calls, letters and the attention of our Town Council who generated a unanimous motion focused on the issue and still the concern had to be escalated with letters addressed to Hydro management and the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro to achieve a simple modification on the location of this transmission line.⁵ Sadly, this demonstrated a clear Corporate behavior anomaly indicating the environmental investigation was sloppy and irresponsible. In addition, the considerable effort to defend their decision was indicative of amazing arrogance toward public concern.

This Example of Manitoba Hydro's lack of consideration not only of areas occupied for environmental and recreational use but also their general disregard for the impacts on flora and fauna of our Old-Growth Forest Area as well as our local facility. This created the realization that further detrimental environmental invasions would most likely occur. Accordingly, their transmission line has been planned to remove in excess of 130 acres of trees in this Old Forest Area. There appears to be no planned consideration for the wildlife habitat, for example, the beaver ponds that exist on part of this planned Transmission Line. Wildlife habitat through this forested area will be completely destroyed during winter construction. Their proposal to cut a 200 foot wide swath through the forest is ridiculous and environmentally hostile by design. Fundamentally, this error is further flawed by using imported wildlife information from similar studies in other areas. Very little in-depth on-site investigation appears to have been undertaken. Site specific studies would provide more accurate and detailed information. Utilization of residents through their so-called 'Rounds of Public Engagement' was expected to provide that information however that opportunity was carefully avoided by holding their special meetings during a time and at a location that ignored our traditional and Community societal capabilities. So far as can be determined, there is no realistic evidence in their material provided to us at this time ⁶to accurately address the important environmental considerations that may most seriously impact the future.

Further the lack of initial information which have helped the Community understand the nature of this project's impact, the documents filed with Manitoba conservation are not written in a language for public consumption. The shortness of time created by delaying our access to the final report destroyed the opportunity to fully review that report. The documents we were able to examine used massive number of acronyms and jargon phraseology that the general public are not familiar with further making their documents complicated for public understanding. Again, and by design, simply

⁴ on August 23, 2013 as reported in appendix C, titled Wildlife Manitoba Hydro conducted an Ariel Survey to validate sensitive sites along the final preferred route and were unable to identify the Pinawa Game & Fish Association facility at that time. This facility is completely visible on easily obtained aerial photographs.

⁵ While members of the Game and Fish Association were informed that a recommendation had been placed to move the power transmission line, approval. This change was not formerly confirmed until final point Du Bois Transmission Project Environmental Assessment report was a made available in late June 2014 thereby causing a delay in development and planning for the Goose Breeding Ponds and the Shooting Range. The financial impact of these delays was extensive.

⁶ Their massive point Du Bois transmission project environmental assessment report was not made available in a timely fashion and had to be specifically requested with the assistance of Manitoba Conservation.

stated there is nothing more than planned manipulation of the Pinawa public and interested individuals allowing Manitoba Hydro to more easily to carry out their 'drafting room designed' transmission line.

IN BRIEF FORM

- * Manitoba Hydro designed power transmission line based on the shortest cheapest route from the generating station at Point Du Bois to the distribution station at Seven Sisters. This apparently was carried out in their offices without any other considerations and reinforced by a public program designed to avoid understanding and concern.

- * Manitoba Hydro did do some investigation by providing themselves an enjoyable helicopter visit over the impacted area rationalizing this technique with the use of a handheld Garmin GPS Map 60 Cxs to identify areas of concern with the flight covering the 46 km transmission line and returned to base and a total of 69 minutes which places them at a speed of approximately 1.3 km/minute then claiming their accuracy was within 200 m of the important areas that needed mitigation. Even if the helicopter slowed down on occasion or hovered they could not have covered that full line and returned in a total of 69 minutes. This probably explains why they not see the Goose Breeding Pond or the Shooting Range in the Local Government District of Pinawa or perhaps located them in some other spot with their handheld GPS. It however also suggests that many of the beaver ponds and other environmentally sensitive locations in the same area were also missed. The use of this handheld GPS inside a helicopter, for this type of survey does not signal intelligent reliability. We can only hope they enjoyed their tour.

- * Having obtained only recently (late June 2014) the full Environmental Assessment Report for this project by request to Manitoba Conservation. An opportunity to legitimate and provide Community examination was precluded by this action. It is simply inexcusable that Manitoba Hydro did not provide a copy to our Local Government District and our Library on completion of the study. This reinforces why Manitoba Hydro transferred there responsibility to 'gather' environmental information to the public thereby providing error blame on these publics. This lack of consideration further reinforces the obvious inculcated desire of the planning staff in Manitoba Hydro who, in general, set out to avoid providing information to the Community of Pinawa. This unconscionable act also suggests that there may be serious and hidden deficiencies in the project that will negatively impact the Local Government District of Pinawa.

- * Because there are environmental sensitive areas within the Old Growth Forest of the Local Government District of Pinawa Manitoba Hydro has taken every advantage to exclude public input from the Local Government District of Pinawa and the citizens residents

- * The above noted omissions reinforce the suspicion that the transmission corridor was going to seriously impact the flora and fauna in the Local Government District of Pinawa.

- * Some additional information supplied to the Pinawa Game & Fish Association which was generated by specific request was in a format that is not visually understandable nor written in a language suitable for average public consumption. Mitigation activities or plans were missing from any material that was obtainable. From quickly and recently examining the full report, it appears that Manitoba Hydro plans to mitigate issues as they discover them during construction. Requiring public trust that they will in be properly mitigated because Manitoba Hydro know how to do that according to their documents. If in fact this is true, allowing this kind of mitigation is unbelievable with any major construction that creates environmental impacts such as this Transmission Line.

- * Further - cutting a 200 foot swath through the Old Growth Boreal Forest and wetlands (suggested in the winter time)will have a serious and devastating impact on the wildlife habitat throughout the area. Part of this area has an estimated beaver population reaching a total of five beavers per acre thereby suggesting a inhumane starvation death in the populated area of approximately 100 Beavers. (*Approximately is a commonly used word in Manitoba Hydro's documents*) In addition and not without actually being provided the necessary information the 'approximate' impact on the flora and fauna will include a considerable number of other deleterious environmental impacts which also includes the reduction of 'internationally urged carbon sequestration'.
- * As mentioned earlier and according to their documents approximately 59% of the Project Study Area is in the Pinawa Ecodistrict

It is simply unbelievable that Manitoba Hydro who has clearly demonstrated its available wealth by the development of Keeyask Generating Station and BiPole III, then uses an environmentally devastating design for the Point Du Bois Transmission Project to reduce costs when they already have two functional corridors, one of which they are partly using, to reach the Seven Sisters Generating Station?

Submitted on my own behalf:

G. Mills

Mister Mills is the patriarch and the fifth generation of a pioneer family who settled in Manitoba in the late 1800's. They have participated in the development of our Province and our Country as merchants, policeman, teachers and healthcare professionals, public consultants, political party supporters and some have served with distinction in our military. My children and their children continue to do so today. It is natural and important that not only people of history and newcomers are considered for their abilities and information on projects of this nature that are proposed by both the Government and Private Industry thereby providing the assurance that the future is properly considered.

Copies of this document are provided to:

MLA Wayne Ewasco - Member for the constituency of Lac du Bonnet

His Worship, Blair Skinner - Mayor of Pinawa

MP Ted Falk Member for the Constituency of Provencher

MLA Honorable Gord Mackintosh Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship

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