

February 21, 2018

Client File No. 5433.00  
Licence No. 3055

Ms. Tracey Braun  
Director  
Environmental Approvals  
Manitoba Sustainable Development  
Suite 160, 123 Main Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

Dear Ms. Braun:

RE: Bipole III Transmission Project (Licence 3055) – Fibre Optic Cable Stream  
Crossing Alteration Request

Pursuant to the Bipole III Transmission Project *Environment Act* licence 3055, Manitoba Hydro is requesting a minor alteration to the Bipole III Transmission Project EIS.

After further site investigation it has been determined that horizontal directional drilling underneath an unnamed tributary to Swift Creek will not be possible due to a combination of the geotechnical features, varying frost levels and the length of the crossing (approx. 150 m).

Manitoba Hydro is proposing to excavate a receiving trench within the riparian floodplain, but outside of any potential stream channel. Then drill from outside of the riparian buffer zones into the receiving trench. The receiving trench will be approximately 0.75 m (2.5 ft) wide, 3 m (10 ft) long and 1.5 m (5 ft) deep.

Based on field surveys conducted during the assessment of Bipole III, the unnamed tributary of Swift Creek likely provides marginal fish habitat for forage fish only. At the crossing it consists of bog habitat, with no defined channel and a soft floodplain. It likely provides no overwintering potential and is over 3km from Swift Creek itself.

Manitoba Hydro will continue to implement the following specific measures to mitigate potential effects of this project:

- Horizontal directional drilling will continue to be used to install fibre optic cable under

all other streams and creeks to mitigate disturbance to these sensitive areas;

- Existing access trails will be utilized where possible and keeping any new trails less than 12m in width;
- Where trenching by way of excavation, original organic material will be replaced on the top of the backfill to facilitate natural re-vegetation; and
- Any disturbed areas will be assessed the following spring for rehabilitation requirements.

The proposed changes with mitigation measures as described above do not alter any conclusions in the Bipole III Transmission Project EIS. Manitoba Hydro will follow the Bipole III AC Collector Construction Environmental Protection Plan for the installation of the buried and overhead fibre optic cables.

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

Regards,

*Original signed by Shannon Johnson*

Shannon Johnson  
Manager  
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R3M 3T1