

NEEDS FOR AND ALTERNATIVES TO (NFAT)

Manitoba Hydro Undertaking #73

Manitoba Hydro to find out what activities on Keeyask, Conawapa, and the 500 kV line are currently underway, looking at associated impacts.

Response:

Keeyask Transmission Project (KTP)

The activity conducted to date on the KTP in relation to mitigation of potential impacts, has focused on route selection and avoidance of sensitive sites and areas of concern, where possible. The feedback from engagement activities included discussions with communities who expressed an interest. For example, Tataskweyak Cree Nation (TCN) and Fox Lake Cree Nation conducted traditional knowledge studies and provided routing feedback. This information was used to inform the route selection process and to minimize impacts. Discussions in relation to the project are ongoing with interested communities this will include sharing information in relation to monitoring and environmental protection measures and soliciting community feedback.

Manitoba Hydro has been in communication with the registered trappers whose traplines will be traversed by the KTP. Once there is greater certainty that the project will proceed, Manitoba Hydro will enter into negotiations with registered trappers to arrive at an agreement pursuant to Manitoba Hydro’s Trappers Notification/Compensation Policy for New Transmission Developments. Limestone Registered Trapline 65 (the Gillam community trapline) will be traversed by KTP. In this case, Manitoba Hydro will seek to work with a collective body representing local trappers in an effort to address potential concerns.

In terms of planned mitigation the following measures have been identified in the EIS and will be implemented through an Environmental Protection Plan with the start of construction. Additional measures may be undertaken as a result of licence conditions and through adaptive management.

Water	Avoidance – minimization of number of stream crossings Riparian buffers Sediment control Winter clearing and construction
Land	Paralleling existing or planned linear infrastructure Permafrost clearing prescription Winter clearing and construction Erosion control plans for steep slopes Minimize access trails for construction Vegetation management plans

Flora and Wetlands	Avoidance, where possible, of sensitive areas for plants of conservation concern or resource harvest Invasive plant minimization using bio-security approach. Winter clearing and construction Pre-construction surveys to identify areas for protection and/or modified clearing. Allow low shrub communities on right-of-way where feasible or prescribed.
Fauna	Winter clearing and construction Timing windows and buffers Bird diverters Caribou/Moose –clearing prescriptions and timing windows Allow low shrub communities on right-of-way where feasible or prescribed Access management
Resource Use	Avoidance where possible of sensitive sites Winter clearing and construction Trappers Notification/Compensation Policy Access Management

In regards to monitoring, plans are being developed to confirm predictions in the EIS, monitor the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and address unanticipated effects.

Currently there is ongoing regional monitoring in the KTP area and other areas of northern Manitoba as follows:

For boreal woodland and coastal caribou, Manitoba Hydro is supporting research by working with Resource Management Boards, First Nations, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and other stakeholders through established regional committees. Activities include collaring, aerial surveys and mortality investigations for which Manitoba Hydro is providing funding, equipment and staff.

Representatives of the northern transmission projects will also participate in a Caribou monitoring committee being established as a sub-committee of the Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership’s Monitoring Advisory Committee. The purpose of this committee is to share the results of monitoring activities and the success of mitigation measures among project proponents, communities and regulatory agencies participating in caribou-related activities in the lower Nelson River region.

Conawapa, 500 kV, and North South Transmission

For Conawapa, the 500 kV Transmission Line and North South Transmission Upgrade final routing has not been determined for these projects. The routing process is the primary mitigation measure to address potential impacts for these projects. Manitoba Hydro is currently in the process of gathering relevant site information and feedback from the

engagement process. The following mitigation measures will be considered but are not limited to:

Water	Avoidance – minimization of number of stream crossings Riparian buffers Sediment control Winter clearing and construction
Land	Paralleling existing or planned linear infrastructure Permafrost clearing prescription Winter clearing and construction Erosion control plans for steep slopes Minimize access trails for construction Vegetation management plans
Flora and Wetlands	Avoidance, where possible, of sensitive areas for plants of conservation concern or resource harvest Invasive plant minimization using bio-security approach. Winter clearing and construction Pre-construction surveys to identify areas for protection and/or modified clearing. Allow low shrub communities on right-of-way where feasible or prescribed.
Fauna	Winter clearing and construction Timing windows and buffers Bird diverters Caribou/Moose –clearing prescriptions and timing windows Allow low shrub communities on right-of-way where feasible or prescribed Access management
Resource Use	Avoidance where possible of sensitive sites Winter clearing and construction Trappers Notification/Compensation Policy Access Management
Agriculture	Route selection Route alignment Tower placement Rehabilitation of compaction and surface damage Application of bio-security approach Landowner Compensation Program

In regards to monitoring, plans will be developed to confirm predictions in the EIS, monitor the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and address unanticipated effects.

Currently there is ongoing regional monitoring in areas of northern Manitoba as follows:

- For boreal woodland and coastal caribou, Manitoba Hydro is supporting research by working with Resource Management Boards, First Nations, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and other stakeholders through established regional committees. Activities

include collaring, aerial surveys and mortality investigations for which Manitoba Hydro is providing funding, equipment and staff.

- Manitoba Hydro is also engaging with Manitoba Conservation, First Nation's, Metis and stakeholders in areas of low moose populations, to facilitate the research required to determine the cause for the decline and develop mitigation strategies to reduce any potential effects of its planned infrastructure on the moose populations.