

**MANITOBA-MINNESOTA
TRANSMISSION PROJECT**

Clean Environment Commission Hearing




Biophysical environment

Valued components assessed

Fish and Fish Habitat

Vegetation and Wetlands



Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

Traditional Land and Resource Use

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Why traditional land and resource use (TLRU) ?

Potential adverse effects to traditional activities, practices, sites, areas, and resources that are of importance to First Nation and Metis

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Lessons learned

- Traditional knowledge enhances understanding of species and resources assessed by other VCs.
- TLRU may occur near the Project, even if not specifically identified by First Nations and Metis.



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TLRU presentation roadmap



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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed Key Findings Mitigation, Monitoring, and Follow-up Conclusions

Key TLRU interests and concerns

- Plant harvesting for food, medicine, and cultural purposes
- Hunting and trapping for food, economic, and cultural purposes
- Trails and travelways such as trail systems, waterways, landmarks
- Cultural sites:
 - burial sites,
 - sacred sites,
 - spiritual sites, and
 - sacred spaces.




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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed Key Findings Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up Conclusions

Assessment boundaries

- Spatial - based on: wildlife LAA and RAA
- Temporal - based on:
 - Current use
 - Oral tradition
 - Future availability of and access to lands and resources



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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed Key Findings Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up Conclusions

The First Nation & Metis Engagement Process

- Manitoba Hydro heard and recorded Project concerns, constraints, and opportunities from First Nations and Metis.
- Manitoba Hydro received information regarding existing conditions was incorporated into relevant VC sections from First Nations and Metis.

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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed Key Findings Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up Conclusions

The First Nation & Metis Engagement Process

Potential project concerns shared during preliminary routing discussions:

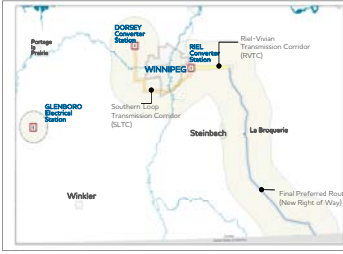
- exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights
- historical use areas
- harvesting berries and plants
- gathering places and burial sites, sacred and sensitive areas
- traditional practices in sacred areas
- pressure on TLE interests
- Medicine Line burials

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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed Key Findings Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up Conclusions

Issues addressed through routing

- Limiting area of Project PDA in Crown land
- Traditional medicine gathering area on private land



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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed Key Findings Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up Conclusions

Self-directed studies

Prior to EIS submission

- Black River, Long Plain, and Swan Lake First Nations
- Peguis First Nation
- Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation
- Sagkeeng First Nation

Following EIS submission

- Dakota Plains Wahpeton First Nation
- Metis Land Use and Occupancy Study


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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed Key Findings Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up Conclusions

Methods

To identify key concerns regarding:

- plant harvesting
- hunting and trapping
- trails and travelways
- cultural sites



Existing conditions for TLRU documented from:

- self-directed ATK studies and oral histories
- First Nation and Metis engagement process
- secondary sources
- other VC assessments for the project


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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed **Key Findings** Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up Conclusions

Key findings

First Nations and Metis:

- harvest native plants for food, medicinal, and cultural purposes throughout the RAA.
- harvest a variety of big game, small mammals, birds, and waterfowl throughout the RAA





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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed **Key Findings** Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up Conclusions

Key findings

First Nations and Metis:

- Continue to use long-established trails and travelways that connect communities, harvesting areas, and gathering places in a network of traditional use and cultural patterns.
- Report cultural sites and areas in the RAA.



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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed **Key Findings** Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up Conclusions

Key mitigation measures

- Routing
- Project-specific mitigation measures for TLRU
- Key mitigations from other VCs
- Access Management Plan/Environmental Protection Plan
- Culture and Heritage Resource Protection Plan:
 - *Measures for the chance discovery of cultural and heritage resources during construction*

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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed Key Findings **Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up** Conclusions

Monitoring and follow-up


- Manitoba Hydro will continue to engage First Nations and Metis including:
 - Discussions regarding proposed mitigation measures
 - Consideration of new mitigation measures recommended by First Nations and Metis throughout the engagement process

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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed Key Findings **Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up** Conclusions

Residual effects on plant harvesting

- Change to availability of plants gathered for food, medicine, and cultural purposes
 - loss of plants
 - reduced vigour
 - reduced abundance
- Change in access to plant gathering sites
- Altered experience of plant gathering




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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed Key Findings **Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up** Conclusions

Residual effects on hunting and trapping

- Change to availability of resources for hunting and trapping
- Change in access to hunting and trapping sites
- Altered experience of hunting and trapping




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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed Key Findings Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up Conclusions

Residual effects on trails & travelways

- Change in availability of and access to trails and travelways
- Altered experience of travel for traditional purposes




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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed Key Findings Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up Conclusions

Residual effects on cultural sites

- Disrupt or reduce use of sites of cultural, spiritual or sacred value
- Altered experience of traditional activities at these sites



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Overview What We Heard What We Assessed Key Findings Mitigation, Monitoring and Follow-up Conclusions

Summary of project effects on TLRU

- Most plant harvesting, hunting and trapping, travelways and cultural sites are outside the LAA
- With mitigation, the effects on TLRU are low to moderate, extending from the PDA to the LAA
- The area of Crown land in the PDA is limited to 752 ha
- After construction, access to TLRU sites on Crown lands within the Project easement will be unrestricted except during maintenance activities

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