

My name is Yves Lapointe. I've been farming since the year 2000. My wife Kelli and I have 2 children. We are fourth generation farmers who want to keep on farming and hope to have a fifth generation of future farmers. We are the owners and operators of river lot 547 where the transmission line is intended to pass. The parcel of land is 142 acres which is already cut up diagonally in 3 parcels by the highway 75, adjacent hydro power line, as well as the Ste. Agathe community dike, CNR railway tracks, fibre optic line and a municipal ditch. In July 2011 we would learn that now we would additionally have to deal with another hydro line which will be an even greater hazard and nuisance.

We have several environmental concerns about Bipole 3. If this transmission line is built we would have to work around 6 possible towers extending over the length of the river lot which is 2 miles. There are safety concerns in dealing with these structures. Such as, there's always a possibility of hitting the towers and we must also consider the safety of the equipment operators.

We also inquired about 3rd party insurance liabilities. The company we deal with has indicated that machinery damage would be covered by our existing policy but would not cover damage to the hydro structure. The possibility is always there to incur such an accident, which could cost thousands. Who would be responsible for damage to hydro structures?

As a young farmer I extensively use the Gps system. I use this technology for my row crop farming practices growing corn and soybeans. This system is very convenient since I use it when I seed, spray or harvest my crops. I wonder how well the system would work near and underneath the lines. Signal in all likelihood would be very poor or non-existent. This does not surprise me at all since cell-phone reception is already poor in that area. Having these transmission lines will not make the problem any better. We rely on that kind of technology now more than ever for all kinds of reasons: be it to grow a crop, call an ambulance, fire department, family or help of any kind. We also rely on 2 way radio communication between various farm machinery operators. The towers would probably cause interference with this option and also not give us the possibility of effective communication putting us at risk. This creates a huge impact on our lifestyle and our health.

A huge transmission line such as Bipole 3 will negatively devalue the farmland property. No farmer likes to work around structures that will give him difficulties or increase the costs to produce a crop. Therefore a possible future purchaser will not want to pay top dollar for such land or production constraints.

One of the reasons Manitoba Hydro wanted to build another transmission line was to be protected from severe conditions. Unfortunately, this area is known to be part of an area where tornadoes have been devastating, for example the Elie and Aubigny tornadoes. We are concerned as to the danger of having these towers near structures in high winds like we've seen this past fall.

Another hazard of the towers being built close to a major highway is the possibility of snow drifts. Large amounts of snow could accumulate around the towers during a snow storm therefore causing drifts which in turn could cause severe automobile accidents and are dangerous to the drivers. In the fields huge snow drifts would take a long time to melt in the spring and would delay seeding operations.

All these stressful issues must be considered. Also adding insult to injury is the very inadequate Bipole 3 Landowner compensation information package of nov.2011. Land assessment and compensation is unrealistic at today's prices. No consideration is made for further costs incurred of the towers which will put the onus on landowners to maintain something they never wanted to begin with. It also will be a detriment for future generations of farmers. Our health, our way of life and our community will be potentially affected!!!