

EXHIBIT NUMBER: NIV - 012  
File Name: BIPOLE III

Date: Oct 26, 2012  
Received by: (Commissioner Secretary)

JENNIFER PLETT  
127-4<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Landmark, Manitoba

There are many freedoms that we take for granted in Canada. We live in a democratic society and are the envy of many nations. In the case of Bipole III, Manitoba Hydro and the current provincial government are not giving me the freedom to choose whether or not their massive hydro lines should run so close to the community of Landmark that has been my home for the last 15 years.

There have been many instances in our lives where things didn't seem to pose a threat. For instance, tobacco companies were allowed to include cigarettes in the GI rations during World War II. Families sent soldiers cigarettes in care packages. Would the government – or families of GIs - have considered doing this if they had known what the ramifications would be to the lives of the soldiers who became addicted to the cigarettes? Would they have encouraged smoking so that someday the government would have to spend millions of healthcare dollars to combat the cancers and heart disease that would follow?

What about the news stories that you see where people who were once happy to take income offered to them by having a wind turbine on their property? These people suffer headaches, stress and many health conditions that they can only attribute to the turbine that is now so close to their homes. Would they have turned their homestead into a place of stress and illness if they had known? Would they have considered the cash payout worth it? I doubt it. My guess is that those who suffer from chronic, debilitating or terminal illnesses would gladly choose their health over any payout offered to them.

Both of these examples, while seemingly harmless at the time, were choices that people could make. They could choose to smoke and they could choose to allow a wind turbine on their property – and then suffer any potential negatives that came their way. If you put these hydro towers on people's properties, close to their homes, what choice do they have? I suppose that they could move. But now who is going to want to buy their farm and/or home that is occupied by these huge towers? I doubt that it will be a selling feature. It may make the property so unattractive that prospective buyers will move on to the next property, or next community, that doesn't have a tower on it.

Another concern of mine is that Bipole III will threaten any future growth in Landmark. The following is an excerpt from a letter that was written to local politicians in August 2011. This is a quote from the Landmark high school principal:

"The community population of Landmark has become stagnant. Unlike other southeast communities, there has been no new growth and therefore the school population has been shrinking. Due to staffing formulas, fewer students mean fewer teachers and fewer teachers mean fewer courses and options for students. This makes for a less attractive school and as a result, students will and have been seeking larger venues to attend. With no additional students next year, we will be scheduled to lose a teacher. This will make for the smallest the school has been, including teachers and students, since I began working at the LCI 18 years ago."

This situation was occurring because of a water infrastructure issue in Landmark. We believe that this has finally been overcome and Landmark is poised to grow again due to the interest of several developers on all outer perimeters of the town. If Bipole III makes Landmark less attractive to developers, we will again be in the position of watching our schools shrink. My youngest children are in grade 4 and grade 6. I want them to continue to have the option to go to school in Landmark and not have to consider the possibility of being bused to another community.

Some of you may be familiar with a new land development called Sage Creek on the east side of Lagimodiere Blvd in Winnipeg. I have been told of at least two families who want to move into a new home but will not consider Sage Creek because of the hydro lines so close to the development. They aren't asking for scientific studies. They simply don't want to risk their family's health for something that hasn't had repeated, long term studies definitely proving that there will be no risk. They don't have to move to Sage Creek if they don't want to. They can look elsewhere. They have that choice. Since I am currently in my home and the towers are coming to me, I don't have that choice.

It stands to reason that we as taxpayers will be footing the extra billion dollars that is being spent to run Bipole III down the west side of the province. As Manitoba Hydro has already applied for and received two rate increases in 2012, it seems that we are already starting to pay down this debt.

I feel very strongly that Manitoba Hydro and the current government need to stop playing hardball with Manitoba farmers. They need to listen to organizations like the Bipole III Coalition, many professional engineers, other experts, retired Hydro executives and a growing number of concerned Manitoba citizens. And they need to listen to people like me who don't want to be so close to Bipole III that I'll see it out of my living room window.