

Jim Pedersen – CEC Hearing

BiPole III Presentation – Portage la Prairie – Oct 24 2012

Mr Chairman, I will be addressing our concerns within your commissions “scope” and some issues I feel should be mentioned, maybe some outside of your mandate.

Our farm is located approximately 4 miles SE of Elm Creek established 94 years ago 1918. I am 3<sup>rd</sup> generation; our son 4<sup>th</sup> generation is also farming. We have 5 little grandson’s and odds are at least one or more will farm!

We are intensive crop managers specializing in cash and special crops, i.e.: corn, soybeans, and sunflowers. We just harvested our 40<sup>th</sup> corn crop! The land is conducive to vegetable production if we or the next generation wishes to pursue this endeavor!

The proposed BiPole III line would be located on the ½ mile line completely dissecting our farm in half! The line would be located 180 meters from the main yard; 150 meters or less from the edge of the Hydro right-of-way to the yard. Travel under or around this line would be at least once and possibly several times per day!

Our main concerns are:

- Internet Service
- Affect on GPS, RTK, satellite service
- Liability Insurance
- Drainage on the home section 4-8-4
- Shelterbelts located on ½ mile line 5-8-4
- Additional Input costs, inconvenience of working around poles
- Human stress

Internet:

We all take for granted hi-speed internet access. A lot of rural areas have poor service i.e. dial-up. We have a line of sight hi-speed service off a tower NE about 8 miles away. This power line would dissect the line of sight!

How does the EMF affect this? Answer: Too bad buddy ?

GPS and RTK guidance systems that we use on the farm.

Satellite service from Omaha, Nebraska. :

How will the EMF affect our use? 2 way radio use from home base to mobile equipment. This is expensive technology we are using \$10,000 maybe \$25,000 plus per unit of service. I am not convinced or have been reassured by Hydro officials that everything is ok. I won't accept the answer "oh sorry" or

better yet “It must be your equipment because nobody else is having the same problem!”

Liability Insurance:

I understand we would be required to handle a minimum of \$5M insurance. You would be foolish not to! Additional cost in today’s dollars is \$176 on our farm. I didn’t ask for this additional yearly expense in perpetuity. Another one of the reasons why MB Hydro has to implement a yearly inflation indexed remuneration fee with all landowners!

Drainage:

The proposed Hydro line on the ½ mile would go right on our own private drainage ditch. The home section (4-8-4) slopes to the east with a 7ft.drop on this mile. My dad and I have run all our lateral drains from the adjacent fields to the center of the section and located our main drain running east on this ½ mile line. There is no way I will accept towers in the middle of our vital drain for this section 4-8-4!

**See Pictures A1 & A2**

Shelterbelts:

This is a subject close to my heart. I am not a “tree hugger” per say. We have spent our whole career strategically placing shelterbelts, leaving natural bush where possible. All with the aim of preventing soil erosion, slowing the wind from those 5 mile sweeps in winter. Trying to create a warm environment for our crop (or possibly vegetable production in the future) condition. Leaving the land in better shape for the next generation. STEWARD’S – OF – THE – LAND.

### **See Picture B**

Manitoba Hydro if allowed will be “revving up their Bulldozers” and tearing this new  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile shelterbelt planted in 2006. The shelterbelt on 5-8-4 was put on the  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile line by PFRA under our guidance to help protect our farm yard with snow issues in the winter.

I am very passionate about this issue and will fight this to the last drop of my blood!

Additional Input Costs:

I can see a real problem here, overlap of crop inputs, precision farming techniques. Reviewing Manitoba Hydro’s Agriculture Technical Report I quote: “Poles on farmers land costs go up for weed control, extra seed, fertilizer, chemical with decreased yield of 10%.”

Using 2012 crop values \$750 - \$1000 per acre the cost per structure may be closer to \$450 plus per structure in 2012 dollars compared to the example presented.

Plus all infrastructure damage to drain, trees, crops and soil restoration in Construction.

Another reason for yearly compensation by Manitoba Hydro:

**Picture C** shows Highway #13 in the background. It also shows the "Prairie Trail" municipal road allowance that travels east from #13 for 2 distinct miles (N. Side of 6-8-4, AND 5-8-4). Pass along the Municipal right of way on mile 3 (N side of 4-8-4) and Hydro comes to Crown Land: the 11A drain proceed for the next 10-15 miles on top of one of the dykes. No buildings within ½ mile of line, no compensation for payment on Crown Land, only land owner traffic on 1<sup>st</sup> 3 miles east of #13 hwy. No projected street lights to be erected!

Where was Hydro the day they did their ground proofing?

There are many more issues like decreasing land value, health issues working around these monuments; BUT one issue I would like to address is my Human Stress.

When Manitoba Hydro decides to build an unrealistic expensive line down through the heartland of Manitoba across private lands (i.e. like ours) with little regard for our working

environment, and our food production, with an attitude of 'be quiet and get out of the way'. This issue is too important.

At the Open House I attended I felt Hydro seemed to be very vague on health concerns associated with working around these structures.

It is very frustrating and intimidating when Hydro crews show up in August 2012 GPS'ing and flagging all legal markers with red tape (this is where the line is going!). September 2012 the contract land managers are out wanting to sign up landowner easement rights! Small cash payment – the candy.

When we were approached we said "that we had nothing to discuss because the protocol was for the CEC to have their hearings first!" The answer by the land Manager to my wife in that telephone call "Oh well, it's pretty well 100% assured anyways!"

What credibility does this give the CEC in MY MIND?

- Am I here just wasting my time?
- Should I just shut-up and let MB Hydro walk all over me?
- Let them destroy everything we have worked for in our lifetime?

I sincerely hope this commission will formulate some very productive advice for the Minister.

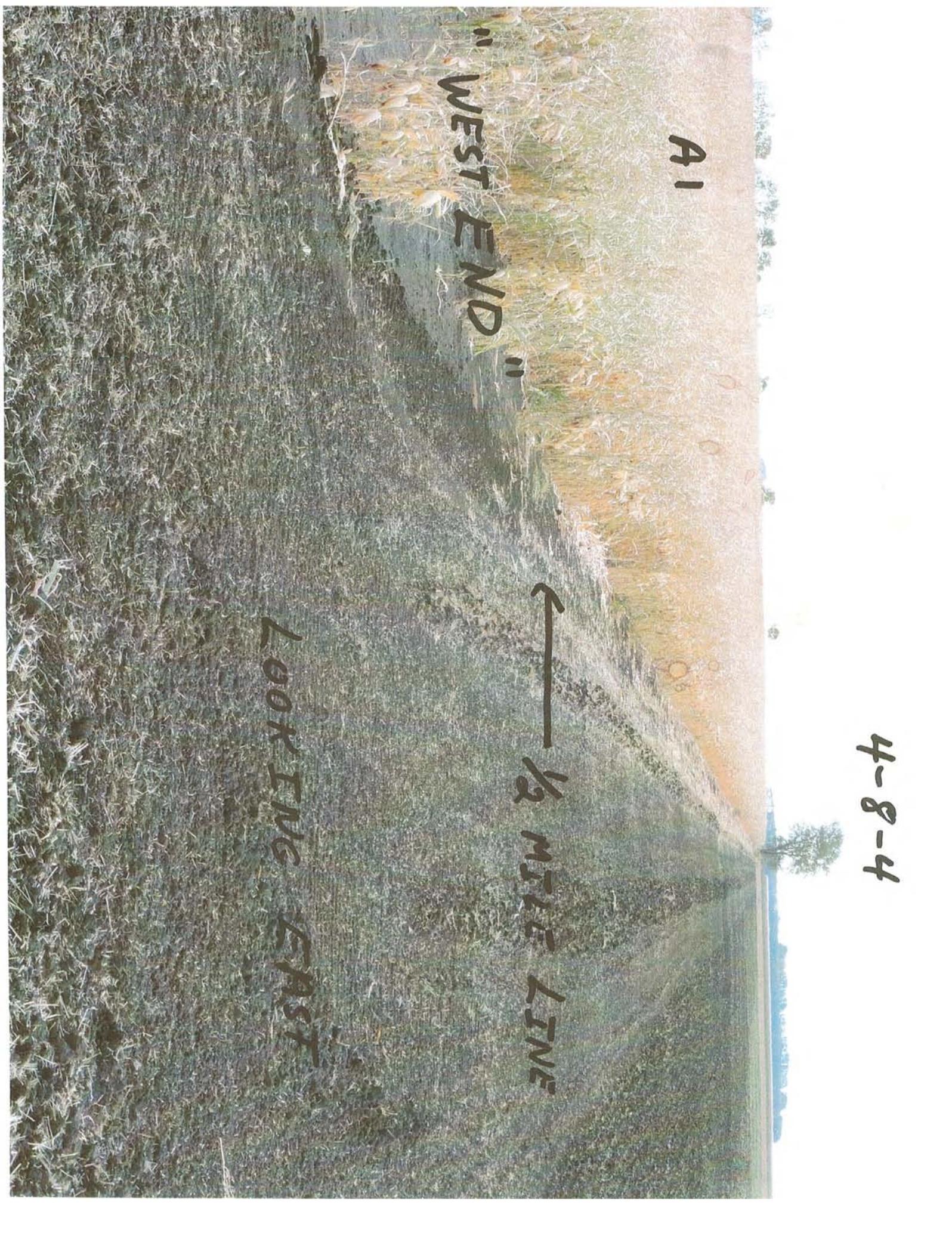
4-8-4

A1

" WEST END "

← 1/2 MILE LINE

LOOKING EAST



4-8-4

A2

LOOKING WEST

← 1/2 MILE

" EAST END "

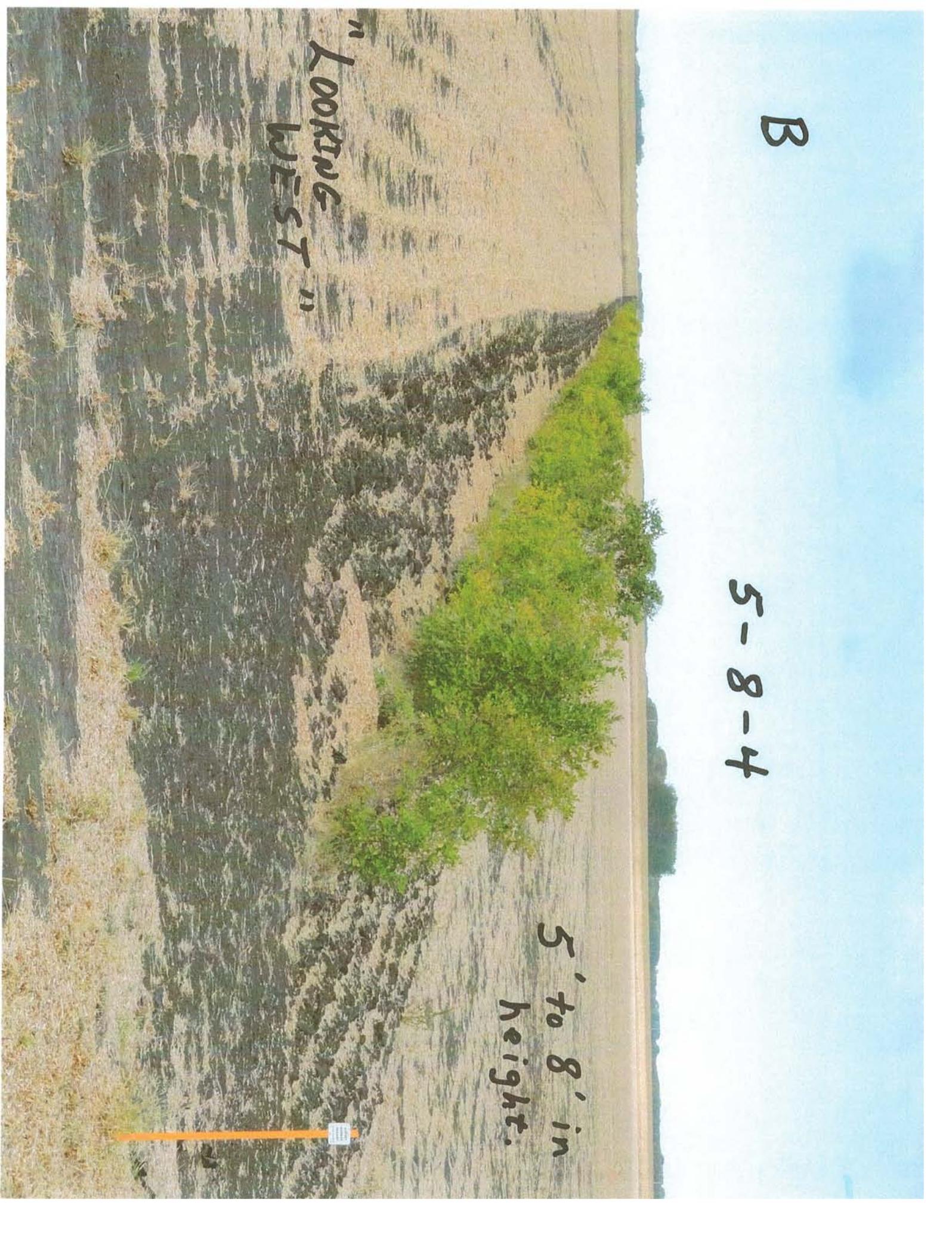


B

5-8-4

"LOOKING  
WEST"

5' to 8' in  
height.



6-8-4

"C"

↖ #13 Hwy

↖ RM right-of-way

NOT MUCH  
TRAFFIC  
USE!

RD CONTINUES  
EAST LIKE THIS "2 MILES"

LOOKING WEST