

# Bipole III Transmission Project



## Environmental Assessment Process

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# Legislation

- Environmental assessment and licensing activities are regulated by ***The Environment Act.***
- Classes of Development Regulation:
  - Bipole III = electrical transmission and transformer stations > 230 kv
  - Class 3 Development
  - Section 12 of ***The Environment Act***
  - Ministerial Decision

## Environmental Assessment Process

- An Environment Act Proposal was filed on December 14, 2009.
- The proposal was accompanied by a Draft Environmental Assessment Scoping document.
- Advertised for public review:
  - online; and,
  - in 13 newspapers across Manitoba between January 2 - 8, 2010, including local newspapers and the Winnipeg Free Press.

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## **Environmental Assessment Process**

- Copies of the proposal and the draft scoping document were placed in 14 public registry locations identified in the advertisements.
- Public comments on both documents were requested by February 10, 2010.
- Copies of both documents were provided to members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for review, with the same requested date for comments.

## Environmental Assessment Process

- Public and TAC comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment Scoping Document were provided to Manitoba Hydro.
- The Scoping Document was finalized in June, 2010.
- The Scoping Document was deemed equivalent to Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) because it had the same content and review process.

## **Environmental Assessment Process**

- The EIS was filed on December 2, 2011.
- The EIS was placed in the public registries and advertised for public review in the same 13 newspapers between December 10 - 22, 2011.
- Comments on the EIS were requested by March 16, 2012.
- The EIS was circulated to TAC members for review, with the same requested date for comments.

## Environmental Assessment Process

- Following the receipt of public and TAC comments on the EIS, additional information was requested.
  - Iterative Information Request (IR) Process
  - Parallel CEC IR Process
- There are four short segments of the proposed route where minor reroutes are anticipated to avoid wildlife impacts.
- The Clean Environment Commission was advised on August 31, 2012, that the available information was satisfactory to commence public hearings.

## Material Available for the Hearing

- Manitoba Hydro's project description and EIS for the project are available at <http://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/bipoleIII/eis.shtml>
- Binders containing all other material pertinent to the environmental assessment process have been supplied to the Commission. All of this material is also available on the Environmental Approvals Branch website at [www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eal/registries/5433bipole/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eal/registries/5433bipole/index.html)



## Next Steps

- The Environmental Approvals Branch looks forward to hearing public comments on the project during the hearings.
- The Branch also looks forward to the Commission's recommendations to the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship following the hearing.