

## BARRY PUGH

Good morning,

My name is Barry Pugh and I farm with my brother William eleven miles west of Portage la Prairie. We operate a pedigree seed farm.

In July, 2010, we learned that Bipole 3 was proposed to be built across our land, affecting three miles of our farm. Two miles of the line are proposed to travel between ourselves and our neighbours, and the third mile will bisect a full square section. This transmission line will pass within one-half mile west of our farmyard.

Being a pedigree seed farm we concentrate on a uniform weed control system consisting of crop rotation, tillage, crop competition, and herbicide application. Over the years, we have excavated stone piles and landscaped stoney headlands to manicure unobstructed sections of farmland, thereby increasing efficiency. Now Manitoba Hydro and the Manitoba government intend to place ten or eleven towers in our fields, recreating our weed and 'obstacle' problem and multiplying it many times over for generations to come.

The placement of these towers will change many aspects of the way we farm, none of them for the better. These structure will force us to increase our insurance liability, thus raising our premiums, should one of our implements make contact with a tower and cause damage.

Our GPS aided equipment will be ineffective near these towers as the equipment will need to be steered manually to avoid contact.

Tillage operations will become less efficient from missing and overlapping, adding to soil compaction as the tractors turn to avoid towers.

Seeding operations are greatly affected with missing and overlapping, costing us time and money.

The application of herbicides and fungicides are seriously affected. As the applicator turns to avoid the structures, the varying speed of the spray booms on the outer wings will under-apply and over-apply chemicals. The area under and around the structures will need special attention costing extra time and money to keep clean. Since the ground applicator cannot spray inside or close to the tower footprint, the weeds will need to be hand

sprayed multiple times per growing season. If control is not achieved, weed contamination of the surrounding area will occur as weed seeds will float and blow around. Aerial applicators have indicated they will not fly near the structures, leaving many producers without a necessary service.

Swathing procedures will be extended as we will have to dodge these structures.

Combining around these towers and under the lines introduces an unknown hazard. How much danger is the operator exposed to on a dusty day with low humidity? What is the chance of a static electric arc developing between the lowest point of the line and the highest point of the combine?

According to the Manitoba Hydro map, Bipole 3 passes over at least twelve railway lines and fifteen highways, creating many potential sites for major tragedies should a tornado bring the transmission line to the ground. With increasing truck traffic, what is the chance of a static electric arc should a steady flow of semi truck/trailer units pass under the lines?

The southern portion of the proposed transmission line passes through some of the most productive farmland in the world. Food is produced in the most cost-effective way and the produce is of the greatest quality. In a world that combats poverty and famine, disease and death due to food shortages, it is almost criminal that the Selinger government propose to eliminate the use of the soil that feeds us for so little relative cost. The footprint and surrounding area of each Bipole 3 tower will be wasting land that could be feeding people.

I know that cost of the project is outside the scope of this hearing, but cost directly affects community health, livelihoods, and social health of every Manitoban. The last cost estimate I heard from Manitoba Hydro was 3.28 billion dollars, a number that most of us can't even imagine. The Manitoba government wants to steal that money away from other projects that could improve our lifestyle like the upgrading of roads and highways, building and staffing hospitals, the list goes on. This mammoth project is set to burden us with higher hydro rates in order to subsidize our American friends.

In summary, the western route of Bipole 3 is a waste of time and money. The proposal has already put a great amount of stress on landowners, their neighbours, and hydro employees and will cause more social tension in the years to follow. I urge the Clean Environment Commission to heed the points of concern of the Manitoba citizens and recommend the project be shelved until a sensible route and a profitable purpose can be found.