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CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION HEARINGS ON BIPOLE III

PRESENTATION OF EUGENNIE MERCREDI

November 9, 2012

Thank-you, Mr. Chairman and the CEC Panel, for allowing me to participate these Clean Environment Commission Hearings on Bipole III.

Tansi!, nina-oma, Ka-pa-puk-o-wisqwew! Ka-ki-now-ki-at-mis-ka-tin-awow oti ka-peyek, mina Manito ni mi now ni pey kisqwe wi-new!

My Traditional name is Butterfly woman! My English name is Eugennie Mercredi. I am a former Women's traditional chief, and a former Councillor of Cross Lake Band for 3 years and currently as a Community Health Representative Worker for Cross Lake Health Services. I greet you all for being here and I give thanks to the creator for what I am going to share. I speak as individual concerned citizen, and for all who cannot speak for themselves of Pimicikamawuk, and as an activist who cares for mother earth (environment) who gives us life.

First of all, as a Woman, woman are life givers, woman brings life, and all woman should be respected and treated equally and then we can all have that balance in life. If we don't realize that woman are sacred part of life, then we don't respect our mother earth (environment) lakes, and rivers, and swamps, and animals, trees, and air, water, are like veins and are poisoned everyday by today's society. The poison water is flowing everyday in our society over greed and money and power.

All of us human beings that live on this sacred turtle island are all responsible to take care of this land that god, the mighty creator, created for all us to live and sustain all of us. And we must all take care of it collectively, so other generations that are coming along can use it the same way as we occupy this land as long as we live today. I believe our ancestors are all watching over us and took care of this sacred land that god gave us to live in peace and harmony as long as we live in life.

Secondly, today, we see a lot of changes in our lifetimes, a lot of climate changes, and a lot of destruction of resources by Corporations taking control over this turtle island. We have to awaken up our society today. Destruction of resource has a lot of impact on us because mother earth is dying. If we don't take care of this land we will all die.

We, Pimicikamak have been greatly impacted by Manitoba Hydro Development's because of water regime, erosions on shorelines, islands disappearing each time the water fluctuates. Adverse effects have occurred, and continue to occur as we speak, on our lands, traditional pursuits, traditional hunting rights, traditional fishing rights, and gathering medicines. Our lifestyle and way of life has changed dramatically since Manitoba Hydro dam development when the Northern Flood Agreement was signed when Manitoba Hydro built Jenpeg Generating Station in our treaty five territory land's without our consent and or crown consultation.

Pimicikamawuk is surely affected by Lake Winnipeg Regulation and Churchill River Diversion projects in Northern Manitoba and we still have long outstanding claims for our people that haven't been dealt with. Like Manitoba Hydro compensations for lost loved ones to the families. As a Northern Affairs Agreement Treaty Signatory, the Pimicikamawuk are affected by and must be consulted about every Hydro project including Bipole III.

Thirdly, our ancestors long time ago were self sufficient and didn't need any welfare or hydro to come and take over our water lakes and trees and tell us how to live a better life and today. We still continue living under massive destruction, and ongoing effects.

The effects of this Bipole III Transmission Project are unpredictable. The future generations that are unborn won't see the great lakes, or the mighty Nelson River, or Rivers of our mother earth (environment) that were so natural and pure back then. When I was a child and partly when I was a youth, I can recall our people talking about the impacts that were going to occur and they knew that it wasn't going to be the same anymore, the way it was in their times.

I see the changes what they were talking about, today. I remember, me and my brother, used to go down the lake, in the winter time, and get a pail of water to drink for supper for our dearest mother to cook, and we didn't have to pay our water back then, because it was so pure and natural back then, my grandparents protected us and warned us what the future will be like for us to survive.

I see that today in our society, a lot of change and now we pay for our water to drink and are limited the usage of water and sewer services each day. And have massive hydro bill's that our people cannot afford to pay bill's have of \$300 -5000 up to \$10,000.00 of their outstanding power is constantly threatened everyday to be cut-off.

We have 95% are unemployed, living on welfare, living on poverty and losing our young people over suicides because they have nothing to look forward to and families get devastated and the whole community get affected when we lose our youth through suicide, we have lack of housing and our population is growing of 10,000 and only have 800 houses.

A lot of our burial sites have been destroyed and disturbed from our lands because of water fluctuations and have been flooded out and this continues to happen in our sacred lands of our treaty five traditional territories.

We, Pimicikamawuk, struggle to carry on but we will never surrender our lands to survive and our traditional ways of life and our values have been impacted and continue to impact us greatly. Yes, the future proposed Bipole III project will greatly impact on our future generations, and the unborn that are coming along.

Finally, We, Pimicikamawuk have been waiting patiently with MH experts to work with us collaboratively to compensate for our NFA broken promises haven't that been fulfilled yet. The 35 years of interim water power license that Manitoba Hydro carries and for the next 50 years. As Nations, we have the final say, if the final licensing will go through because we aboriginal peoples, are the rights holders of this land.

We inherent the land from our ancestor's graves, treaty lands entitlements, and peace keepers and protectors of this land, therefore you must work with all nations, and must realize that we are the ones that agree or disagree with the future Manitoba Hydro proposed developments, including Bipole III.

I strongly, recommend that CEC panel make clear Aboriginal Rights, Treaty Rights, and Treaty Land Entitlements as spoken by elders, women, youth, and our leaderships to bring awareness and update of this Bipole III project which we have not been consulted about. Our water is contaminated, a lot of mercury we are limited to fishing and hunting rights in our territories. It seems our people get punished more and more when we make movements as we are the ones that did something wrong and a lot of broken promises of NFA don't want to be dealt with what the agreement says.

MH and staff and all experts get paid from our valuable resource and Pimicikamawuk are not employed or can't pay any experts to use for our own lawyers too and experts and consultants to start working with us instead the MH provides their own experts when they work with us and pay their staff from their

and double charge their services they do for us and yet we pay to MH for giving us power and yet they should be paying us something back and employ our people like promised to clean the environment, clean up the mess to employ our own people, prevent further harms, and respect Pimicikamawuk of who we are and may the creator watch over us all in the future and do it right.

Thank you for listening to me, Ekosani Nitotemitik! All my Relations!

Submission submitted by: Eugennie Mercredi, Pimicikamak Treaty 5 Territory!