



April 20, 2012

Manitoba Clean Environment Commission  
305 - 155 Carlton Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8

Re: Manitoba Hydro's proposed Bipole III transmission line project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) represents all 197 incorporated municipalities in Manitoba. The AMM identifies and addresses the needs and concerns of its members in order to achieve strong and effective municipal government. One of the main functions of the AMM is to lobby on issues that affect Manitoba municipalities.

Many of our members have concerns about the proposed route for Bipole III including cost, environmental impact, and appropriate compensation for municipalities and landowners.

Due to the increased distance covered by the west side route, increased number of towers, and disruption to landowners, the costs of construction will be much higher. As well, with the longer route there is an increased risk that the power lines or towers might be damaged, therefore maintenance costs will also be higher.

In addition, since the Province of Manitoba has made a commitment to construct a road access on the east side of Lake Winnipeg in order to provide permanent access for northern communities, the AMM is concerned that the west side route is wasteful. The west side route will also have a significant environmental impact over a longer route.

Finally, municipalities and landowners must be properly compensated in a consistent manner for any land, including the potential loss in land value due to the proximity of hydro lines.

Many of our issues are raised by our members through resolutions, which our members vote on at the AMM Annual Convention each year. In 2010 a resolution was passed which resolved that the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to oppose any construction routes of Bipole III along the west side of Lake Manitoba.

Similarly, in 2011 our membership passed a resolution which resolved that the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Province of Manitoba to consider the construction of the Bipole III line in conjunction with the east side road.

Please see the attached resolutions passed by AMM members on the topic of Bipole III. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our comments, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Dobrowolski', written over a horizontal line.

Doug Dobrowolski  
President

Enclosure

## **AMM Resolutions**

### **AMM Resolution #14-2010 - Bipole III**

Sponsors: RM of Grey, RM of Macdonald, RM of Cartier (Central District), Municipality of Shoal Lake (Midwestern District)

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba proposed construction of a third Bipole hydro line along the west side of Manitoba rather than the east side;  
AND WHEREAS the cost, including additional line losses, would be approximately \$2.24 billion to construct in the west and \$1.837 billion to construct in the east;  
AND WHEREAS the impact on agricultural and private land is considerably higher in the west than the east;  
AND WHEREAS the total length of the Bipole III route is expected to be 1364 km in the west and 885 km in the east;  
AND WHEREAS the total number of towers required is estimated at 2902 in the west and 1883 in the east;  
AND WHEREAS the number of health concerns are high due to the large population along the proposed Bipole III route;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Province of Manitoba to oppose any construction routes of Bipole III along the west side of Lake Manitoba.

### **AMM Resolution #26-2011 - Bipole III Location**

Sponsor: RM of Alexander (Eastern District)

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has made a commitment to construct a road access on the east side of Lake Winnipeg in order to provide permanent access for northern communities;  
AND WHEREAS it is the expressed intent of the Province of Manitoba to have the Bipole III lines reconstructed on the western side of Lake Winnipeg at an extremely high cost to Manitobans, through taxation on utility rate increases in order to preserve the boreal forest in hopes of having it designated a World Heritage Site;  
AND WHEREAS building the Bipole III line in conjunction with the existing road access plan on the east side of Lake Winnipeg may provide financial benefits to all Manitobans and Manitoba Hydro utility customers;  
AND WHEREAS a combined road access and Bipole III project may address the concern regarding the potential World Heritage Site designation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Province of Manitoba to consider the construction of the Bipole III line in conjunction with the east side road.