

**To: Clean Environment Commission  
MMTP**

**Reducing Adverse Impact of  
Transmission, Line Capacity & Land Use**

**Dennis Woodford P.Eng.,**

**for**

**Manitoba Wildlands**

**23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2017**

# A Time when Transmission Lines were Welcomed



The towers I climbed to bring in the sheep

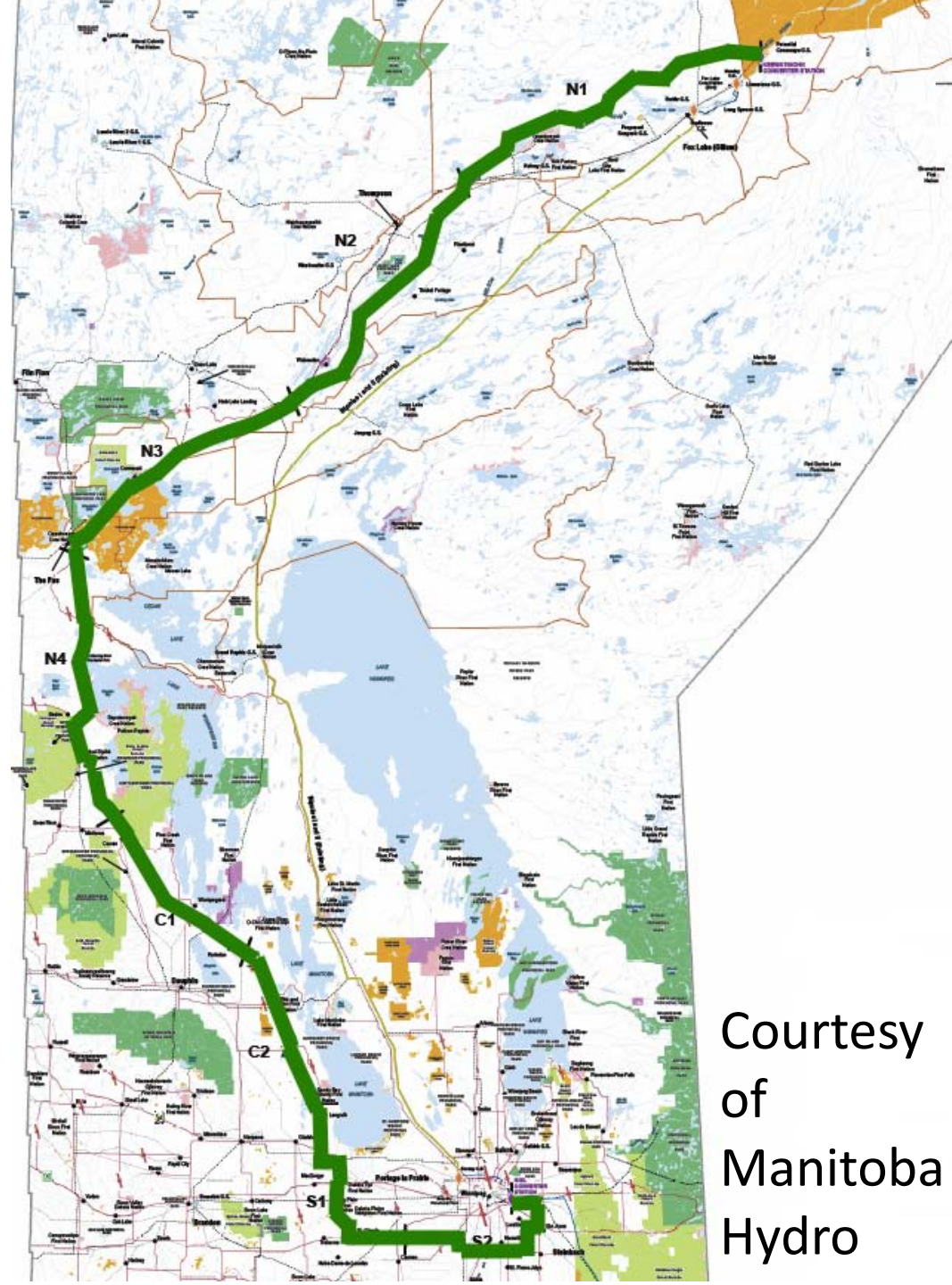
Figure 1

# And then, public acceptance began to change



**Figure 2 – M602F in the US near Warroad**

# Along came Bipole III and Social Acceptance got Worse



Courtesy  
of  
Manitoba  
Hydro

Figure 3 – West  
side route



# Today, Transmission Lines Need Social Acceptance



**Figure 4 – New Tubular tower in Denmark**

# Other Tubular Steel Aesthetic 500 kV Tower Designs



**Figure 5 – New tubular towers in the US**

# Conflicts in costing tubular monopole vs lattice towers



Manitoba Hydro: “Total cost of a tubular line is higher—by 40%” Appendix B

Valmont US: “Monopole structures are 30% lower than the lattice towers” Appendix C



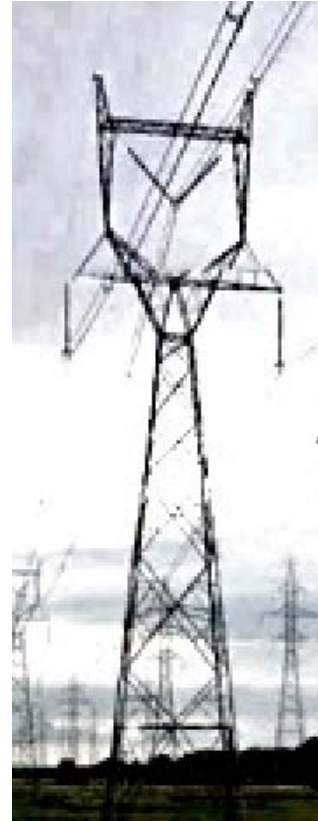
**Figure 6 – Tower costing**

# Conflicts in costing tubular monopole vs lattice towers



Bystrup of Denmark would welcome working with Manitoba Hydro to compare cost comparisons between the MMTP lattice design and a tubular steel design

Appendix C



**Figure 7 – Tower design and costing help**



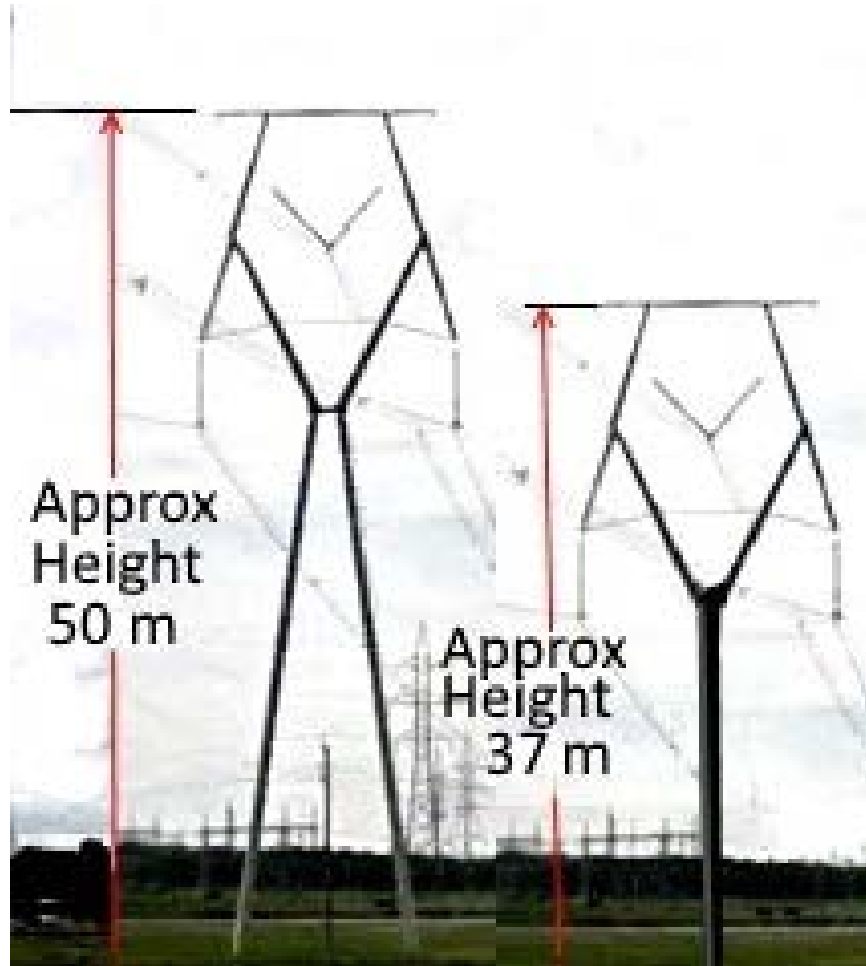
# Are There Benefits in Lower and Better Looking Towers?



1. Saves environmental footprint and ROW
2. Reduces weed control costs
3. Less maintenance & faster installation
4. **Better landscape and visual effects**

**Figure 8 – Benefits to tubular towers**

# The Impact of Tower Height



1. Lower wind forces on the conductors even with same mid-span clearance to ground
2. In forest, the trees will provide more wind shelter with lower average conductor height

**Figure 9 – Lower height & nicer landscape**

# Why is MMTP Rated so Large?



**1. Keeyask is only 695 MW. Is not MMTP rated at about 1500 MW? Why?**

**2. What is the justification for this costly extravagance?**

**Figure 10 – 1500 MW capacity of MMTP**

# Why is MMTP Rated so Large?



- 1. Is it because of drought? But we have survived droughts before – without Keeyask. The drought risk is financial – not energy**
  - 1. There are other export opportunities to the west possible – Can MMTP be at 230 kV?**
- Figure 11 – 1500 MW capacity of MMTP**



# Keeyask is Delayed-Why Not Delay MMTP as Well?

## HYDROGRAM

March 9, 2017 | Volume 46, Number 48

**Keeyask delayed 21 months from Nov 2019 to August 2021 (and its control budget increased from \$6.5 billion to \$8.7 Billion) – Appendix F  
Why not delay MMTP from May 2020 to at least November 2021?**

**Figure 12 – 18 months to redesign line**



# Can MMTP be 230 kV?



**Tower top of 420 kV  
tubular line in Norway**



**Existing R50M 230 kV line  
to Minnesota Power**

**Tubular 230 kV  
for MMTP?**

**Figure 13–Tubular tower for 230 kV MMTP**

# With Keeyask Just for Export

Regional Electricity  
Cooperation and Strategic  
Infrastructure Initiative  
(RECSI) a possibility –  
Should not finalize an  
MMTP agreement until  
the likelihood of RECSI is  
known

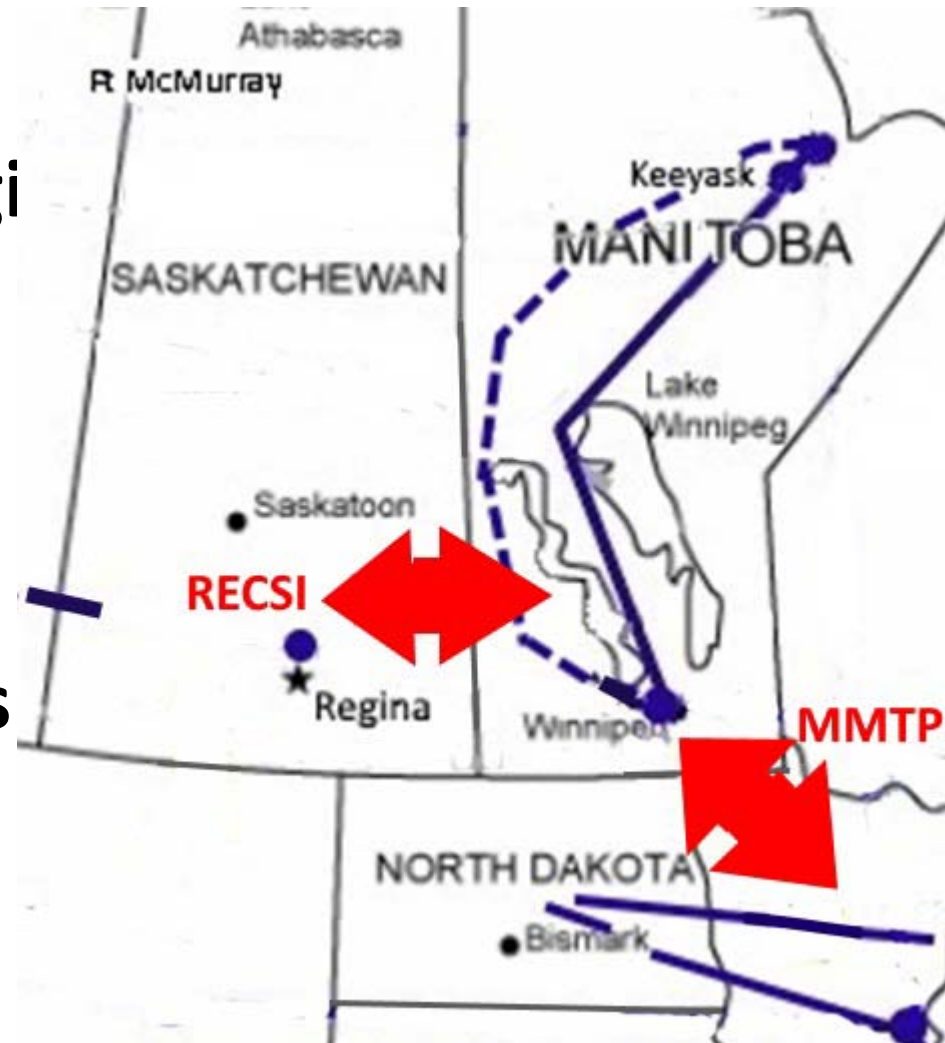


Figure 14 – Other export possibilities

# Considerations for a 230 kV MMTP



- 1. Less cost when Manitoba Hydro is strapped financially**
- 2. Combined with existing R50M, export capacity with a 230 kV MMTP could be 600 MW**
- 3. Consider the 100 MW agreement with SaskPower and possibility of RECSI**
- 4. Narrower ROW, less destruction of forest**

**Figure 15–Tubular tower for 230 kV MMTP**

# US Presidential Permit for the GNTL (MMTP)

1. For 500 kV line the PP allows for 883 MW export to the US & 750 MW import
2. The MMTP contracts may be lower so 230 kV feasible?

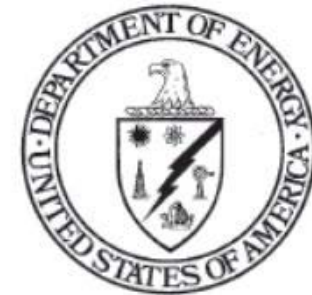
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United States  
Department of Energy

Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
OE Docket No. PP-398

Minnesota Power

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Presidential Permit  
No. PP-398

November 15, 2016

**Figure 16– US Permit**

# The Growing Need for Innovative New Structures

The Centre for Energy Advancement through Technological Innovation (CEATI) Has out a request for proposal: “Innovative New Structures (Visually Pleasing) for Better Public Acceptance”



**This is a subject now being taken seriously**

**Figure 17 – CEATI Proposal T163700-33115**



# **Live Line Maintenance A Major Concern**

**An essential aspect of low profile aesthetic designed transmission lowers**

**Insulated bucket truck and hot stick live line repairs**



**Figure 18 – Tubular live line maintenance**

# **Live Line Maintenance A Major Concern**

**Manitoba Hydro (Appendix B) expressed concern that a compact line would not allow safe clearances for live line work**

**Low profile transmission does not necessarily mean compact transmission**

**Figure 19 – Low profile - compact line**

# **Live Line Maintenance A Major Concern**

**However in Appendix A:**

**Terms of Reference for Working Group B2.63**

***Compact AC Transmission Lines* The**

**International Council of Large Electric Systems  
(CIGRE) indicate a point under study:**

**f) Live-line maintenance techniques**

**Figure 20 – International development**

# Right-of-Way Width

Built	
Proximity to Buildings	10.0%
> 800 m	1
400 - 800 m	2.7
100 - 400 m	6.5
ROW - 100 m	9
Building Density	15.0%

The EPRI-GTC process ROW fixed at 100 m.

Width of ROW not significant – considered to be of little value (Appendix B)

Figure 21 – EPRI-GTC consideration of ROW

# Right-of-Way Width

Built	
Proximity to Buildings	10.0%
> 800 m	1
400 - 800 m	2.7
100 - 400 m	6.5
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Building Density	15.0%

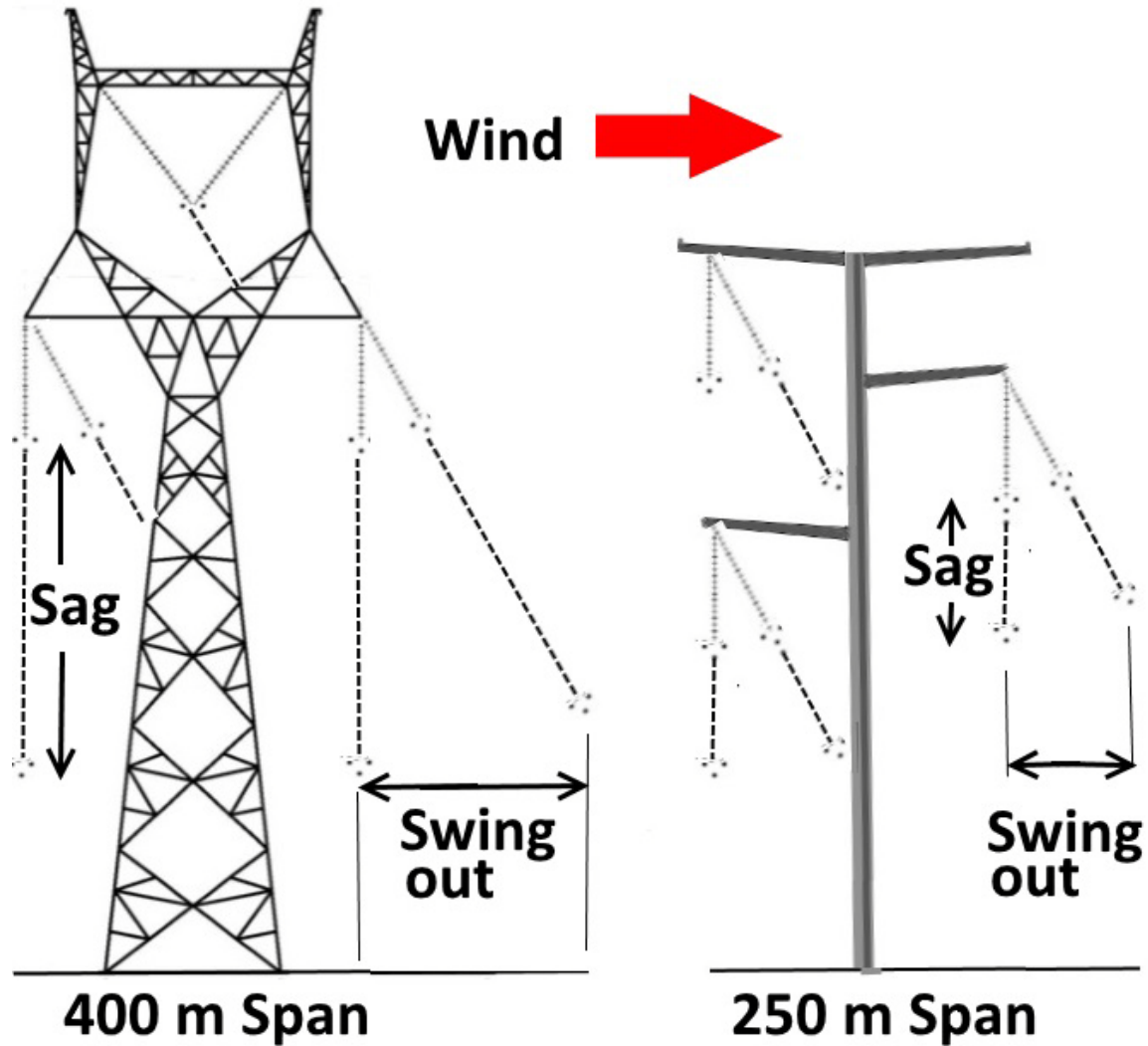
Input from individuals most impacted by the MMTP line were diluted by the

multitude of inputs that are fed into the EPRI-GTC methodology. Manitoba Hydro vigorously defended the EPRI-GTC methodology in its response (Appendix J)

**Figure 22—EPRI-GTC consideration of ROW**

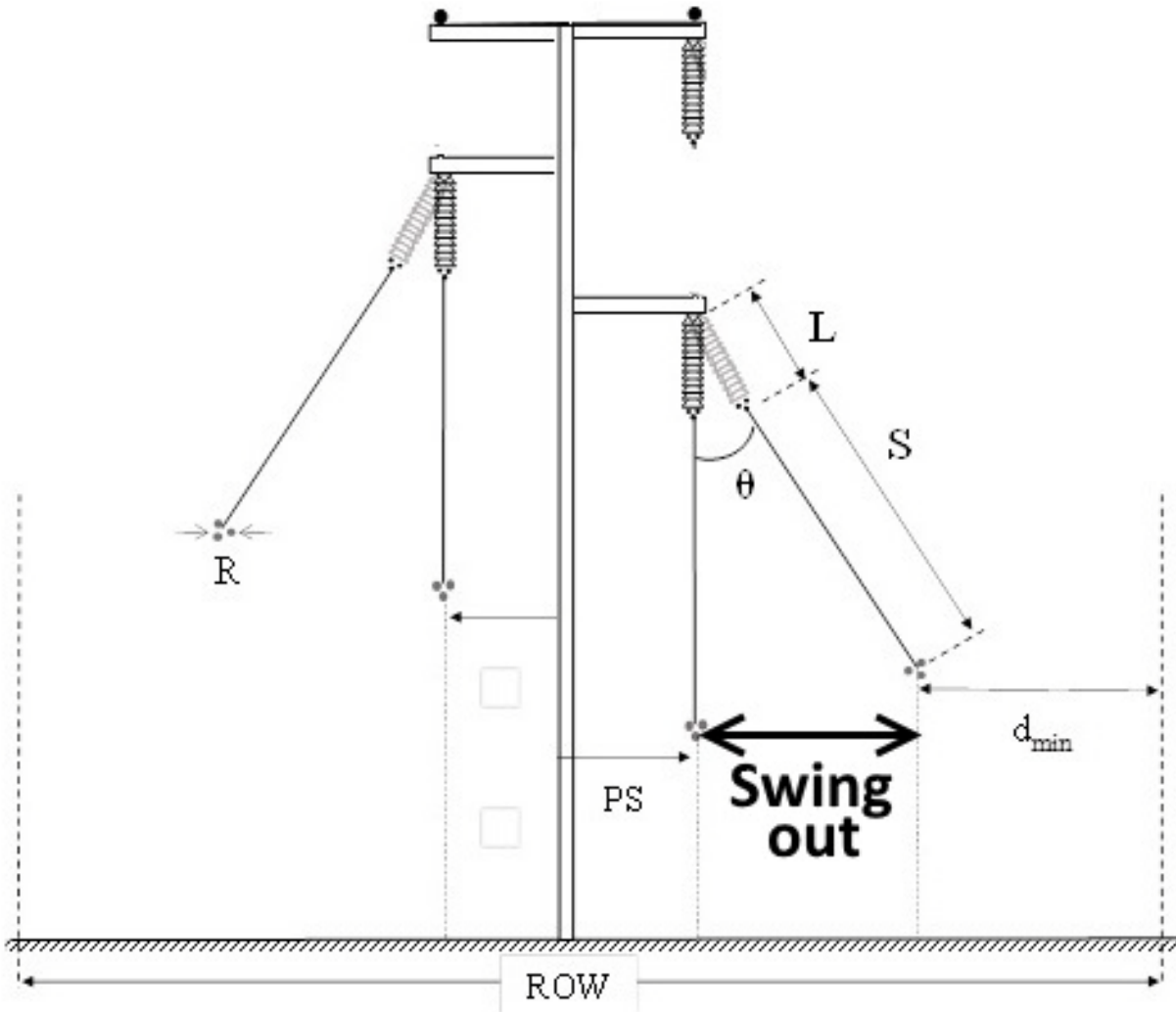


# Right-of-Way Width Factors



**Figure 23 – Shorter span - less swing out**

# Right-of-Way Width Factors



**Swing out adds  
to ROW width**

**400 m span  $\approx$   
32 m swing out**

**250 m span  $\approx$   
15 m swing out**

**ROW 34 m less  
 $(32-15) \times 2 = 34$  m**

**Figure 24 – Shorter span - less swing out**

# Right-of-Way Width Factors



**Figure 25 – Avoid property damage**

# Right-of-Way Width Factors

- A 500 kV MMTP line with a 46 m ROW will have some electromagnetic field effects (EMF) that are higher than an 80 m ROW
- If an EMF effect such as audible noise is higher than standards allow, then ROW will be increased or the line redesigned
- **Manitoba Hydro have not indicated EMF is the defining factor for an 80 m ROW**

**Figure 26 – Reduce EMF effects**

# Right-of-Way Width Factors

In Appendix B, Manitoba Hydro state: *“From a purely structural perspective, you could design a low profile transmission structure that would meet the D604I structural requirements, but more structures would be required, increasing the property, bio-security and agricultural impacts as well as the overall cost.”*

**Figure 27 – Compliance with standards**



# Right-of-Way Width Factors

***In Appendix C, Bystrup respond: “In some cases probably yes! But if public acceptance, reduced height, reduced corona noise, less footprint, easy installation (less than 10 parts pr. Pylon), reduced maintenance etc are interesting to get the project approved, accepted and executed, **then the monopole structures are a feasible alternative.**”***

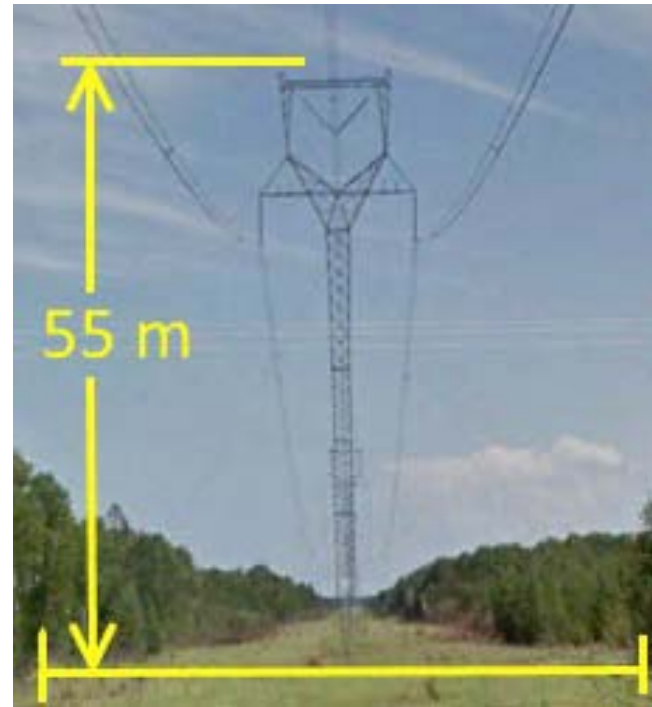
**Figure 28 – Compliance with standards**

# Right-of-Way Width Factors

Is access requirement the determining factor needing an 80 m ROW? Consider:



**500 kV Arizona**



**M602F near Piney**

**Figure 29 – Access requirements**

# Right-of-Way Width Factors

- In EIS Chapter 2. P20 it states: *“Steel lattice towers allow for longer span lengths, thereby reducing the number of obstacles that land owners may need to avoid..”*
- However, no landowners were consulted



100 square m base



5 square m base

Figure 30 – Comparison of footprints

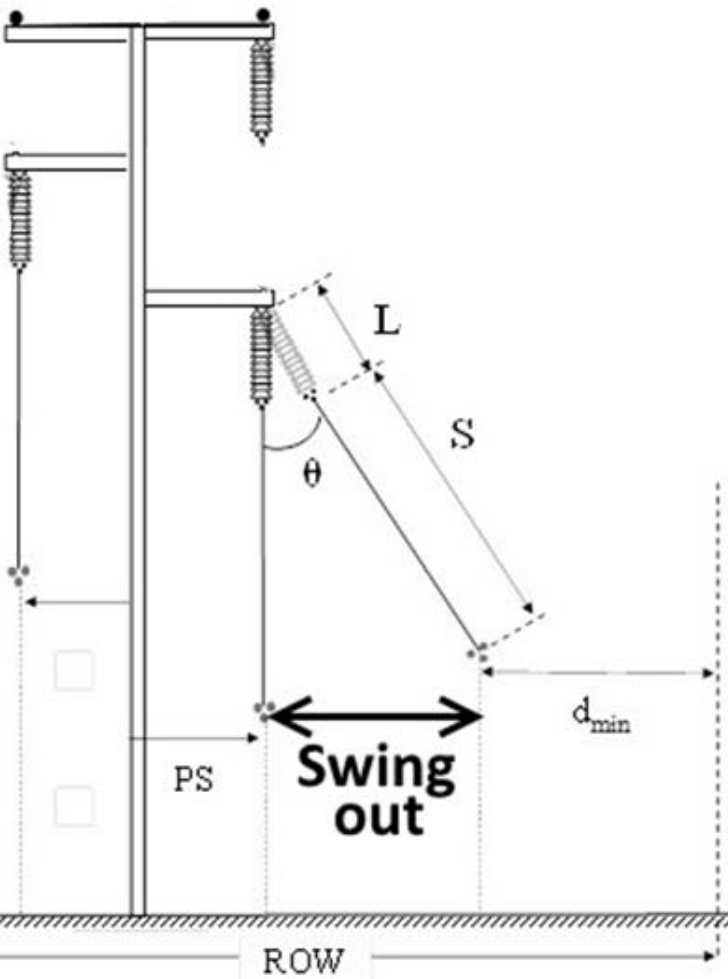
# Right-of-Way Width Factors

The width of ROW is a critical factor, both for environment when passing through wild lands and for agriculture. Lower profile transmission towers allow for a narrower ROW

**ROW width & land area not considered significant by Manitoba Hydro and the EPRI-GTC process (Appendix B)**

**Figure 31 – Width of ROW & Environment**

# Benefits of a Narrower ROW

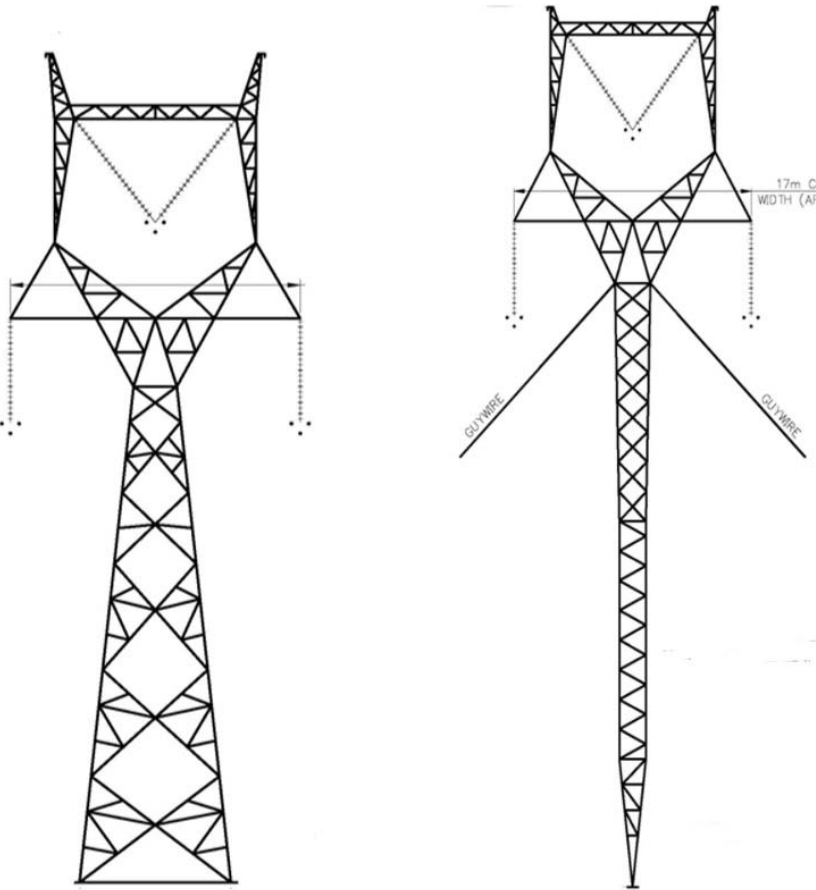


**Fewer trees cut down in forested areas – more CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered and less disturbance to environment and agriculture**

**More pleasing visual appearance and to the landscape enabling greater social acceptance**

**Figure 32–Reducing environmental impact**

# Transmission Alternatives Presented to Public



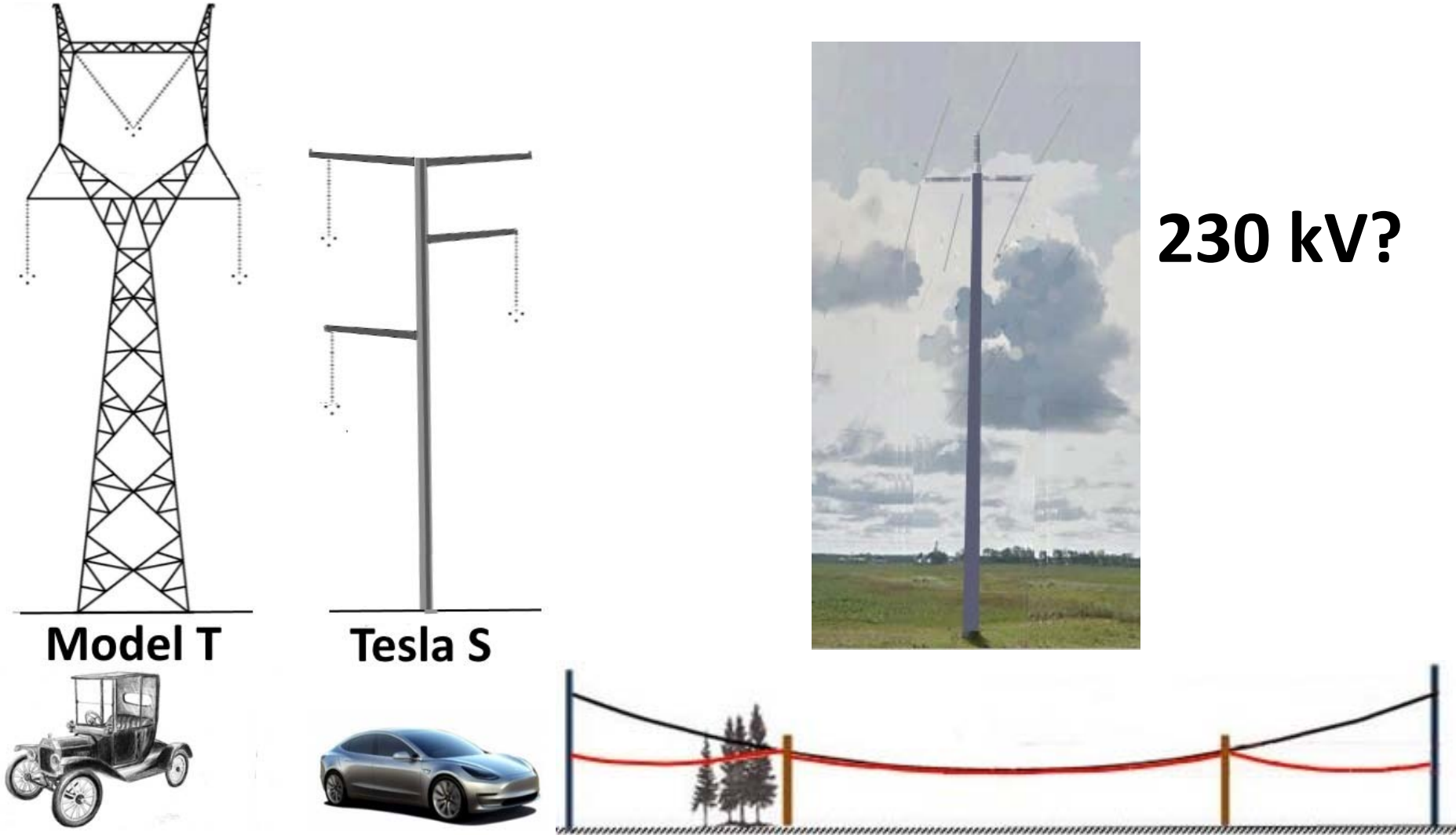
The only transmission line  
presented to the public

Impacted persons not  
consulted on transmission  
line design

Recent trend is to allow  
choice of towers to public

**Figure 33– The MMTP transmission towers**

# Options for those Impacted



**Figure 34– Comparing transmission towers**



# Tubular Low Profile Line



**Is it possible  
to go  
roadside  
like a typical  
66 kV rural  
feeder?**

**Figure 35– Going roadside with MMTP**

# Conclusions & Recommendations

1. Take advantage of the 21 month delay of Keeyask and delay MMTP
2. Since Manitoba Hydro's Preferred Development Plan is not materializing as planned and since the RECSI study for transmission to SaskPower is due end of 2017 then:

**Take time available to determine the most economical way forward**

# **Conclusions & Recommendations**

- 3. Use the delay time available work with international transmission line design experts to design a more aesthetic and cost effective transmission line to improve social acceptance of the MMTP interconnection including a detailed review of its rating and costs**

# Conclusions & Recommendations

**4. Where MMTP adversely impacts communities, landowners and the environment then:**

**Take time available to examine the advantage a low profile transmission line offers and reconsider its route and ROW and consult on designs to improve social acceptance and reduced environmental impact**

**Figure 38**

A row of tall, thin, silver metal poles stands in a field. The poles are arranged in a line, receding into the distance. The sky is overcast and grey, and the ground is a flat, brownish field. The text "Thank you" is centered in the upper half of the image.

**Thank you**