

May 19, 2017

Cathy Johnson
Secretary to the Commission
Manitoba Clean Environment Commission
305-155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3H8

Re: Eastman Mutual Aid Fire District Letter: November 17, 2015

It has come to the attention of the Rural Municipality of Piney that a position letter exists which does not represent the position of the Rural Municipality of Piney. The RM writes today to provide clarification regarding this letter. The letter was originally developed by Eastman Mutual Aid Fire District, November 17th 2015 composed by Alain Nadeau District Coordinator. The original letter is with regards to Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project Concerns.

The Rural Municipality of Piney would like to clarify that only those positions and decisions passed by resolution and supported by the elected Council constitute the RM's position on the proposed transmission line. Because many opinions exist, the Council of the Rural Municipality of Piney is respectful of those opinions. The RM's position is and has been that the public must have the opportunity to voice their concerns and that the proponent considers and responds to those concerns (Resolution #412/2015).

To add greater clarity, as written in the November 17th letter (here attached), "Whereas the Municipal and Fire Officials of Reynolds and Piney have expressed approval to have this hydro line in their forest where no one lives close to it and where it would create an advantageous fire break." is not a supported position of the Rural Municipality of Piney Council at this time. There is no resolution passed by the elected Council that alludes to or supports this position and the statement within the letter is incorrect.

The RM hopes that this provides greater clarity on the RM's position regarding the matter at hand. If there are any questions, please feel free to call or write the Rural Municipality of Piney.

Sincerely,



Martin Van Osch
Chief Administrative Officer

RESOLUTION
OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE R.M. OF PINEY

COPY

Resolution No. 412

Date: February 23, 2015

Moved by Councillor KEN Prociw Seconded by Councillor Sal Edworthy

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the RM of Piney Council urge Manitoba Hydro to consider and respond to all of the effected municipal ratepayers concerns with regard to construction of the Manitoba Minnesota Transmission Line.

Carried:

Defeated:

Tabled:

THIS IS A TRUE AND CERTIFIED PHOTOCOPY OF RESOLUTION NO. 412 OF
THE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING OF Feb 23 2015

[Signature]
Chief Administrative Officer

[Signature]
Administration

[Signature]
Head of Council/Chairperson

COPY

EASTMAN MUTUAL AID FIRE DISTRICT



La Broquerie – Lorette – Niverville – Piney – Reynolds – Richer – Vita
Ritchot – Ste. Anne – St. Malo – St. Pierre – S.E. Whiteshell – Sprague

Co-ordinator
Alain Nadeau

Secretary/Treasurer
Marcel Courchaine

November 17, 2015

Environmental Assessment & Licensing Branch
Manitoba Conservation
Attention: Elise Dagdick
123 Main Street, Suite 160
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 1A5

Re : Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project Concerns

On behalf of the Eastman Mutual Aid Fire District, I am writing Manitoba Hydro to ask for careful consideration of the placement of the hydro lines in the south-east area of Manitoba in relation to the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project. We believe that an adjustment to the currently preferred route planned by Manitoba Hydro will reduce disruption through residential areas and will greatly assist fire and emergency crews in south-east Manitoba during grass and brush fires.

We are requesting that Manitoba Hydro run the hydro lines for the Manitoba Minnesota Transmission Project from north to south through the uninhabited of the Sandilands Forest (crown land) that would create a fire break benefitting communities such as Marchand, Sandilands, Woodridge and Vita when large grass and brush fires occur.

On Thanksgiving Day 2012, after a very dry and windy fall season, a fire started in the Vita area. There was a 70 kilometre wind from the south and the fire started at the edge of a large tall grass and swampy area. It soon spread to adjoining municipalities and was encroaching on many rural residences scattered throughout the area.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) was quickly involved because of the magnitude of the situation. Officers from Natural Resources, the RCMP and the Provincial Highways Department all became involved along with Fire Departments from multiple Mutual Aid Fire Districts. Along with Fire Departments in the Eastman Mutual Aid Fire District (Vita, Piney, La Broquerie, Tache, and Dominion City), Fire Departments from Hanover, Morden, East St Paul and other areas also came to provide assistance

Within hours all the agencies were organized and working together to save lives and property. No one was hurt that day and minimal property was lost but many small towns were evacuated that night while everyone was working together to do the best we could.

If one was to look at aerial photos of this fire after the fact, it is easy to see the great advantage that roadways, trails, and hydro line infrastructure play in the planning and executing fire attack strategies. Sometimes a fire line like this is the only chance to stop or redirect a raging fire.

We are proud of the way all the emergency responders work together for the greater good, despite short notice during such an emergency. We believe that Manitoba Hydro should consult with Natural Resources and the affected Municipalities to ensure that their projects are planned for the greater good.

Currently, we understand that Manitoba Hydro's preferred route for the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project is planned to go right through the residential area in the RM's of Springfield, Tache, Ste. Anne, La Broquerie and Piney. The Municipal and Fire Officials in Tache, Ste. Anne, and La Broquerie do not want this line in their residential area for many safety reasons. Whereas the Municipal and Fire Officials of Reynolds and Piney have expressed approval to have this hydro line in their forest where no one lives close to it and where it would create an advantageous fire break.

As emergency responders we are trained to work with multiple agencies; we learn and grow from our mistakes and experiences and always strive to do better. We at Eastman Mutual Aid Fire District would ask Manitoba Hydro to do the same.

Please listen to the people and work with us to us make our rural neighbourhoods a safer place to live.

Alain Nadeau
Eastman Mutual Aid Fire District Coordinator

CC/ Jim Carr, Minister of Natural Resources, Government of Canada
Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
Eric Robinson, Minister of Manitoba Hydro, Government of Manitoba
Ted Falk, Federal Conservative MP for Provencher
Denis Smook, MLA for La Verendrye Constituency
Brian Pallister, Leader of the PC party of Manitoba
Trevor Joyal, Liscensing and Environmental Assessment Dept., MB Hydro