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2018 04 27

Mitch LeClaire  
The Wildlife Society  
Manitoba Chapter

Jack Dubois  
Nature Manitoba

Dr. Christian Artuso  
Bird Studies Canada

Dear Mr LeClaire, Mr Dubois, and Dr Artuso,

**Manitoba Hydro: Birtle Transmission Project**

Thank you for your letter dated April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 regarding the Birtle Transmission Project, including an attachment to the TWS Position Statement – Energy Development.

In preparing the environmental assessment Manitoba Hydro conducted community engagement with landowners, regulators, interested parties and Indigenous communities and organizations to understand their interests in the transmission line route for this Project. We also conducted scientific surveys for wildlife species-at-risk to better understand their biology and distribution in the regional assessment area. Manitoba Hydro carefully considered all this information, and with the support of an internationally recognized project routing model, proposed a final route that best balances the competing interests of the human, natural and engineering environments.

We believe the environmental assessment provides a robust description of the existing environment, applicable legislation, and a thorough assessment of the potential effects. The combination of routing considerations, mitigation measures, environmental protection, access management, and integrated vegetation management plans are designed, and will be implemented, to reduce the effects to wildlife and wildlife habitat. Manitoba Hydro is also committed to working with the Pasture manager and regulator in an adaptive management framework to address new issues should they arise. Further information on Manitoba Hydro's corporate commitment to wildlife stewardship, habitat enhancement and environmental management can be found on our website at <https://www.hydro.mb.ca/environment/index.shtml> and <https://www.hydro.mb.ca/community/index.shtml>.

Manitoba Hydro is committed to adhering to all environmental legislative requirements in the development of this Project, including all license and permit conditions. As the Project continues through the regulatory approvals process, Manitoba Hydro remains focused on understanding and addressing local community concerns, mitigating potential environmental effects and being fiscally responsible to its customers.

I thank you for your interest in the Project. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Shannon Johnson  
Manager

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