

2020 03 30

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

Canada Energy Regulator
Suite 210, 517 Tenth Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta
T2R 0A8

Attention: Ms. Louise George, Secretary to the Commission

**Re: Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project
Supplemental Filing to Request for Relief
File No. OF-Fac-IPL-M180-2015-1-02**

On January 24, 2020, Manitoba Hydro filed an application with the Commission requesting relief from the timing requirements of Condition 22 of Certificate No. EC-059 that was issued with respect to the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project ("MMTP" or "Project").¹ In its application, Manitoba Hydro requested that the Commission direct Manitoba Hydro to file the Crown land Offset Measures Plan required by Condition 22 within 90 days of commencing operation of the Project, rather than 30 days prior to commencing operation, so as to allow additional time for consultation with potentially impacted Indigenous communities while preserving the in-service date ("ISD") of the Project. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, Manitoba Hydro is providing the following supplemental information to the Commission to aid in the Commission's deliberations regarding the request.

A. Need to Address Request Remains Unchanged

As of March 29th, provincial publications indicate that there are 69 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Manitoba and 3 presumptive cases.² A state of emergency has been declared by the Province of Manitoba and recommendations have been issued by Provincial public health officials to curtail the spread of the virus.

¹ [C04289-1 CER Jan 24 2020](#) Manitoba Hydro - MMTP, Request for Relief, January 24, 2020.

² Province of Manitoba, <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/>, March 29, 2020, Current Situation-News Release.

As part of Manitoba Hydro's corporate emergency response program, Manitoba Hydro has invoked its Pandemic Response Plan which has been reviewed by the Province of Manitoba. The Pandemic Response Plan declares MMTP a priority project. As a result of this designation, the MMTP work force remains intact and construction of the Dorsey international power line ("Dorsey IPL") component of the Project is anticipated to be complete by April 15, 2020. Subsequent to commissioning and testing, Manitoba Hydro intends to commence operation of the Dorsey IPL on June 1, 2020. While the facility may not be operating at full capacity as of this date³ and other components of the Project are not anticipated to be completed until the fall of 2020, Manitoba Hydro will still have "commenced operations" within the meaning of the Certificate⁴. Accordingly, the need for the Commission to address Manitoba Hydro's request for relief remains unchanged.

Manitoba Hydro notes that most of the personnel working on MMTP are field staff who drive their own vehicles and do not work in close proximity to each other. Numerous precautions have also been put in place to protect the health of the Project work force. These precautions include: deploying more vehicles to allow appropriate social-distancing, reducing in-person meetings, as well as ensuring our contractor staff are in isolated camps or accommodations and are not leaving the province.

B. Impact on Consultation Methods

As a result of feedback received to date on Manitoba Hydro's draft Crown land Offset Measures Plan ("Plan"), revisions are currently being incorporated into a final Plan. While Manitoba Hydro remains committed to further consulting with Indigenous communities regarding its draft Plan, consultation methods will necessarily be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Manitoba Hydro will be suspending in-person meetings regarding the draft Plan until further notice as a result of two recent developments: (i) a ban which has been declared on all non-essential business travel for Manitoba Hydro personnel (both within and outside the province); and (ii) the implementation of social distancing precautions, consistent with recommendations issued by federal and provincial public health officials. Manitoba Hydro plans to replace in-person meetings with teleconferences and/or email communications to the extent feasible. However, recognizing that Indigenous communities may also be faced with challenges in providing feedback under the current circumstances, Manitoba Hydro is contacting communities indicating that Manitoba Hydro is prepared to work with each community to develop an engagement process that ensures the well-being and safety of all

³ Manitoba Hydro is currently examining whether a temporary alteration in the method of connecting the Dorsey IPL to the system is warranted in the interests of public safety during the COVID-19 crisis. If deemed advisable, this will be the subject of a future filing with the Commission.

⁴ See [A95736-1](#) NEB - Reasons for Decision - Manitoba Hydro, EH-001-2017, November 2018, Appendix III p. 177, guidance re "commencing operations".

Canada Energy Regulator

2020 03 30

Page 3

involved. A description of any modified consultation methods with communities and any concerns raised by communities will be included in Manitoba Hydro's consultation summary provided with the compliance filing for Condition 22.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

"Cory Shangreaux"

CORY SHANGREAUX

Legal Counsel

CS/