

Manitoba Métis Federation Routing Preferences (Unconcluded)

**Manitoba Hydro Dorsey to Wash'ake Mayzoon Transmission Line (D83W)
Project**

Manitoba Métis Federation

January 26, 2022



The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF)

The MMF, as the democratically-elected self-government representative of the Red River Métis, and the singular federally recognized Indigenous government in Canada – the responsibility to promote and protect the rights, claims, interests, and responsibilities of our Citizens as environmental stewards remains the foundation of our work. As this transmission project spans an area encompassed within the traditional Homeland of the Red River Métis, and within the Recognized Métis Harvesting Area (RMHA), our concerns remain the same as we have always presented such. Due to the nature of the project, the impacts associated with the development of the transmission line reach beyond the project area in question. The rights of our Citizens are collectively held, and constitutionally protected as recognized and affirmed under s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Specifically, the following concerns are of immense importance

MMF Consultations With Our Citizens:

As part of the on-going consultations with our Citizens regarding the D83W Manitoba Hydro project, the MMF conducted a first-round total of 7 interviews between January 13th and 14th 2022. The interviews were all held virtually, and only MMF Citizens that live and/or harvest in the project area defined by Manitoba Hydro were permitted to participate. In total 12 Citizens participated in the first round of interviews. We ensured that our Citizens spoke in confidence, by clearly explaining that their personal information or concerns will not be shared in a manner that jeopardizes their anonymity. For legal purposes, all interviews were recorded and archived solely for use by the MMF, and Citizens were made aware of this prior to beginning the interview.

Due to time constraints, the holiday break, and ongoing challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, our consultations with Red River Métis Citizens are unconcluded, and do not fully capture the concerns held by all Red River Métis. A second round of interviews with Red River Métis Citizens is currently being scheduled for the beginning of February.

Manitoba Hydro has not yet accurately captured all project effects that are important to the Red River Métis. MMF concerns identified through previously concluded studies are evidence of the potential for impact to the Métis way of life due to the cumulative impacts of the proposed D83W project and all prior Hydro development in the project area. The cumulative effects of this project together with other projects before it, raise concerns about impacts to Red River Métis Citizens' Constitutionally protected Rights, Claims, and Interests.

Routing Preferences Criteria

The following MMF routing preferences below are based on the following Manitoba Hydro criteria:

- Review the 4 route options and provide a score between 1 and 3 for each of the routes following the methodology discussed during the December 16, 2021, meeting.
- If a route is highly preferred, it would receive a score of 1.

- If a route is preferred somewhat, provide a score somewhere between 1 and 2 (1.1 to 1.9).
- If a route is not preferred, provide a score somewhere between 2 and 2.9.
- Only the least preferred routes should receive a 3.
- Please use just one decimal place for all scores (1.2, not 1.197).

MMF Routing Score (unconcluded)

While the MMF has not concluded our complete assessment of the four proposed routes determined by Manitoba Hydro, we have given a ranking based on our incomplete knowledge of the four proposed routes. More discussion is required, and time to consult with our Citizens on the four finalist route options A, B, C, and D suggested by Manitoba Hydro. Due to the inability to share the finalist routing preference map during interviews with our Citizens, we are not able to conclude a final preference on route options B, C, or D currently, but have provided a list of concerns heard by our Citizens.

Route	MMF Score (Unconcluded)	Rationale for Score (Unconcluded)
A	3	<p>Significant environmental and cultural concerns were identified along much of this route. These concerns include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year-round use immediately within and adjacent area to this route including living, cultural uses, sacred sites, hunting, harvesting, farming, and recreational uses. - Overwhelming concerns over the environmental impacts associated with the multiple river and creek crossings involved with this route. Citizens do not wish to have any further transmission development along ecologically and culturally critical areas such as the Assiniboine River. - One Citizen said this route “Would be the kiss of death” and stated it would have a “direct and catastrophic impact”. - Concerns raised by residents of cultural and sacred sites surrounding the communities of St. Eustache, St. Francois Xavier, Poplar Point and High Bluff, which all have a history of Métis settlement and natural resource harvesting. - Waterways considered by some to be sacred due to how it makes one feel spiritually connected with their ancestors. - Impacts on available agricultural land of high value and productivity.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impacts on the availability of land for harvesting activities including hunting, fishing, and berry picking, firewood collection, and medicine collection. - Access to historic and culturally important harvesting areas and impacts on gathering local foods without having to travel greater distances in search of these foods relied on by their family. - Decreased access to areas used to pass along traditional knowledge and techniques to youth, as altered landscape changes traditional methods. - Concerns over access to lands and changes to habitat for harvesting, and disturbances to the predator-prey balance. - Threats to pollinator species from transmission lines and loss of available land used by pollinators. - Aesthetically unpleasant along waterways. - Concerns with noise disturbance during construction, maintenance, and continual noise during entire lifecycle of the transmission line. - Concerns with waste generated during construction and repairs. - Recreational activities along waterways impacted. - Concerns over habitat fragmentation. - Concerns over lack of insight on route specifics to determine the most preferred route based on limited public information available on the four finalist options determined by Manitoba Hydro. -
B, C, D	2.0	<p>Citizens have raised numerous concerns. The following concerns have been raised by our Citizens to date, and summarized collectively for route options B, C, and D.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year-round use immediately within and adjacent area to this route including living, cultural uses, sacred sites, hunting, harvesting, farming, and recreational uses. - Preference for avoiding more naturalized areas including waterways, forest, wetlands, bush, and areas with less existing development. - Concerns over habitat fragmentation. - Concerns with noise disturbance during construction, maintenance, and continual noise during entire lifecycle of the transmission line. - Concerns with any waste generated during construction and repairs.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Concerns over access to lands and changes to habitat for harvesting, and disturbances to the predator-prey balance.- Access to historic and culturally important harvesting areas and impacts on gathering local foods without having to travel greater distances in search of these foods relied on by their family.- Decreased access to areas used to pass along traditional knowledge and techniques to youth, as altered landscape changes traditional methods.- Threats to pollinator species from transmission lines and loss of available land used by pollinators.- Impacts on available agricultural land of high value and productivity. Multiple Citizens noted that these routes crossed slightly less productive lands in general, and therefore were considered less of an impact compared with Route option A.- Impacts on the availability of land for harvesting activities including hunting, fishing, and berry picking, firewood collection, and medicine collection.- Preference for avoiding more naturalized areas including waterways, forest, wetlands, bush, and areas with less existing development.- Concerns over lack of insight on route specifics to determine the most preferred route based on limited public information available on the four finalist options determined by Manitoba Hydro.
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