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December 3, 2012

Mr. Doug Bedford
Law Department
Manitoba Hydro
360 Portage Avenue
P.O. Box 815
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2P4

Dear Mr. Bedford:

I write on behalf of the Hearing Panel seeking further information on a matter that has been addressed in the proceedings, although to an extent that the panel deems incomplete. Specifically the panel is interested in hearing further from Manitoba Hydro as to the possibility of a Bipole III/Dorsey link and a Bipole I or II/Riel link.

For reference purposes, we would advise that the subject was raised in IR CEC/MH-VII-428 and in a question posed by the Chair on November 22, 2012 at page 5847 of the hearing transcript.

As with all issues before it, the panel wishes evidentiary assistance upon which to base its deliberations before making recommendations to the Minister. Therefore, while Mr. Neufeld did provide a response at the hearing, the panel wishes additional information. On its face the alternative being suggested appears to be a logical one and would address many of the concerns which have been raised by the agricultural stakeholders.

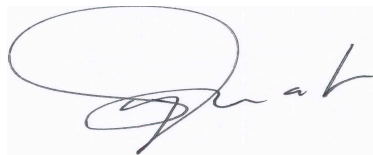
We therefore have the following additional questions:

1. Is it technologically feasible to connect Bipole III to Dorsey and divert Bipole I or II through the Interlake and connect it to Riel? Please address this from a technological perspective, putting aside costing for now.

- Is it technologically feasible to install at Dorsey the converter equipment intended for Bipole III at Riel; and to move the converter equipment of one of the Bipoles at Dorsey to Riel?
2. If it would be technologically feasible, what would be the cost differential?
 - Please provide relative costs for the project as proposed and for the alternative above. For the purpose of this costing, assume that, southeast of Westbourne, the FPR would go more-or-less straight east, rather than turning south.
 - Also, include that the Bipole III line would be somewhat shorter, offset by the need for a new stretch of Bipole I or II.
 3. In his response, Mr. Neufeld noted that some experts had looked at this a number of years ago. Have there been any changes in technology or construction methods in ensuing years that might change the experts' conclusions?
 4. What other constraints, if any, are there to this possible alternative?

You may treat this as a further information request on the part of the panel. We would ask Manitoba Hydro to provide a response to the foregoing in writing by January 28, 2013. If that is not possible, please advise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Sargeant", is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Terry Sargeant
Chair