

Subject: Bipole III

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The Editor

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Manitoba Hydro is planning a series of public meetings to gather opinions on alternative routes for the Bipole III transmission line. The problem is, the only alternative routes up for discussion will be those on the west side of the Province. Manitoba Hydro will not be seeking your opinion on an eastern or middle route.

Apparently one of the Government's main reasons for favoring the west side is that it wishes to make application to have a portion of the east side designated a UNESCO heritage site. But several letters and op ed articles in these pages have pointed out that a transmission line would not prevent such designation. The analogy to a thread on a football field has been used.

With respect to the middle route (under Lake Winnipeg) there are undersea HVDC power transmission lines in Europe and the United States. Why has there not been a whisper from Manitoba Hydro or the Government about this technology.

What is needed is for the public to be presented with a rational, comprehensive, and objective assessment of *all* possible alternatives, Taking into account all environmental, engineering, social, and economic costs and benefits.

Robert Foster

6 Rue du Manastere