

## FEEDBACK SUMMARY

February – March 2023

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### INTRODUCTION

We're reinforcing our power facilities to improve reliability in the Meadow Lake, Glaslyn and Spruce Lake areas. That includes building more power lines and a new switching station.

We're in the early planning stages of the project. So far, we've done an initial assessment to develop some potential line routes. We've reached out to communities, rightsholders and stakeholders in the area to introduce the project and the planning process, and to ask for feedback.

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### OUR ROUTING APPROACH

Choosing routes for transmission lines is never an easy task. There are pros and cons to every option and many routing considerations. Stakeholder and rightsholder participation are an important part of our planning process, and we want to hear many perspectives on the route options.

Right now, we're looking for input on:

- Potential impacts of the power line route options
- General knowledge of the area, including environment and heritage resources
- Potential concerns, and how we can reduce impacts
- How you want to exchange information with us

Our goal is to ensure that interests, concerns and local knowledge are built into the project plans as much as possible.

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### WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR

We introduced the project to communities, rightsholders and stakeholders in the area in February 2023. We mailed 2,141 information packages to residents in the area and sent copies to municipal government offices on February 27. We also launched a dedicated page on [saskpower.com](http://saskpower.com) with detailed information about the project.

We provided initial information and invited people to come talk with us at a 4-day open house held February 27 and 28 in St. Walburg and March 1 and 2 in Meadow Lake. We placed an advertisement in the Battlefords Regional News-Optimist, Lloydminster Meridian Source and Meadow Lake Northern Pride. We placed radio announcements on MBC and asked local establishments and rural municipality offices to put up our poster. We met with five rural municipalities between January 9 and 11.

# Meadow Lake Area Reinforcement Project

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We spoke with approximately 220 individuals at the open house. We also received:

- 20 phone calls
- 5 online surveys
- 37 paper surveys
- 20 comments on social media
- 2 letters
- 15 email comments
- 683 project page visits

Thank you to everyone who gave their time to participate and provide feedback. We've compiled what we heard so far into key themes. If we've missed or misconstrued anything, please reach out to us so we can make corrections. We'll incorporate these themes and land-specific information into our routing considerations to help assess the route options.

### **REDUCE IMPACTS TO AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS**

- Concerns about the project causing a reduction in the amount of land available for crop and pasture.
- Difficulty farming near and around power lines, including crop/aerial spraying and the use of large farm equipment.
- Avoid cutting through the middle of farm fields.
- Follow property boundaries or the edge of the road.
- Take existing and planned structures on farmlands/acreages into consideration, including houses, shops, corrals, riding arenas, electric fences, grain bins, etc.
- Consider using the forest area instead where there are no impacts to agricultural lands.
- Consider that some fields already have a power line.

### **PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT**

- Preserve wildlife populations. Opening new corridors may increase traffic in the forest.
- Avoid the forest to not create more public access, increased wildlife exposure, poaching and logging activities.
- Avoid taking out the tree buffer along the fire guard road to prevent hunters from shooting directly from the road. Shooting from the road is a safety concern.
- Concerns about littering, damage to trapping trails and bait stations, increased use of ATVs/snow mobiles in the forest, and other environmental impacts if the line is built in the forest area.
- Flooding concerns - if more trees are cleared, there will be less to soak up the extra water from storm events.
- Consider using areas that have already been disturbed.

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### PROXIMITY TO RESIDENCES

- Comments about how some of the proposed route options for the new lines appeared to be too close to residences.
- Most of the distribution lines in the area are underground. Concerns about impact to the aesthetic appeal of the landscape.
- Avoid cutting down trees used as shelter belts and privacy for homesteads.
- Concerns about exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMFs).
- Concerns about noise from power lines and the generator at the Meadow Lake Switching Station.
- Concerns about impacts to aesthetic appeal and property value.

### CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

- Look south of Highway 304 on Range Road allowance 3194 for twelve miles and then west to Highway 26 on Township Road allowance 564 to reduce impact to residents.
- Look south of Highway 304 on Range Road allowance 3194 for fourteen miles to Township Road allowance 562, then west to Highway 26 through the Ministry of Environment land to reduce impact to residents.
- Follow Township Road 582 through Makwa community pasture to Highway 3044 on Makwa Road.
- Parallel Sweet Rocket Road (Township Road 564) to reduce impact to agricultural land.
- Use Highway 4 then south of Turtle Lake and Brightsand Lake to reduce impact to agricultural land and residents.

### DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

- Some people did not get their information package until days after the February/March 2023 open houses.
- Maps should be more detailed so people know if any of the route options are crossing their land.
- Concerns about having enough time to inform decisions.
- Concerns about how decisions are made.
- Consider calving season (February – April) when planning future engagement activities.

### OTHER LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

- Ensure the height of the lines is sufficient to allow heavy equipment to pass underneath safely.
- Consider placing power line structures strategically to avoid limiting access to fields.

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- There is a landfill in the area that is about 10 years old and is still settling.
- Swans and beavers are present in a section of the project study area.
- Presence of clubroot and need to prevent further spread.
- Large dugouts and creeks on some properties.
- There is a family graveyard in the project study area.
- Prevalence of muskeg in the area.
- Existing ruts and standing water in the forest area.
- Water wells and reclaimed oil wells in some fields.

### NEXT STEPS

We still want to hear from you! Providing your input early means your knowledge and concerns can be considered before decisions are made. As time goes on, there's less flexibility to work with feedback.

Here's how you can provide feedback:

- Complete the online feedback form at [www.saskpower.com/meadowlakeproject](http://www.saskpower.com/meadowlakeproject)
- Contact us to book an online meeting or a phone call at a time that works for you:
  - 1-833-223-3370
  - [PublicEngagement@saskpower.com](mailto:PublicEngagement@saskpower.com)
  - [IndigenousRelations@saskpower.com](mailto:IndigenousRelations@saskpower.com)
- Visit us at our temporary site office (no appointment needed):

Date	Location	Site office hours
May 15, 2023	Dexter Hall, Turtle Lake (SW 01-54-19-W3)	11 am – 7 pm
May 16, 2023	St. Walburg Legion, 15 Main Street, St. Walburg.	10 am – 7 pm
May 17, 2023	Loon Lake Rec. Centre 301-2nd Avenue, Loon Lake	10 am – 7 pm
May 18, 2023	City Convenience Boardroom 617 5th Street West, Meadow Lake	10 am – 7 pm