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Wowchuk owes landowners an apology

In a recent letter appearing in the June 9 *Manitoba Co-operator*, Rosann Wowchuk, minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro states that “The reality is that Manitoba families will not pay one cent for Bipole III; it will be paid for by export sales.”

Wowchuk’s claim, often voiced by Premier Greg Selinger as well, is at odds with sworn testimony given by Manitoba Hydro before Manitoba’s Public Utilities Board on April 5, 2011. In this hearing, Manitoba Hydro confirmed that “it would not be accurate to suggest that the cost of the bipole will be built into the price of the product being sold into the American marketplace.”

To a followup query, “And Indeed, the price received from the export market, from export market sales, will be a function both of the price you achieve through fixed-price export contracts as well as what the market suggests on any particular day? Manitoba Hydro’s answer was, “That’s correct.”

As former minister of agriculture, she should also be aware of the disruption that the NDP government’s route choice for Bipole III will bring to the lives and operations of farmers in some of the most fertile soils in Manitoba and in one of the most favourable agro-climatic regions of Western Canada.

Wowchuk owes every landowner whose land the line will pass by an apology and an announcement of a return to the east-side route that Manitoba Hydro had always intended for Bipole III until it was forced to look at the ridiculous west-side route as the only option.

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