

Re: *Engineers united on east side, Free Press*, Dec. 8. Some have asked for clarification on the reported additional cost of \$300 million for line losses on the western route. The figure represents losses over a period of 20 years.

Power is lost from all transmission lines, more from AC lines than DC lines, and more from longer lines. Bipole III is to be a high-voltage (HV) DC line, so that is favourable, but the western route will be 480 kilometres (54 per cent) longer than the eastern route.

That means more line losses. Electrical engineers associated with the Bipole III coalition have shown that line losses on a western route would be 51 per cent larger than equivalent losses on the eastern route.

The figure of \$300 million is an estimated cost over 20 years of having to install additional generating equipment to replace lost power, which could otherwise be sold. Using the Wuskwatim generating station, currently being constructed, to obtain current costs, the costs for replacing the extra line losses over 20 years are \$320 million.

The engineers' open letter used \$300 million in additional costs, although the 20-year period was not stated explicitly.

It should be understood that the \$300 million figure is a replacement cost and not the cost of lost earnings.

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