



## Muskowekwan Project

### Project Description and Technical Proposal Detailed Executive Summary

Prepared for:

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
Winnipeg, MB

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment,  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
Regina, SK

December 2012





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**First Potash Ventures**





## **Detailed Executive Summary**

### **E.1 GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONTACTS**

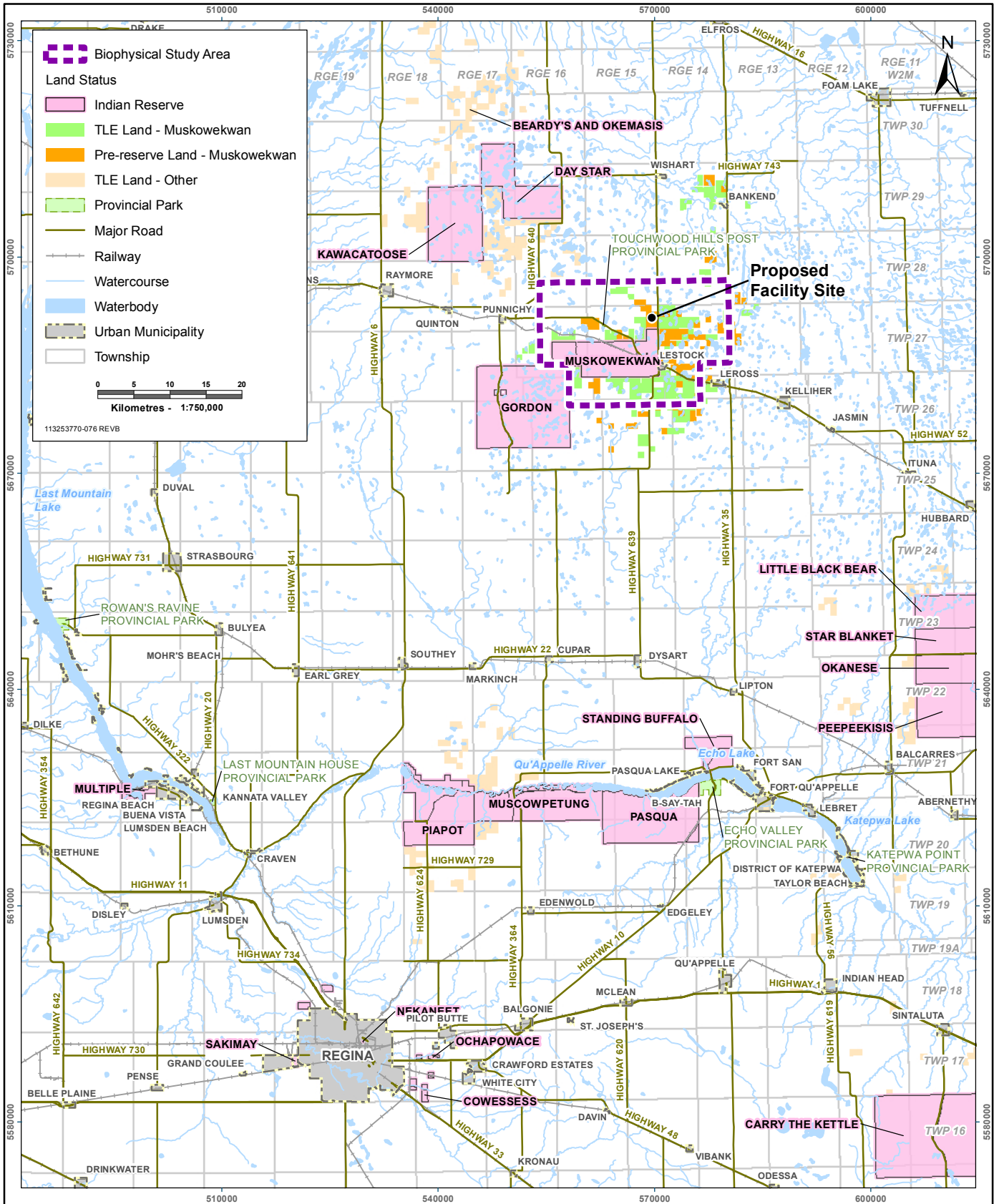
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#### **E.1.1 FPV Background**

First Potash Ventures (FPV), a joint venture between Encanto Resources Ltd. (Encanto), Muskowekwan First Nation (MFN), and Muskowekwan Resources Limited (MRL), proposes to develop a potash mine on the Muskowekwan Reserve (IR #85), Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE), and pre-reserve lands. The Muskowekwan Project (the Project), located about 100 km north-northeast of Regina, Saskatchewan (SK), would comprise a solution mine producing about 2.8 million tonnes (Mt) of potash per year for at least 50 years. The lands subject to development for the Project include the MFN Reserve, TLE, and pre-reserve lands (see Figure E-1).

MFN is a First Nation that owns the lands and potash reserves that will be used for the Project. MFN lands and resources are protected by Treaty Rights, which form the basis of MFN's economic development strategy. MRL is an economic development company of MFN, incorporated in 2009, based in Lestock, SK. Encanto is a subsidiary of Encanto Potash Corp, a Canadian potash exploration company, with offices in Vancouver, BC, Calgary, AB, and Regina, SK. MFN and MRL participate on the Project management committee and provide land and resource access, while Encanto provides financing, technical and management expertise. No federal financial support has been provided in support of this Project.

Key Project personnel include the principals of Encanto Potash Corp., who have existing relationships with Saskatchewan First Nations through oil and gas development activity and have recognized the opportunity to develop a potash mine on such lands in cooperation with First Nation landowners. Although FPV is a joint venture formed for this Project, the joint venture partners understand the need to implement measures to reduce likely environmental effects of the Project. FPV has retained the services of highly-skilled professional engineering and environmental consulting companies to conduct its feasibility and environmental assessment (EA) studies. These firms and FPV executives collectively have global expertise in potash mining engineering and major project development.



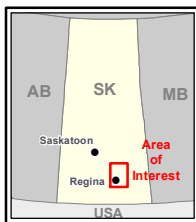
**Biophysical Study Area**

**Land Status**

- Indian Reserve
- TLE Land - Muskowekwan
- Pre-reserve Land - Muskowekwan
- TLE Land - Other
- Provincial Park
- Major Road
- Railway
- Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Urban Municipality
- Township

0 5 10 15 20  
Kilometres - 1:750,000

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MUSKOWEKWAN POTASH PROJECT

## Project Location

Acknowledgements: Original Drawing by Stantec. Base data: Canvec Ver10 2012, GeoSask. TLE Lands: NorthRim April 2012.

PREPARED BY  
**Stantec**

PREPARED FOR  


FIGURE NO.  
**E-1**

Last Modified: Nov 28, 2012 By: mslon

### E.1.2 Project Proponent Contact Information

The proponent of the Muskowekwan Project is FPV. FPV was formed through a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) between MRL, MFN and Encanto in 2010. The contact information for the proponent is provided in Table E-1, below.

**Table E-1 Proponent Contact Information**

<b>Proponent</b>	<b>First Potash Ventures</b>
<b>Contact at MFN</b>	Chief Reg Bellerose P.O. Box 249 Lestock, SK S0A 2G0 Telephone: 306-274-7641 Email: rbellerose@sasktel.net
<b>Contact at MRL</b>	Chief Reg Bellerose President (MRL) P.O. Box 129 Lestock, SK S0A 2G0 Telephone: 306-274-7641 Email: rbellerose@sasktel.net
<b>Contact at Encanto</b>	James Walchuck President and CEO Suite 450 - 800 W. Pender Street P. O. Box #6 Vancouver, BC V6C 2V6 Telephone: 604-683-2402 Email: jwalchuck@encantopotash.com
<b>Principal Contact for Purposes of Regulatory Review</b>	Wayne Stanley Manager, Government and Regulatory Affairs First Potash Ventures Suite 500, 1414 8th Street SW Calgary AB T2R 1J6 Telephone: 403-538-8447 Email: wstanley@encantopotash.com

### E.1.3 Federal and Provincial Regulatory Requirements

The Project constitutes a “designated project” for the purposes of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*, as it involves the:

- construction and operation of a potash mine with a potassium chloride (KCl) production capacity of more than 1,000,000 tonnes per year (per article 15(e) of the Schedule to the Regulations Designating Physical Activities (SOR/2012-147)); and
- short-term use of over 200,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year of groundwater (per article 8 of the Schedule to the Regulations Designating Physical Activities (SOR/2012-147)).

Thus, the Project is subject to a screening by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the CEA Agency or the Agency) under requirements of Section 10 of CEEA 2012, to determine if an EA is required. FPV anticipates, given the nature and scale of the Project and the potential for adverse environmental effects, that an EA will be required.

The Project will constitute a “development” for the purposes of Saskatchewan *Environmental Assessment Act* (SKEAA), as that term is defined in that *Act*. In particular, the mineral rights underlying certain pre-reserve lands on which the Project will be located are still held by the Province, although these will eventually be transferred to the federal Crown in trust for the MFN, through the TLE process. Also, the Project will use water sourced from water bodies under provincial jurisdiction, although the water supply infrastructure will be undertaken by a third party and is not part of the Project proposed by FPV. The Project is expected to require a provincial EA pursuant to the SKEAA.

As the Project will likely be subject to both a federal and provincial EA, it is anticipated that Canada and Saskatchewan will coordinate and cooperate in the exercise of their respective powers and performance of their respective duties to ensure that in effect, a single EA of the Project is conducted in a timely, efficient, yet fully defensible manner.

#### **E.1.4 Project Need and Benefits**

The purpose of the Project is to develop the potash resource that underlies MFN lands, thereby generating a return on investments for the shareholders of FPV and creating economic and social benefits particularly for the Muskowekwan people, but also the surrounding community, Saskatchewan, and Canada. The Project will help to meet the growing global demand for potash and will create employment and procurement opportunities locally, regionally, and provincially. This Project is particularly unique as the MFN is a co-proponent and will benefit in a variety of ways, including increased employment, contracting, training, and business opportunities. The Project will deliver significant economic benefits to MFN. As the owner of the mineral rights, MFN will earn royalty revenue annually for the minimum 50-year operational life of the Project. At current potash prices, this royalty revenue would be about \$80 million per year.

The total construction personnel required at peak levels will be approximately 1,000, and between 300 and 500 jobs will be created during operation. Opportunities for employment, contracting, and training will be felt in nearby communities and rural municipalities, and by service providers (i.e., hotels, restaurants, contractors). The JVA between the FPV partners guarantees preferential employment and contracting opportunities, as well as a host of other economic benefits, to the MFN. The MFN is consulting with other members of the Touchwood Agency Tribal Council (TATC) regarding the extension of similar benefits to those members. In addition, FPV will support the development of training programs in cooperation with the community and government agencies to ensure the MFN is able to take advantage of employment and contracting opportunities expected to be created by the Project.

## **E.2 PROJECT INFORMATION**

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### **E.2.1 Environmental Management Framework for Project**

FPV is committed to incorporating life-of-Project environmental management approaches and strategies into Project planning and execution so that the Project is not only compliant with provincial and federal regulatory requirements and manages the potentially adverse environmental effects, but also ensures that Project benefits and positive effects are enhanced and optimized. FPV has consulted extensively with both provincial and federal regulators to better understand the issues that are of most concern to them, as well as to understand the requirements for the preparation of the EIS. Knowledge of past potash developments will be used in the planning and pro-active management of the potential environmental effects of the Project. FPV has confidence in their understanding and ability to manage potential environmental effects of the Project using a suite of proven environmental management tools. The key environmental management tools that will be used to avoid or appropriately manage potential effects include, but are not limited to:

- the integration of environmental design mitigation to avoid or reduce environmental effects;
- environmental management procedures to address and manage environmental risk;
- environmental protection plans (EPPs) to incorporate environmental factors into final siting design using pre-disturbance assessments and proven mitigation to manage environmental effects;
- use of an environmental monitoring program to validate environmental effects predictions, evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation and address whether modifications to the environmental protection plan are required;
- emergency response plan to address emergencies related to injury, fire, spills, and other potential issues; and
- a waste management plan to ensure that all applicable legislation and standards concerning waste management, storage, and disposal are adhered to for both domestic and non-hazardous industrial waste, and hazardous industrial waste.

### **E.2.2 Project Alternatives**

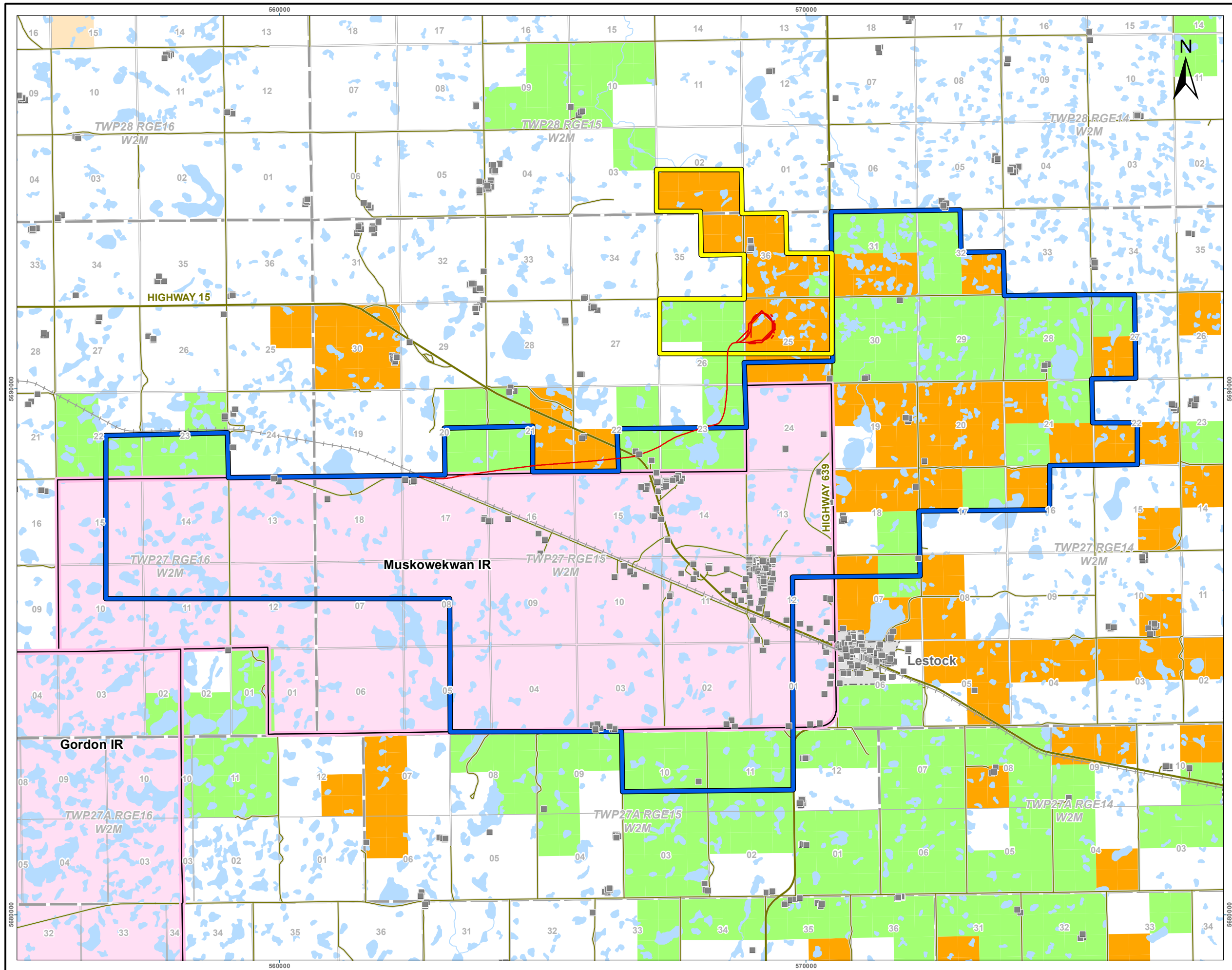
Alternative means for carrying out the Project have been considered in the preliminary stages of the Project (see Table E-2). As the feasibility study progresses, design optimization studies and the consideration of alternative means will be updated and reported in the EIS. Those that are not technically and/or economically feasible will not be considered.

**Table E-2 Alternative Means for Carrying Out the Project**

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Alternative</b>
Mining methods	Conventional mining vs. solution mining. Solution mining has been chosen as the preferred option based on factors such as depth of the deposit, hazards associated with underground mining, productivity, worker safety, economics, and schedule.
Plant location	The proposed plant location was compared to three other locations and chosen based on the site's relatively flat topography, favourable geological and geotechnical conditions, proximity to the best potash resources, pre-existing disturbance by cultivation and minimal native vegetation, limited archaeological potential for intact sites, and distance from residences and towns. MFN elders were engaged to give advice on traditional and cultural land use and incorporation of information from an MFN TLU study.
Processing technology	A hybrid of multiple effect evaporation and mechanical vapour recompression technologies was determined to offer the best processing option based on the use of cogeneration.
Raw water supply	Currently the best water source option, as indicated by the Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan, is Buffalo Pound Lake (BPL), pending engineering feasibility analysis to increase its water capacity. SaskWater has completed its review of FPV's Request for Service and has advised FPV by letter dated October 22, 2012 that SaskWater will now proceed with the preparation of the conceptual report for water conveyance. This report will be based on the water source being BPL as has been indicated by the WSA. The use of groundwater is also being considered for one year until the system providing water from BPL is operational. A temporary groundwater source would not be required for initial cavern development if the water supply is in place at Project start-up.
Power options	Cogeneration, instead of electric or natural gas power, is currently the preferred option to provide the Project with both power and steam, and to facilitate the preferred processing option.
Railway	The Project's spur line will tie into Canadian National Rail's (CN) main line due to its proximity (approximately 5 km from the site), instead of a Canadian Pacific Railway side rail approximately 50 km from the site.
Well field pipelines	Underground pipelines, instead of above-ground, have been chosen for the Project to reduce disruption to surface activities such as farming, hunting and wildlife movements and to minimize insulation needs.

### **E.2.3 Project Components**

The Project will use a solution mining technique in which hot water or brine solution will be used to mine potash deposits from the Belle Plaine and Patience Lake Members of the Prairie Evaporite Formation. Solution mining is the method by which potash is extracted from underground deposits by using wells and circulating fluids instead of shafts and conventional underground mining. In May 2012, a Technical Summary Report compliant with National Instrument (NI) 43-101 was filed with securities regulators (North Rim et al. 2012). This report confirmed the size and assay quality of the potash resources that underlie a portion of the MFN lands. Based on the findings of the Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) and Technical Summary Report, FPV concluded there are sufficient potash resources of appropriate quality underlying these lands to support a commercial mine capable of producing 2.8 Mtpa for a minimum 50-year economic life. The Project will include a plant site (including all infrastructure required for potash processing), a Tailings Management Area (TMA), and a mine well field (for potash extraction) (see Figure E-2).



### Proposed Facility Site Preliminary Well Field and Rail Spur Detail Base

Projection: UTM Zone 13 NAD 83  
 Acknowledgements: Original Drawing by Stantec.  
 Project Data: Novopro (2012/11/28), TLE: Northrim April 2012.  
 Base Data: Geosask, Carvec 10 Hydro, 50K Buildings: Stantec Nov 2012.

- Proposed Facility Site
- Proposed Mine Well Field
- Proposed Rail Spur
- Land Status**
- Indian Reserve
- TLE Land - Muskowekwan
- Pre-reserve Land - Muskowekwan
- TLE Land - Other
- Building Structure
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Railway
- Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Urban Municipality



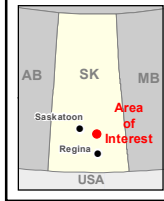
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FIGURE NO.

# E-2



Last Modified: Nov 29, 2012 By: asben





The solution mining caverns will be located throughout the well field (at a depth of approximately 1,200 m below ground) and a piping network will be routed from the plant through the well field to service the caverns (see Figure E-2). Initial well field development will occur close to the processing plant, and will extend outward across the well development area as the mine is developed. The productive lifespan of the Project has been conservatively estimated at 50 years; however, in the event that caverns are still producing at acceptable levels, the mine may continue to operate beyond this timeframe, with well field development occurring across the entire well development area over time. Development of the resource may occur on any and all lands owned by MFN. Subsequent to additional resource investigations, a more definitive time-frame and well development plan for the Project will be established and reflected in the EIS.

Each cavern will be serviced by two wells, drilled from a single well pad. The approximate dimensions of a well pad are expected to be 40 m x 120 m, plus or minus 50%, depending on the number of wells and their arrangement. Up to 20 caverns can be serviced from each well pad (depending on local conditions and geological constraints); this is referred to as a cluster. The hot water or brine solution will be pumped into each mining cavern through an injection well, dissolving the potassium chloride (KCl) and salt (NaCl) deposits into a brine solution. The brine will be recovered through a production well and sent via the pipeline network to the processing plant, where the KCl and NaCl deposits will be recovered in crystalline form. The specific location of each well pad will be determined during the detailed design phase for initial well field development, with the specific location of later well pads informed by additional geological, technical, and environmental data obtained during mine development.

The total annual production of potash will be accomplished through primary mining (2 Mt) and secondary mining (800 kt). Primary mining is the non-selective mining of the ore by a hot leaching process that uses raw water as the solvent and creates brine from which potash is extracted. Secondary mining is the selective mining of potash by a hot leaching process using NaCl-saturated brine.

Brine processing will occur at the processing plant and involves the following steps: evaporation and crystallization; product de-brining and drying; product screening, compaction, and crushing; secondary mining crystallization; and product storage and load-out. Processing will produce two products: KCl and NaCl. The KCl will be dried, screened, and stored prior to being shipped out by rail car. The NaCl will be sent to the above-ground TMA for storage. The salt and brine tailings from the mining and processing phases will be sent hydraulically to the TMA which consists of a salt tailings pile, brine pond, pipelines, containment ditches and dykes, and disposal wells.

Waste brine from cavern development and all other waste brines from the well field and processing plant will be accumulated in a dedicated buffer storage tank and re-injected into the Winnipeg or Deadwood aquifer, a deep brackish aquifer below the potash horizons and well isolated from surface aquifers. Other emissions, discharges and wastes will be managed as per appropriate regulations. Specific emissions, discharges and wastes are discussed below in conjunction with the descriptions of the Valued Environmental Components (see Section 4).

During construction, temporary infrastructure, including a labour camp for up to 1,000 construction employees, will be assembled on-site. During operation, permanent buildings and facilities will include administrative buildings, processing facilities, maintenance shop, product storage and load-out buildings, fuel and hazardous substances storage, and other buildings. The temporary labour camp will be operated in accordance with provincial guidelines.

Power will likely be supplied by on-site cogeneration. Access to the Project site will be from public roads such as the existing Highway 15, Highway 639, and local grid roads. Separate access roads to the well field will also be needed. Where feasible, existing roads will be used or new access roads will be constructed from the existing municipal grid road network near the well field. Efforts will be made to consolidate infrastructure (e.g., pipelines and access roads) in a common right-of-way where feasible and to avoid environmental, socio-cultural and economic constraints. An on-site rail spur approximately 7 km long will be built to connect to the nearby existing CN main rail line south of the facility site.

Ancillary projects that are outside the scope of the Project include supporting utilities and infrastructure, including water, natural gas, and communications that will be provided by third parties. Water will be supplied to the site by SaskWater via a new pipeline, likely from Buffalo Pound Lake. Natural gas will be supplied by TransGas, via an upgraded pipeline extended to the Project fenceline. Communications will be provided by SaskTel.

#### **E.2.4 Project Activities and Phases**

Project activities during construction of the Project will consist of clearing, grubbing, excavation and grading of the Project processing plant and TMA. Construction will involve the erection of buildings, preparation of roadbeds, development of well production pads and associated infrastructure (service roads, pipelines and power lines), preliminary cavern development, the drilling and development of temporary groundwater supply wells, erection of electrical distribution and co-generation plant, and other ancillary facilities. Waste management and emissions control will be achieved through implementation of the waste management plan, EPPs, and emergency response plan. During operation, the plant processing facilities will process brine and produce product for shipment via rail cars. Mining will proceed over the life of the mine through the sequential development of drilling pads within the well development area, including site access roads, water supply piping, solution piping, electrical power and steam distribution systems. Throughout operation, tailings management and operation will continue and the co-generation plant will operate and supply Project energy and steam.

A conceptual decommissioning and reclamation (D&R) plan will be developed during detailed engineering and permitting and will outline how lands disturbed by mining activities will be reclaimed to a condition compatible with neighbouring land uses. This plan will address the different types of Project infrastructure and be developed in consultation with regulatory agencies during permitting to ensure that it complies with applicable laws and regulations. Additionally, MFN will also be consulted on the D&R plan. The plan will be periodically reviewed during operations.

The key Project phases and milestones are presented in Table E-3.

**Table E-3 Project Phases and Milestones**

Milestones	Tentative Dates
<b>Environmental</b>	
Submission of Project Description/Technical Proposal	Q4 2012
Issuance of EIS Guidelines/Terms of Reference	Q1 2013
Environmental Baseline Studies	Q2 2012 – Q3 2013
EIS Preparation and Submission	Q4 2012 – Q3 2013
EIS Review and Approval	Q3 2013 – Q2 2014
Permitting	Q3 2014 – Q1 2015
<b>Engineering/Construction</b>	
Pre-feasibility Study	Q1 2012 – Q1 2013
Feasibility Study	Q1 2013 – Q1 2014
Detailed Engineering/Procurement/Construction	Q3 2014 – Q4 2016
Commissioning	Q4 2016 - Q1 2017
Operation	Q2 2017 and beyond
Decommissioning and Reclamation	2067 and beyond

## **E.3 PROJECT LOCATION AND LAND STATUS**

The Project will be located entirely on MFN lands, which are comprised of IR #85 (original Treaty grant), TLE, and pre-reserve lands.

The federal Crown administers I.R. #85 reserve and TLE lands. TLE lands are those that have been acquired by MFN through the TLE Framework Agreement (1992). These lands have the same rights and entitlements as I.R. # 85 reserve lands.

The surface rights of pre-reserve lands are owned by the MFN but remain under the administration of Saskatchewan until they transfer to reserve status through the TLE Framework Agreement (1992). In addition to the surface rights, mineral title associated with the pre-reserve lands will be transferred to MFN through the TLE Framework Agreement (1992) process. Figure E-2 shows the legal location of these lands and depicts the different types of lands owned by MFN that could be subject to development for this Project.

The MFN has mineral rights for both the Reserve and TLE lands. As pre-reserve lands are transferred to reserve status, mineral rights will be transferred to MFN. Once this process is complete, both the surface and mineral rights will be held by MFN for the current pre-reserve lands. Currently, the mineral rights underlying 61,509 acres (24,892 ha) of MFN lands, located mainly in Townships (Twp) 27-27A, Ranges (Rge) 14-16, West of the Second Meridian (W2M), have been designated under the *Indian Act* by a February 2012 Mineral Rights Designation vote for the purpose of potash mine development (North Rim et al. 2012).

The facility will be located over approximately ten contiguous quarter sections of land (see Figure E-2). The plant site is located approximately at 51° 22' 15.453" latitude and 103° 59' 57.005" longitude, subject to final siting and design.

The Project location is proximal to several buildings, including residences for MFN as well as the Town of Lestock. The use and occupancy of these buildings (i.e., permanent residents, commercial, seasonal use, abandoned, etc.) will be verified during the engagement process and included in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Standard avoidance and other mitigation techniques will be employed to ensure that any Project-related developments incorporate appropriate setbacks from buildings or land use associated with population settlements.

## E.4 FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL INVOLVEMENT

Table E-4 includes a list of federal legislation, regulatory requirements and permits, licences and authorizations that may be applicable to the Project. This list of federal permits and approvals will be refined in the EIS as Project details are confirmed.

**Table E-4 Federal Legislative and Regulatory Requirements**

Act	Regulation	Relevance to Project
Fisheries Act	Not applicable	The Project may require an authorization from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) pursuant to Section 35(2) of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> , if any part of the Project results in a harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat. However, field studies and available information indicated that no fish bearing water bodies are expected to be affected by the Project. Further amendments to the <i>Fisheries Act</i> are anticipated to be made pursuant to the <i>Jobs, Growth and Long-term Prosperity Act</i> . After such amendments come into effect, it is expected the Project may require an authorization from DFO if any part of the Project results in serious harm to fish that are part of a commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fishery, or to fish that support it. However, as above, no fisheries or fish supporting fisheries are expected to be affected by the Project.
Species at Risk Act, S.C. 2002, c. 29	Applicable	Several federally listed species at risk may occur in the Project area. However, information review and field surveys to date indicate that no critical habitat for these species is expected to be affected by the Project. Consultation with Environment Canada regarding federally listed species at risk has already been initiated.
Migratory Birds Convention Act, S.C., 1994, c. 22	Migratory Bird Regulations, C.R.C., c. 1035	The Project will interact with migratory birds and the EIS will describe appropriate mitigation to avoid potential significant residual adverse environmental effects.

**Table E-4 Federal Legislative and Regulatory Requirements (cont'd)**

Act	Regulation	Relevance to Project
Canada Transportation Act (CTA)		Under Section 98(2) of the CTA, the Canadian Transportation Agency may, on application by the railway company (or, in this case the proponent), grant an approval if it considers that the location of the railway line is reasonable, taking into consideration requirements for railway operations and services and the interests of the localities that will be affected by the right-of-way (ROW).
Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012		The Project is a "designated project" and requires a screening under Sections 8 to 12. The Agency may require an EA under Sections 22 to 27. It is anticipated, due to the nature and scale of the Project, an EA will be required.
First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act (FNCIDA)		The MFN has requested the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) to recommend to the Governor in Council the negotiation of an agreement and establishment of a regulation pursuant to FNCIDA.
Canadian Emission Reduction Incentives Agency Act, S.C., 2005, c. 30		Applicability to be determined in EA.
Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, C-15.1	Environmental Emergency Regulations, <i>Environmental Emergency Regulations</i> . SOR/2003-307	Applicability to be determined in EA.
Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, C-15.1	Federal Above Ground Storage Tank Technical Guidelines, P.C. 1996-1233	Applicability to be determined in EA.
Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, C-15.1	Federal Halocarbon Regulations, 2003 SOR/2003-289	Applicability to be determined in EA.
Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, C-15.1	Federal Underground Storage Tank Guidelines	Applicability to be determined in EA.
Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, C-15.1	Inter-provincial Movement and Hazardous Waste Regulations, SOR/2002-301	Applicability to be determined in EA.
Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, C-15.1	National Pollutant Release Inventory and Municipal Wastewater Services May 2003	Applicability to be determined in EA.
Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, C-15.1	Ozone-depleting Substances Regulations, 1998 SOR/99-7	Applicability to be determined in EA.
Canadian Water Act, R.S.C., 1985, c. C-11	Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality	Relevant to the establishment of the potable water supply and the assessment of environmental effects on water resources.

**Table E-4 Federal Legislative and Regulatory Requirements (cont'd)**

<b>Act</b>	<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Relevance to Project</b>
Indian Act	Indian Mining Regulations C.R.C., c.956 (IMR)	Mining activity on federal reserve lands is subject to these regulations. In particular, Section 4 of the IMR requires the proponent to comply with provincial legislation and regulations pertaining to mining.
Indian Act	Indian Reserve Traffic Regulations C.R.C., c.959	Applicability to be determined in EA.
Indian Act	Indian Reserve Waste Disposal Regulations C.R.C., c.960	Applicability to be determined in EA.
Indian Act	Indian Timber Harvesting Regulations SOR/2002-109	Licence required to cut timber on First Nation lands.
Indian Act	Indian Timber Regulations C.R.C., c.961	Licence required to cut timber on surrendered lands or with consent of the council of a band, on reserve lands.
Indian Act	Property Assessment and Taxation (Railway Right-of-Way) Regulations SOR/2001-493	Applicability to be determined in EA.
Indian Act	Indian Mining Regulations C.R.C., c.956 (IMR)	Exploration Permits for Home Reserve were issued under IMR.
Indian Act		Exploration Permits for TLE lands were issued under the <i>Indian Act</i> .

Section 4 of the *Indian Mining Regulations* requires the proponent to comply with provincial laws and regulations pertaining to mining, even if the mining activity occurs on federal (reserve and TLE) lands. Moreover, if a regulation pursuant to FNCIDA is established, as requested by MFN, the regulation will specify those provincial laws and regulations, and particularly those sections of provincial laws and regulations that will apply to the Project on federal, reserve and TLE lands. It is anticipated the FNCIDA regulation will establish a robust and comprehensive regulatory framework for the life of the Project for activities occurring on both federal and provincial lands (essentially mirroring the suite of provincial regulations that Saskatchewan employs to regulate potash mines on provincial Crown lands), and in particular will enable the respective regulators, notably the Agency and Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment (MOE), to confidently establish conditions for follow-up programs, including mitigation and monitoring.



## **E.5 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

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The description below summarizes the biophysical setting for the Project and a discussion of potential Project-environment interactions and effects.

### **E.5.1 Biophysical Setting**

The Project occurs in a relative flat area dominated by agricultural land use and, as a result, vegetation communities are highly fragmented. However, sporadic patches of remnant native vegetation remain in the region providing good quality habitat for wildlife species of management concern (SOMC) and rare plants or communities. These areas are not considered widespread and do not consist of very large patches due to past developments; native vegetation areas are mainly concentrated in the western half of the MFN Reserve and immediately south of the southwestern corner of the reserve. The broader Project study area is dominated by cultivated land (60%) followed by native grassland (17%), tall shrub (7.6%) and hardwood tree stands (6.6%). Well locations will be sited to avoid the relatively more contiguous habitat features where possible. The proposed facility site location is highly dominated by cultivated land (95%). Wetlands are prevalent and interspersed throughout the surrounding landscape and the facility site; however several wetlands, particularly those within the facility site, have already had their riparian zones disturbed by human activities (e.g., cultivation). There are no well-defined creeks or rivers in the Project area. Fisheries studies completed in 2012 indicate that the local environment has no fish resources, with the exception of some minnow species. Although several SOMC have the potential to occur at the proposed facility site and the broader Project area where suitable habitat exists, there are no records of wildlife SOMC and rare plants in the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Center database for the proposed facility site.

Due to the extensive agricultural developments, existing air quality and noise conditions in the Project area are likely typical of a rural, prairie environment. In general, air quality is good with localized periods of decreased air quality mostly due to farming and CN main line rail activities, and noise levels are primarily influenced by natural sound, domestic activity, local traffic, birds, locomotive and train activity and aircraft flyovers.

The Project straddles the divide between two major watersheds: the Qu'Appelle River watershed and the Quill Lakes watershed within the South Saskatchewan River watershed. The two main drainage systems are the Birch Creek (1,146 km<sup>2</sup>) and Jumping Deer Creek (1,676 km<sup>2</sup>) systems. Due to limited development in the region, with the exception of agriculture and community and transportation infrastructure, it is expected that the existing surface water quality within the Project area will be typical of other prairie wetlands and shallow lakes (i.e., generally alkaline in pH, highly buffered, with variable hardness and salinity). Groundwater quantity and quality is related to the geologic framework of the Project area, and consists of the following units (in ascending order): the Pierre Formation, the Empress Group, the Sutherland Group, and the Saskatoon Group. Within these geological units, there are several units with sufficient permeability to be considered aquifers.

Initial consultation activities and reviews of regional information have not identified the existence of a regional environmental study or land use management plan that has been completed or is ongoing in the area.

### **E.5.2 Valued Environmental Component Approach and Context**

Valued Environmental Components (VECs) are important aspects of the biophysical and human environments that are considered to be important from public, First Nations, and/or scientific and technical perspectives. VECs are identified to focus the EA on those aspects of the environment that are valued, and most likely to be affected by the Project. The selection of VECs is influenced by a number of factors, including:

- consultation with regulators that helped to identify issues of greatest concern to them (e.g., water use, TMA design and prevention of contaminant migration to aquifers, subsidence, species of management concern);
- Aboriginal and public concern;
- an understanding of potential Project-environment interactions and potential effects through the experience of environmental professionals who have an extensive history with understanding and describing these interactions;
- an understanding of the sensitivity of the environmental aspects to perturbation; and
- experience with the design and implementation of practical mitigation by the Project team.

FPV proposes that the EA of the Project focus on 11 VECs, reflecting the anticipated Project-environment interactions, and based upon an understanding of the biophysical and socio-economic environment at and near the MFN Reserve and nearby communities. The biophysical, socio-cultural and economic VECs to be considered for this Project and the potential environmental effects on each of these VECs are presented in Table E-5.

**Table E-5 Potential Biophysical, Social-cultural and Economic VECs**

<b>VEC</b>	<b>Potential Environmental Effects</b>
Atmospheric Environment	Change in air quality Change in sound quality Change in climate
Vegetation	Change in vegetation species and communities
Wildlife	Change in wildlife populations
Wetlands	Change in wetland function
Water Resources	Change in quality of ground and surface water Change in quantity of ground and surface water
Muskowekwan First Nation Community	Change in community
Employment and Business	Change in employment Change in business

**Table E-5 Potential Biophysical, Social-cultural and Economic VECs (cont'd)**

VEC	Potential Environmental Effects
Land and Resource Use	Change in land and resource use
Aboriginal Land and Resource Use	Change in Aboriginal land and resource use
Heritage and Historic Resources	Change in heritage and historic resources
Community Services and Infrastructure	Change in community services and infrastructure

The evaluation of the Project inherently considers cumulative environmental effects of past, present and future projects. The description of existing conditions reflects consideration of past and present projects and activities, many of which will continue into the future at current levels. Within the lands of the MFN, there are no likely future projects planned other than the proposed Project. In the EIS, cumulative effects will be broadly considered in compliance with the TOR and Project-specific EIS Guidelines.

In selecting VECs, FPV also considered the Aquatic Environment, Soils and Terrain, and Public Health and Safety as candidate VECs but concluded that either the potential environmental effects on these components would not be substantive, or they will be addressed through the consideration of particular interactions within other VECs.

### **E.5.2.1 Biophysical VECs**

#### ***ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT***

Potential effects on local air quality and climate will be due to added emissions of critical air contaminants (CACs) (NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, CO, TSP, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>), greenhouses gases (GHGs) (primarily CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O) and particulate matter (i.e., potash and salt dust) associated with natural gas combustion, product storage and conveyance, off-road and on-road vehicle and equipment gasoline and diesel-fuelled engines, and fugitive dust from roads. Ambient sound level at noise-sensitive receptors (i.e., residences) at or near the Project may be increased during construction due to vehicles and equipment. FPV is committed to implementing appropriate mitigation to manage potential air quality and noise effects by ensuring that the Project meets or exceeds all applicable air quality and noise standards and guidelines.

#### ***WILDLIFE, VEGETATION, AND WETLANDS***

Ground disturbance activities, including clearing activities for the construction of the facility site, well pads, pipeline, access roads, and rail spur line, which will result in the incremental loss of vegetation and wetland, can potentially affect vegetation communities, rare plants, and wetland communities if these cannot be avoided during the final siting of facilities. These construction activities may also contribute to wildlife mortality and habitat loss and/or fragmentation in contiguous patches of native vegetation which might affect habitat availability and suitability for wildlife SOMC. Several SOMC have the potential to occur at the proposed facility site and the broader Project area where suitable habitat exists. SOMC that have legislated protection (i.e., protection under either *The Wildlife Act, 1998* of Saskatchewan or the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)) and have the potential to occur within the Project area include: northern leopard frog (Special Concern), common nighthawk (Threatened), loggerhead shrike

(Threatened), Sprague's pipit (Threatened), yellow rail (Special Concern), and monarch butterfly (Special Concern). Other SOMC that are not protected under legislation but considered sensitive by the province or identified by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) that may have the potential to occur within the Project area include: barn swallow, bobolink, horned grebe, and short-eared owl. These potential effects will be addressed through the use of pre-disturbance assessments and final siting criteria to avoid or reduce effects to vegetation, rare plants, and wetlands. Wildlife may be affected during construction and operation by mortality due to vehicle collisions and sensory disturbance (i.e., from noise, sights, and smells). Planned mitigation, such as avoidance, scheduling of work, establishing buffer zones around sensitive wildlife features, establishing traffic management procedures, and limiting fragmentation of contiguous patches of native habitat through design mitigation, will avoid or reduce potential effects described above. FPV is also committed to adhering to provincial guidelines such as *Disturbance Impact Thresholds: Recommended Land use Guidelines for Protection of Vertebrate Species of Concern in Saskatchewan* (MOE 2009) and avoidance guidelines outlined by Environment Canada to ensure the Project is in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and *Migratory Birds Regulations*. During operation, deposition of particulate matter on the surrounding vegetation may occur, but FPV will minimize the effects on vegetation quality by meeting or exceeding applicable air quality guidelines.

## ***WATER RESOURCES***

Potential effects of the Project on surface water features relate to changes to infiltration rates, increased erosion, loss of a small proportion of wetlands from facilities, and alterations to surface drainage due to subsidence. Several design mitigation and effects management protocols have been used in the preliminary design and layout of facilities to consolidate disturbances (i.e., shared ROWs for infrastructure, design optimization studies to reduce water use and TMA size) and reduce the Project footprint and associated changes to infiltration rates. FPV is committed to developing a stormwater and industrial runoff management plan that will direct surface runoff from undeveloped areas of the Project site toward natural drainages or use engineered drainages to bypass facilities and tie into pre-existing natural pathways, so that flow will continue. Subsidence studies and modeling work is being completed to ensure that changes in surface conditions are within acceptable limits and to determine the extent to which the landscape may change and alter local drainage and hydrological characteristics.

The operation phase may potentially affect surface water quality due to dust, air emissions, or accidental spills. Indirect effects associated with the diversion of surface water around the Project, or changes in drainage patterns due to subsidence, may also affect water quality by altering the water balance in the wetlands in and around the site. Design mitigation and operating protocols as outlined above help to address these issues.

Construction of surface facilities and infrastructure will result in changes in grade elevations, minor alterations to the surface drainage patterns, and impoundment of water, which may alter local infiltration rates and groundwater flow patterns. The quantity, distribution, and flow of shallow groundwater may also be affected by subsidence and the use of groundwater as a source for early cavern development (to be verified through studies and modeling to determine feasibility). Groundwater quality may be adversely

affected by accidental releases of products (e.g., fuel, diesel oil, chemicals). Groundwater quality may also be affected by runoff and seepage from potash and salt storage piles and the brine pond.

Project infrastructure will be developed so that groundwater quantity and quality will not be adversely affected significantly. Emergency response protocols and environmental protection measures will be in place to address such situations in the Emergency Prevention and Response Plan. Measures to mitigate subsidence and effects on surface water hydrology will also serve to mitigate potential effects on groundwater quality and quantity/flow. To avoid potential effects due to seepage from the TMA, its location was selected on the basis of the hydro-stratigraphic and geotechnical data demonstrating the suitability of the underlying till (i.e., low permeability) to limit vertical and horizontal migration of brine from the TMA. Off-site lateral migration of brine will also be prevented by the installation of perimeter ditches and barriers that penetrate through surficial materials into the underlying impermeable till.

### **E.5.2.2 Socio-cultural and Economic VECs**

#### ***MFN COMMUNITY***

The MFN community will be affected in several positive ways by increased opportunities for employment, the payment of substantive royalties that will have the potential to fund significant social infrastructure that can benefit both on and off reserve MFN members, and by preferential access to contracts and business opportunities. Possible adverse effects such as social instability could occur due to the increased wealth in the community and presence of a labour camp. This instability may occur as the MFN adapts to managing an increase in income, both at an individual level and for the community as a whole. FPV is committed to optimizing and enhancing the positive benefits of the Project, in a manner that supports the community and government agencies in the reduction and management of potentially adverse effects. FPV will work with the community and responsible government agencies early in the Project in support of their development and implementation of training programs in money management and/or assistance with developing strategies for setting up a community legacy fund for future generations. FPV is committed to Project mitigation including those related to traditional land and resource use to augment the value of the MFN lands as an attractive home for future generations to enjoy.

#### ***EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS***

Potential effects to employment and business will be largely positive with MFN benefiting from increased employment, increased contracting opportunities, increased training opportunities and increased business opportunities. Many of the employment, contracting, and training opportunities will be felt in nearby communities and rural municipalities (RMs) as well, and by service providers (i.e., hotels, restaurants, contractors). Training programs developed to ensure the MFN is able to take advantage of employment and contracting opportunities may also be available to other neighbouring First Nations, Métis, and other stakeholders. The Saskatchewan and local government will be positively influenced with increased GDP and tax revenue.

FPV will work with the MFN community, government agencies, and other parties at interest to support the development of a variety of training programs early in the planning stages to help ensure that workers are trained and ready to work when employment opportunities associated with mine construction and operation arise. FPV will also work with the business community to ensure that contracting opportunities can be maximized within the local community.

### ***LAND AND RESOURCE USE***

Potential effects to land and resource use will occur through lands and resources being taken out of production and/or by causing disturbances to adjacent lands (i.e., through vegetation clearing, ground disturbance, infrastructure development, and sensory disturbance). This may affect the use and/or location of other mineral dispositions, linear facilities, agriculture, and recreational uses. FPV will work to identify and avoid conflicting with land and resource uses, where possible. Where mitigation is not possible, FPV will work with affected parties to compensate, where appropriate, for direct loss of land and resource uses.

Noise generated during certain construction and operation activities may temporarily displace wildlife populations, thereby reducing hunting potential at that location. Livestock operations in the area may be affected in a similar manner. BMPs for noise control will be implemented to reduce this temporary disturbance and FPV will comply with all applicable standards and regulations.

### ***ABORIGINAL LAND AND RESOURCE USE***

Activities that have the potential to affect traditional land use activities include ground disturbance, sensory disturbance, and habitat fragmentation produced during the construction of above-ground facilities and infrastructure, and the ongoing development of the well field during operations. These activities may affect traditional activities such as trapping, hunting and berry picking. Mitigation strategies outlined to reduce or avoid potential effects on habitat features (see wildlife, vegetation and cultural site mitigation) will reduce or avoid related effects to these traditional land use activities. FPV will also work with trap line operators to avoid or reduce effects through timing of Project activities and siting of facilities. Burial sites and ceremonial sites are also vulnerable to disturbance by construction activities. Ceremonial sites could be impacted by noise that was not present before. Culturally significant sites may be sensitive to visual effects. FPV will collect information on these features and engage with the MFN to discuss mitigation approaches. Mitigation of potential effects on cultural sites, such as ceremonial sites, will be accomplished through avoidance during the Project design phase.

### ***HERITAGE AND HISTORIC RESOURCES***

During construction, ground disturbance activities such as excavation, grading, trenching, drilling, vegetation clearing, and landscaping have the potential to affect heritage resources. During operation, the ongoing development of the well field will generate new ground disturbance that has the potential to affect heritage resources. Mitigation of effects on heritage resources will occur in three phases, each of which

will be implemented by FPV where appropriate: 1) heritage resource inventory, 2) heritage resource impact assessment, and 3) heritage resource mitigation.

### ***COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE***

The Project's construction phase will produce increased traffic and increased demand for local and regional services. During operation, the Project will produce a small increase in rail traffic (approximately one train per day compared to 30+ trains per day) through a new spur line connecting the mine site to the CN rail line. However, with the Project there will also be increased revenue brought into the MFN and surrounding communities enabling them to invest in the development of community services and infrastructure. FPV will work with the MFN, and neighbouring First Nations, Métis, RMs, and communities, to develop appropriate strategies to optimize potential economic benefits and manage the anticipated burden on community services and infrastructure. Some issues such as lack of adequate housing, restaurants and/or accommodations are beyond the scope of the Project mitigation proposed by FPV.

## **E.6 ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION WITH ABORIGINAL GROUPS**

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As the Project is located on lands owned by the MFN and will exploit resources owned by the MFN, preliminary engagement activity by Encanto with MFN has been ongoing for the past three years. Continued engagement with the MFN both on- and off-reserve will serve to introduce the larger MFN community to FPV and the team responsible for completing the EA; provide an opportunity for the community to learn about the Project in detail, ask questions, and raise concerns; use information gathered from MFN members to assist in issues scoping for the EA; and gather Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use information, in addition to available existing studies, to inform the EA. Ongoing engagement with the MFN will include, but not be limited to, community Open Houses and ongoing in-person meetings. FPV will use available tools to disseminate information to and receive input from the MFN, including newsletters, social media and a website which FPV has provided financial support to develop.

Several other First Nation and Métis communities who will or may be affected by, or have an interest in, the Project have been identified and will be engaged as well. Based on a documentary review of relevant materials related to the study area, we anticipate engagement will be required with the George Gordon First Nation (FN), Kawacatoose FN, Day Star FN, the TATC (which represents these three FNs, as well as the MFN), Métis Local #8 Lestock, Métis Eastern Region II, and Métis Eastern Region III. However, this list may be altered as required based on the results of our initial engagement activities within the region and as directed by regulatory authorities.

Consultation and engagement with all parties will continue throughout the completion of the EIS. Project updates and further engagement will continue to occur into the construction and operational phases of the Project.



### **E.6.1 Muskowekwan First Nation**

Specific examples of engagement with MFN include:

- engagement and BCR support in relation to EPA;
- engagement and BCR support in relation to the JVA;
- multiple information sessions on reserve and in four off-reserve centers (Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Winnipeg) related to the designation of potash reserves for development (which received more than 80% approval) and to the EA process;
- numerous technical presentations made to MFN Chief and Council;
- provision of TLU study reports by MFN to inform the EA planning process;
- meetings between MFN Chief and Council and federal and provincial ministers and senior government officials;
- informal discussions between MFN Chief and leaders of other TATC First Nations; and
- community open houses.

A selected list of MFN community meetings is included in Table E-6.

**Table E-6 2010-2012 Selected List of MFN Community Meetings**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Muskowekwan First Nation	Regina	24-Nov-10	Information session related to the designation of potash reserves for development
Muskowekwan First Nation	Saskatoon	25-Nov-10	Information session related to the designation of potash reserves for development
Muskowekwan First Nation	Edmonton	29-Nov-10	Information session related to the designation of potash reserves for development
Muskowekwan First Nation	Winnipeg	30-Nov-10	Information session related to the designation of potash reserves for development
Muskowekwan First Nation	Muskowekwan Band Hall	22-Aug-12	Initial Open House to introduce the Project, provide information, gather initial feedback, and engage in issues scoping.
Muskowekwan First Nation	The Gathering Place, Regina	6-Sep-12	Initial Open House to introduce the Project, provide information, gather initial feedback, and engage in issues scoping.

Engagement between MFN and Encanto has in many cases moved to include “accommodation”. For example:

- MFN will be paid directly substantial royalty and lease payments for the use of their land and resources;
- MFN will be paid directly a substantial development fee for its accomplishment of certain Project progress milestones;

- MFN and MRL participate directly in the management of the Project as members of the project management committee and are regularly and fully advised of Project decisions;
- the proposed facility site was moved from home reserve lands to a location on TLE and pre-reserve lands in response to a request from MFN to minimize the effect of the Project on culturally sensitive areas within the home reserve;
- preferential employment and contracting commitments, including an ‘open book’ contracting protocol, have been established to ensure direct economic participation in the Project;
- the JVA allows MFN to monitor and hold FPV accountable to achieve certain Project employment, contracting, and training commitments; and
- financial support from Encanto for capacity development assistance to MFN and MRL.

The two open houses held on August 22, 2012 and September 6, 2012 resulted in the attendance of 61 and 30 people, respectively. At both open houses, the format was largely the same: storyboards discussing the basics of the mine plan and the EA process. Representatives from FPV, Stantec, and Novopro were in attendance and engaged attendees one-on-one, explaining the Project and answering questions. At the Regina open house, a formal presentation and “question and answer” session was held as well, in response to requests from community Elders.

An Issues Scoping Questionnaire was used in which participants were asked to rate the importance of various issues or aspects of the environment to them, and to indicate other issues that should form part of the EA study. The results of the Issues Scoping Questionnaire, as well as of the conversations held with community members, were used to inform VEC selection for the Project.

Feedback received from participants included the following.

- Concerns around water supply and quality were heard often.
- Many comments in these initial open houses relate to the EA engagement process. The importance of Elder engagement was stressed.
- Desire was expressed for a website to keep people informed, and also a newsletter for people who do not use the internet, especially Elders.
- Traditional Land use issues were expressed often, in particular around unmarked burials that exist in many places on the reserve.
- Socio-economic concerns, especially around jobs and training, were frequently expressed. There is a desire for training of various kinds (not just at mining skills, but also skills to deal with change in the community such as money management courses, and drug and alcohol treatment programs).
- Overall, people view the mine as a chance for a better future for the next generation, but would like more communication at all levels – from FPV, Chief and Council, and regarding the EA process.

Current traditional land and resource uses include hunting and trapping, berry picking, and culturally significant areas (e.g., ceremonial sites, burial sites (both marked and unmarked), and the remains of a historic Métis settlement). Existing Traditional Knowledge has been recorded for the Project area as a

result of previous studies. These studies have informed current Project planning efforts and will continue to be referenced as Project development proceeds. To supplement this information, Traditional Knowledge will also be sought from knowledgeable members of local Aboriginal communities throughout the engagement component of this Project. Follow-up interviews will be used as needed to build on Traditional Land Use information recorded during community meetings. As part of ongoing engagement activities, Traditional Knowledge will also be sought from First Nation and Métis communities within 25 km of the proposed plant site; further communities will be included if initial engagement activities and ongoing baseline data gathering indicate that it is warranted and/or as directed by regulatory authorities.

### **E.6.2 Aboriginal Communities other than Muskowekwan First Nation**

MFN is a member of the TATC. MFN Chief Bellerose, a leader of one of the parties to the joint venture and a representative of FPV's management committee, has undertaken a series of informal and formal engagement meetings with the other TATC member First Nations, which include Day Star FN, Kawacatoose FN, and George Gordon FN. Initial engagement was informal and included discussions about the Project and its potential impacts, descriptions of MFN's role in the ownership and management of the Project and MFN's commitment to ensure environmental protection and protection of traditional values, not just for MFN, but for the TATC members as well.

More recently, Chief Bellerose had made more formal presentations to the Day Star and Kawacatoose FNs that have resulted in a sharing of Project economic benefit commitments and a commitment to establish a joint economic development enterprise to maximize economic benefits from the Project.

George Gordon FN has elected not to participate in this common development enterprise along with the other TATC member First Nations. FPV will continue to engage with Gordon FN on an individual basis.

Chief Bellerose has contacted each of the TATC members to discuss the methods by which they wish to be engaged. Upon receipt of that direction, the Project will proceed with providing information and recording comments within the respective communities (options include leadership and Elder meetings, public open houses, or other mechanisms). Once a response is received, additional engagement activities with these FNs are anticipated to occur early in 2013.

MFN also participates in regional organizations structured around traditional land use, water and fishing interests. In addition to the TATC member FNs, these organizations include the Beardy's, Okemasis and Fishing Lake FNs. FPV is coordinating with Chief Bellerose regarding the appropriate level of engagement and information sharing required to inform these FNs about the Project.

A leadership meeting is planned for the Metis Local #8 in Lestock in early December 2012, with an open house to follow in early 2013.

## E.7 PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Information sessions will occur with members of the public who may be interested and/or affected by the Project including, but not necessarily limited to, RMs (see Table E-7), local communities, and landowners, both formally as part of the EA process and informally as part of FPV's efforts to provide information about the Project to the public at large. The purpose of this engagement will be to introduce the Project team, discuss Project details, including socio-economic impacts to the region, and solicit and document questions, comments, and issues. The information collected will be considered in the EA, along with information about how concerns have been or will be addressed. Project updates and further engagement will continue to occur with the public during the construction and operational phases of the Project.

In-person meetings have also been ongoing with both provincial and federal regulatory bodies, including the Agency, AANDC, and the Major Projects Management Office, on the federal side, and MOE, Economy and WSA on the provincial side, and will continue throughout the EA and permitting process. The purpose of the regulatory engagement to date has been to inform regulatory agencies about the Project and to discuss matters pertinent to the EA process.

**Table E-7 Completed and Planned Public Engagement Activities**

Community	Communication Mechanism	Location	Date	Summary
<b>Completed</b>				
RM of Mount Hope	In-Person Meeting	Semans	8-Nov-12	Introduction to Project and preliminary feedback
RM of Kellross	In-Person Meeting	Leross	8-Nov-12	Introduction to Project and preliminary feedback
RM of Ituna Bon Accord	In-Person Meeting	Ituna	16-Nov-12	Introduction to Project and preliminary feedback
RM of Emerald	In-Person Meeting	Wishart	19-Nov-12	Introduction to Project and preliminary feedback
RM of Foam Lake	Information Package Mailout	n/a	30-Oct-12	Introduction to Project and preliminary feedback
<b>Planned</b>				
RM of Touchwood	In-Person Meeting	Punnichy	11-Dec-12	Introduction to Project and preliminary feedback.
Village of Lestock	In-Person Meeting	Lestock	12-Dec-12	Introduction to Project and preliminary feedback.
Village of Leross	In-Person Meeting	Leross	10-Dec-12	Introduction to Project and preliminary feedback.
Lestock Community Open House	Public Open House	Lestock	January or February 2013	

This component of the overall engagement plan is in the early stages because it was decided that Project details needed to be more advanced and that initial engagement with MFN members should be completed before moving out into the wider public community.

