

Appendix 6-1

Valued Components (VCs) and Rationale for Their Selection

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Valued Component	Selection Rationale
Physical Environment	
Surface Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indicator of human and environmental health. ▪ Key measurement indicator for health of aquatic and terrestrial systems and resources. ▪ Linked to traditional Aboriginal activities (e.g., fishing and hunting) which are linked to water quality. ▪ MCWS precautionary note regarding type of rock material and blasting materials used (MCWS, personal communication, January 9, 2015). ▪ Regulated under Manitoba’s <i>The Water Protection Act</i>.
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indicator of changes to human health. ▪ Indicator of the quality and health of biological communities. ▪ Potential effects to climate. ▪ Indicator of changes to the atmospheric environment which CEA Agency Guidelines identify as a VC to be considered for assessment (CEA Agency 2015a). ▪ Manitoba’s Ambient Air Quality Guidelines. ▪ MCWS precautionary note regarding need to adequately address air quality in the EIA (MCWS, personal communication, January 8, 2015).
Noise and Vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changes in the acoustic environment can be indicative of changes in human and environmental health. ▪ Indicator of changes to the atmospheric environment which CEA Agency Guidelines identify as an environmental component to be assessed (CEA Agency 2015a).
Aquatic Environment	
Fish Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports fish species that are of importance for Aboriginal and local community culture, traditional, and economic activities and values. ▪ Protected under the federal <i>Fisheries Act</i>. ▪ Identified in the CEA Agency Guidelines as a VC to be considered for assessment (CEA Agency 2015a). ▪ Indicator of the productive capacity of aquatic habitats for fish and other aquatic species.
Fish and Harvested Fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identified in the CEA Agency Guidelines as a VC (along with fish habitat) to be considered for assessment (CEA Agency 2015a). ▪ Fish are an integral component of the aquatic ecosystem. ▪ Of particular value to local communities. ▪ Species include, but are not necessarily limited to, walleye, northern pike, lake whitefish, and suckers. These species have been selected for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Importance for Aboriginal and local community culture, traditional and economic activities and values. ○ Protected under the federal <i>Fisheries Act</i>.

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Aquatic Species at Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Listed as “Endangered” (mapleleaf mussel and lake sturgeon) and “Threatened” (shortjaw cisco) by either the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) or in the federal <i>Species at Risk Act (SARA)</i>. ▪ CEA Agency Guidelines indicate that ‘Species at Risk’ are to be considered for assessment (CEA Agency 2015a). ▪ Aquatic habitat, including the habitat of Species at Risk, may be altered or removed due to instream activities.
Terrestrial Environment	
Vegetation Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vegetation communities are an integral part of the ecosystem and provide food and habitat for wildlife.
Plant Species of Cultural Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two plant species are selected to serve as representative VCs for Plant Species of Special Interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flooded jellyskin is Listed as “Threatened” under Schedule 1 of <i>SARA</i>, and “Special Concern” under COSEWIC; <i>Arethusa</i> is ranked S2 (i.e., rare) by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre; CEA Agency Guidelines indicate that ‘Species at Risk’ are to be considered for assessment (CEA Agency 2015a). ▪ ‘Plant Species of Cultural Importance’ is also a VC due to the importance of various plant species to the local communities.
Ungulates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two species selected to serve as representative VCs to focus the environmental effects assessment on wildlife: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moose - Importance for Aboriginal community cultural and traditional activities; hunting value; large home range; prey for large carnivores. ○ Boreal woodland caribou - Ranked "Threatened" under COSEWIC, Schedule 1 of <i>SARA</i>, and the <i>Manitoba Endangered Species and Ecosystems Act (MBESEA)</i>; large home range requirements; CEA Agency Guidelines indicate that ‘Species at Risk’ are to be considered for assessment (CEA Agency 2015a).
Furbearers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two species are selected to serve as representative VCs to focus the environmental effects assessment on furbearers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Beaver - Ecosystem engineer; representative aquatic furbearer. ○ Marten - Harvested furbearer and a valued economic species; important predator/prey species; representative terrestrial furbearer
Environmentally Sensitive Wildlife Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Selected as a VC to represent the nests, dens and/or hibernacula required by some terrestrial species for breeding and/or overwintering requirements. These sites include: bat and snake hibernacula; terrestrial mammal dens (e.g., bears, wolves, wolverine); rookeries; large stick nests; as well as mineral licks.
Migratory Birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identified in the CEA Agency Guidelines as a VC to be considered for assessment (CEA Agency 2015a). ▪ Two groups were selected to serve as representative VCs to focus the environmental effects assessment on migratory birds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forest birds (including Canada warbler, common nighthawk, eastern whip-poor-will, olive-sided flycatcher) - listed as "Threatened" or "Special Concern" under COSEWIC, <i>SARA</i>, and the <i>MBESEA</i>; protected under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i>; some are culturally significant; CEA Agency Guidelines indicate that ‘Species at Risk’ are to be considered for assessment (CEA Agency 2015a). ○ Waterbirds (including trumpeter swan, yellow rail, ducks and geese) - listed as "Threatened" or "Special Concern" under COSEWIC, <i>SARA</i>, and/or the <i>MBESEA</i>; protected under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i>; some waterbirds have importance for Aboriginal community cultural and traditional activities; hunting value.

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Herptiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common snapping turtle is listed as "Threatened" or "Special Concern" under COSEWIC, SARA, and the <i>MBESEA</i>; culturally significant species CEA Agency Guidelines indicate that 'Species at Risk' are to be considered for assessment (CEA Agency 2015a).
Socio-Economic and Cultural Environment¹	
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance for Aboriginal and local community economy. Identified as a sustainable land use objective in the Poplar River First Nation Land Management Plan (Poplar River First Nation 2011).
Hunting, Trapping, Fishing and Gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance for Aboriginal and local community cultural, traditional and/or economic activities and values. First Nations' rights to hunting and fishing are protected under Treaty (Government of Canada 2013). Regulated under Manitoba's <i>The Wildlife Act</i>.
Travel Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May interact with, and potentially be affected by, the proposed Project. Types of travel routes that may be impacted include access to communities, waterways, portages, and other trails. Importance for Aboriginal and local community culture as well as traditional activities and values. First Nations' rights to navigation of waterways are protected under Treaty (Government of Canada 2013).
Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance for Aboriginal and local community cultural and traditional activities and values. Protected under Manitoba's <i>The Heritage Resources Act</i>.
Human Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linked to Section 5 of the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012</i> CEA Agency Guidelines indicate that the EIA should describe how changes to the environment potentially caused by the Project will affect human health (CEA Agency 2015a)

¹ The CEA Agency Guidelines for this Project indicate that 'Aboriginal People' should be considered as a VC to be assessed (CEA Agency 2015a). The five selected VCs under the Socio-economic and Cultural Environment category represent those VCs that have been identified during the Aboriginal and Public Engagement Program (**Chapter 3**) as particularly valued components that are environmentally-linked to Aboriginal People.