

Appendix 4-9

Project Comments from Manitoba Metis Federation and ESRA Responses

Table 4-9.1: Project Comments from Manitoba Metis Federation and ESRA Responses

Effects of Changes to the Environment	Topic	Comments: Manitoba Metis Federation	Community Proposed Mitigation	ESRA Response / Mitigation
Physical & Cultural Heritage	Cultural / Important Sites	Potential for post-contact heritage sites to be encountered during the pre-construction or construction phases of the all-season road project (ESRA/MMF meeting, Oct.28, 2016)	N/A	<p>ESRA has undertaken extensive archeological studies supported by traditional knowledge information of the project area. No post – contact sites were identified.</p> <p>ESRA has protocols outlined in the Environmental Protection Plan #13 and the GR130s (Chapter 5) in the event that heritage resources are identified during construction.</p> <p>ESRA will advise MMF of any post-contact heritage sites that are found, prior to any decisions on how to address such resources. (ESRA/MMF meeting, Oct.28,2016, Letter from ESRA to MMF December 21, 2016)</p> <p>Commitment to engage with the MMF in the future if items identified during project execution (ESRA letter, Dec. 21, 2015)</p>
Biophysical Environment	Fish / Migratory Birds / Moose	Decrease in animals and fish populations resulting from increased harvest pressure, traffic-related animal mortality, and/or habitat loss, alteration, fragmentation, and/or decreased access to animal and fish populations due to species avoidance of harvesting areas associated with road construction and operation. (MMF TLUK study, 2011)	MMF has interest in project monitoring plans. (MMF TLUK study, 2011)	<p>ESRA has provided project information to the MMF (Project Description, Scoping Documents and EIS) attended meetings (June 5, 105, October 28, 2015) and extended the contract to complete traditional knowledge and land use study (December 31st 2015, extended to March 31, 2016 and then extended to May 31, 2016) to facilitate understanding of possible effects.</p> <p>Design mitigation measures include selecting alignments with consideration of harvest areas and sensitive wildlife habitat, road geometry to provide clear lines of sight to prevent traffic related mortalities, stream and river crossings structures provide for fish passage, etc.</p> <p>Construction and operational (maintenance) phase protection measures documented in the GR130s and the EPPs to avoid or minimize effects to habitat, wildlife and fish and their habitat (i.e. erosion control, limiting footprint of the project, wildlife non-disturbance requirements, construction timing to avoid sensitive life stages) (see Chapters 5, 8, 9).</p>

Effects of Changes to the Environment	Topic	Comments: Manitoba Metis Federation	Community Proposed Mitigation	ESRA Response / Mitigation
				Monitoring programs to provide for adaptive management Commitment to engage with the MMF in the future if items identified during project execution (ESRA letter, Dec. 21, 2015)
	Caribou	Potential effects to caribou during the operation period due to harvesting impacts (MMF review of Project 1 EIA, T.D. Pearse)	MMF has interest in future developments and associated monitoring plans. (MMF TLUK study, 2011)	ESRA has provided project information to the MMF (Project Description, Scoping Documents and EIS) attended meetings (June 5, 105, October 28, 2015) and extended the contract to complete traditional knowledge and land use study (December 31 st 2015, extended to March 31, 2016 and then extended to May 31, 2016) to facilitate understanding of possible effects. Design mitigation measures such as selecting alignments with consideration of habitat and travel routes. Construction and operational (maintenance) phase protection measures documented in the GR130s and the EPPs to avoid or minimize effects to caribou (see Chapters 5 & 9). Monitoring programs to provide for adaptive management.
Land Use	Natural Resource Development	Potential for road to open the east of Lake Winnipeg region to resource development, such as forestry and mining (MMF TLUK study, 2011)	MMF has interest in future developments and associated monitoring plans. (MMF TLUK study, 2011)	New developments will require separate approvals and licensing
	Traditional Use and Values	Potential impacts on Métis traditional use and values (hunting, fishing, trapping) through increased access by non-aboriginal, non-residents. (MMF TLUK study, 2011, and MMF review of Project 1 EIA, by T.D. Pearse)	MMF has interest in future developments and associated monitoring plans. (MMF TLUK study, 2011)	Manitoba Conservation licences harvest of game birds, big game species and sets fishing quotas which apply to non- aboriginal harvesters. Trapping in Manitoba is based on a registered trap-line system in which only line holder and designated helpers are permitted to trap.
	Use of Lands / Traditional	Potential decline in harvest success, increase in time and effort, and costs due to increased	MMF has interest in monitoring	According to results of the MMF TLUK study, use in the P4 project area is along the Poplar and Berens Rivers and is primarily south of the Pigeon River.

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	Resources	harvest pressure, traffic-related animal mortality, habitat loss and/or alteration, fragmentation. (MMF TLUK study, 2011) Concerns about effects of the project on Metis harvest and cultural areas (Sept. 16, 2015)	plans. (MMF TLUK study, 2011)	See Table 10-8 and 10-9 (p.10-50; p. 10-51) in EIS Construction and operational (maintenance) phase protection measures documented in the GR130s and the EPPs to avoid or minimize effects (see Chapters 5 & 10). Commitment to engage with the MMF in the future if specific items identified during project execution (ESRA letter, Dec. 21, 2015).
		Road will improve access for Metis harvesters by providing year round access (MMF TLUK study, 2011)		Noted.
		Concerns about the potential cumulative effects of the road projects on Metis use and harvest (MMF Sept. 16, 2015)		The P4 EIS includes a cumulative effects assessment of the road projects in conjunction with P4 (see Chapter 13). Commitment to engage with the MMF in the future if items identified during project execution (ESRA letter, Dec. 21, 2015).
Health & Socio-Economic	Road Location	The road will stimulate economic development, such as cottage and lodge developments. (MMF TLUK study, 2011)	MMF has interest in future developments and associated monitoring plans. (MMF TLUK study, 2011)	Purpose of road is to connect the Berens River and Poplar River First Nations communities. Road routing is away from potential cottage properties (Lake Winnipeg). New developments will require separate approvals and licensing.