

Appendix 5-7

Sustainability Assessment of the Proposed P4 All-Season Road Project

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Principles and Guidelines of Sustainable Development	Actions Undertaken and Commitments by ESRA
<p>Integration of Environmental and Economic Decisions</p> <p>Economic decisions should adequately reflect environmental, human health, and social effects.</p> <p>Environmental and health initiatives should adequately take into account economic, human health, and social consequences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proposed Project connecting Berens River and Poplar River First Nations to the existing southern transportation network is part of the provincial commitment to provide all season road access to and between remote, isolated communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. ▪ The purpose of the proposed Project is to provide safe and more reliable road transportation between the communities of Berens River and Poplar River First Nations. ▪ The scope of the environmental impact assessment of this Project considers biophysical, socio-economic and Aboriginal environmental components. ▪ The environmental impact assessment concluded that the beneficial social economic and health benefits outweigh any potential adverse environmental effects.
<p>Stewardship</p> <p>The economy, the environment, human health, and social well-being should be managed for the equal benefit of present and future generations.</p> <p>Manitobans are caretakers of the economy, the environment, human health, and social well-being for the benefit of present and future generations.</p> <p>Today's decisions are to be balanced with tomorrow's effects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ESRA is committed to being a positive and creative force for the protection and enhancement of the environment; having respect for the public that could be affected by our decisions and actions; and being responsible stewards of the environmental resources in our care (Section 5.1; ESRA Environmental Protection Policy). ▪ The proposed Project is consistent with the recommendations in 'Promises to Keep ...Towards a Broad Area Plan for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg' (East Side Planning Initiative 2004) which concluded that there was support for a regional all-season road network north of the Bloodvein First Nation community and concluded that action today will provide benefit for many generations into the future. ▪ The proposed Project is part of a regional transportation network that will eventually connect the remote communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg with the provincial road network. This will benefit the health, social well-being and economy of those communities for future generations. ▪ The proposed Project, and future road projects, will provide employment training and experience opportunities for Aboriginal communities in the region.
<p>Shared Responsibility and Understanding</p> <p>Manitobans should acknowledge responsibility for sustaining the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being, with each being accountable for decisions and actions in a spirit of partnership and open cooperation.</p> <p>Manitobans share a common economic, physical and social environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ESRA has undertaken an extensive Aboriginal and public engagement program consisting of community meetings, traditional design workshops, and open houses (Chapter 4) aimed at providing information about the proposed Project and obtaining information for use in the project design and environmental assessment. ▪ Information obtained from the Aboriginal and public engagement program has been incorporated into the final design of the proposed Project and has been used in the development of specific mitigation measures in the environmental assessment report.

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<p>Manitobans should understand and respect differing economic and social views, values, traditions, and aspirations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project design has considered the various issues and concerns of Manitobans living on the east side of Lake Winnipeg including regional transportation, economic development and employment opportunities, cost of goods and services, and aboriginal and community development.
<p>Manitobans should consider the aspirations, needs and views of the people of the various geographical regions and ethnic groups in Manitoba, including aboriginal peoples, to facilitate equitable management of Manitoba's common resources.</p>	
<p>Prevention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ESRA is committed to a proper understanding of potential environmental effects of the Project and have adopted measures aimed at protecting and preserving our environment and promoting sustainable development (Section 5.7, Appendix 5-1). ▪ The proposed Project was subject to a broad-scoped environmental assessment (this document) that identified, assessed and mitigated potentially adverse environmental effects, and identified environmental protection measures to check that mitigation measures are implemented and effective. ▪ Environmental protection plans, specific component plans and monitoring plans will be implemented to prevent potentially adverse environmental effects and to implement actions to correct mitigation measures that are not fully effective.
<p>Manitobans should anticipate, and prevent or mitigate, significant adverse economic, environmental, human health and social effects of decisions and actions, having particular careful regard to decisions whose effects are not entirely certain but which, on reasonable and well-informed grounds, appear to pose serious threats to the economy, the environment, human health, and social well-being.</p>	
<p>Conservation and Enhancement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proposed Project was subject to a broad-scoped environmental impact assessment (this document) that identified, assessed, and mitigated potentially adverse effects on ecological processes, biological diversity, and life-support systems. ▪ Specific baseline studies were carried out on vegetation, aquatic and wildlife resources to provide relevant, recent, and representative ecological information for consideration in the environmental assessment. ▪ Aboriginal values were considered in decision-making processes through the inclusion of traditional and local knowledge in the design of the proposed Project and in the environmental assessment. ▪ Mitigation measures for the proposed Project include provisions to limit access by hunters and fishers to the region by blocking and re-vegetating temporary access roads.
<p>Manitobans should:</p>	
<p>(a) maintain the ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems of the environment;</p>	
<p>(b) harvest renewable resources on a sustainable yield basis;</p>	
<p>(c) make wise and efficient use of renewable and non-renewable resources; and</p>	
<p>(d) enhance the long-term productive capability, quality, and capacity of natural ecosystems.</p>	
<p>Rehabilitation and Reclamation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proposed Project was designed to use previously disturbed areas, wherever feasible. ▪ Any contaminated sites resulting from construction activities or encountered along the road right-of-way will be assessed and remediated in accordance with provincial standards. ▪ Construction sites for the proposed Project, including quarry sites, borrow areas, staging areas,
<p>Manitobans should:</p>	
<p>(a) endeavour to repair damage to or degradation of the environment; and</p>	

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(b) consider the need for rehabilitation and reclamation in future decisions and actions.	construction camps, and temporary access roads will be re-vegetated once these temporary areas are no longer required using natural processes augmented with native and naturalized plants and seeds.
<p>Global Responsibility</p> <p>Manitobans should think globally when acting locally, recognizing that there is economic, ecological and social interdependence among provinces and nations, and working cooperatively, within Canada and internationally, to integrate economic, environmental, human health, and social factors in decision-making while developing comprehensive and equitable solutions to problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ While the focus of the proposed Project is a relatively small area on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, ESRA’s scope extends throughout the east side of Lake Winnipeg region to areas in northern Manitoba. Environmental issues within the scope of this region include transportation, boreal woodland caribou protection, protected areas, and tourism and recreation which have global implications. ▪ The proposed Project has a relatively small regional project footprint area and a correspondingly small ecological footprint, while the socio-economic footprint is comparatively larger due to employment and economic development opportunities.
Guidelines for Sustainable Development	
Efficient Use of Resources - which means:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ While the proposed Project does not involve the commercial use of natural resources, the environmental assessment considered the protection of existing resources and the potential for future resource harvesting and use in the future due to improved road access over time. ▪ The potential for future resource harvesting and use was considered in the cumulative environmental assessment for the proposed Road Project.
(a) encouraging and facilitating development and application of systems for proper resource pricing, demand management and resource allocation together with incentives to encourage efficient use of resources; and	
(b) employing full-cost accounting to provide better information for decision makers.	
Public Participation - which means:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ESRA has built on the history of public participation carried out for east side of Lake Winnipeg initiatives including the East Side Planning Initiative and the Large Area Transportation Network. ▪ The Aboriginal and Public Engagement program for the proposed Project (Chapter 4) consisted of leadership and community meetings, Traditional Knowledge workshops, and open houses aimed at providing information about the proposed Project and obtaining information for use in the project design and environmental assessment. ▪ Notification for the engagement program included newspaper announcements, posters placed in public locations, letters to individuals and organizations, and phone calls to community leadership and coordinators. ▪ The engagement program will continue through construction and the operation and maintenance phases of the proposed Project.
(a) establishing forums which encourage and provide opportunity for consultation and meaningful participation in decision making processes by Manitobans;	
(b) endeavouring to provide due process, prior notification and appropriate and timely redress for those adversely affected by decisions and actions; and	
(c) striving to achieve consensus amongst citizens with regard to decisions affecting them.	

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<p>Access to Information - which means:</p> <p>(a) encouraging and facilitating the improvement and refinement of economic, environmental, human health, and social information; and</p> <p>(b) promoting the opportunity for equal and timely access to information by all Manitobans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Aboriginal and public engagement program provided information on the proposed Project to First Nation and other potentially affected communities, and facilitated input to the project design and environmental assessment. ▪ Information obtained from Aboriginal communities during baseline studies and the Aboriginal and public engagement program for the environmental assessment was returned to the communities. This included traditional knowledge shared with ESRA, meeting notes, minutes, maps, photographs and other forms of information. ▪ This environmental assessment report and supporting documentation will be placed on Manitoba’s Environmental Assessment and Licencing Branch’s public registry.
<p>Integrated Decision Making and Planning - which means: encouraging and facilitating decision making and planning processes that are efficient, timely, accountable, and cross-sectoral and which incorporate an inter-generational perspective of future needs and consequences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broad Area Planning for the east side of Lake Winnipeg (East Side Planning Initiative 2004) was born out of the ‘Report of the Consultation on Sustainable Development Implementation (COSDI)’ (Government of Manitoba 1999) and continued through the Large Area Network Study (SNC Lavalin <i>et al.</i> 2011a). ▪ These initiatives have served as models for implementing the principles and guidelines of sustainable development through integrated decision making and planning.
<p>Waste Minimization and Substitution - which means:</p> <p>(a) encouraging and promoting the development and use of substitutes for scarce resources where such substitutes are both environmentally sound and economically viable; and</p> <p>(b) reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering the products of society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proposed Project is located in a remote area of Manitoba that is only accessible by air and winter road. This provides both a challenge and an opportunity to ESRA to employ locally available materials, supplies and labour to the extent feasible. ▪ The right-of-way for the proposed Project will be selected for constructability to minimize the extent of disturbance beyond the project footprint to the extent feasible. ▪ Locally available materials will be used in the construction and operation of the proposed Project to the extent feasible, including rock and aggregate materials for road building, and organic soils for reclamation. ▪ The extent of cleared areas, including number of trees cut, will be minimized; salvageable trees will be made available to local communities for use as firewood.
<p>Research and Innovation - which means: encouraging and assisting the researching, development, application, and sharing of knowledge and technologies which further our economic, environmental, human health, and social well-being.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline studies, wildlife research and mapping for the environmental assessment of the proposed Project have incorporated recent research findings and technologies. ▪ Traditional and local knowledge has been used to augment and support scientific knowledge and technologies whenever possible.