

4.0 SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

4.1 SPATIAL

The Regional Study Area was chosen in consideration of the potential zone of influence of the project on downstream waterbodies and will be refined through water quality modeling. At this time, the Regional Study Area includes the Bernic Lake watershed and the Bird River to its confluence with Lac du Bonnet. It was also important to include the communities that derive economic benefits from the mine, which expanded the Regional Study Area (Figure 4.1).

The Local Study Area includes the area within which the physical works are proposed to occur (Figure 4.2).

4.2 TEMPORAL

The temporal boundaries of the assessment include all mobilization activities associated with construction of the temporary dike through to decommissioning of the temporary dike and refilling of the lake.

4.3 KEY ISSUES AND POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Pathways through which the project may affect the surrounding biophysical and socio-economic environment were scoped by the project team. Identification of the pathways and potential effects not only allows the design team to focus the study and effects assessment on environmental components most likely to be influenced by the undertaking, but allows the team to identify avoidance or mitigation measures at an early stage to eliminate or minimize environmental effects. The environmental setting is presented in Section 5, with emphasis on those components that are likely to interact with project-related activities.

Potential project-environment interactions were identified using a number of sources including:

- Scoping of effects by the environmental and engineering teams
- Socio-economic issues identified through past and recent community and regulatory engagement activities
- Scientific data for Bernic Lake and surrounding water bodies



