

LAKE MANITOBA LAKE ST. MARTIN

OUTLET CHANNELS PROJECT

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Include First Nation and Métis people, and associated traditional land and resource use, Indigenous health and socio-economic conditions, and Treaty and Aboriginal rights
Environmental Impact Statement—Summary by Valued Component (VC)

What is included in 'Indigenous Peoples'?

Indigenous Peoples VC includes First Nation and Métis people, and associated traditional land and resource use, Indigenous health and socio-economic conditions, and Treaty and Aboriginal rights.

Why are there Indigenous Peoples VCs?

Traditional Land and Resource Use is a VC because of the potential for the Project to affect traditional activities, sites, and resources practiced and used by Indigenous groups (wildlife, plants, cultural and spiritual sites, and cultural value).

Indigenous Health and Socio-Economic Conditions is a VC because the assessment assumes that the exercise of traditional activities depends on the health and abundance of traditionally harvested species and the continued availability of and access to traditional use sites and areas.

Aboriginal and Treaty Rights is a VC because of the rights granted to Indigenous peoples under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution.

The existing sound levels are assumed to be below the threshold suggested in Health Canada guidance (35 dBA—similar to the sound of a whisper or water flowing in a creek), typical of a quiet rural area.

Existing light levels were estimated based on satellite imagery and regional geography and included forms of light pollution such as sky glow, light trespass and glare.

Valued components (VCs) are components of the natural and human environment that are considered by the proponent, public, Indigenous Peoples, scientists and other technical specialists and government agencies involved in the assessment process to have scientific, ecological, economic, social, cultural, archaeological, historical, or other importance.

Describe the current state of Indigenous Peoples in relation to the Project

Manitoba Infrastructure has been carrying out engagement activities with more than 30 Indigenous groups.

Many Indigenous groups have reserves or community locations near the Project. Several Indigenous groups have identified traditional use resources, sites or areas, and cultural features within the Project area, including hunting, trapping, fishing, and plant gathering areas, cultural and spiritual sites, habitation areas, and trails and travelways.

Indigenous groups live and work in the area, undertake commercial activities such as fishing, trapping, and agriculture, and access emergency services and infrastructure such as roads. All engaged Indigenous groups have Aboriginal rights, and several engaged Indigenous groups have Treaty rights, both of which may be affected by the Project.

What effects might the Project have on Indigenous Peoples?

The effects on Indigenous Peoples is based on the effects to other VCs, such as Fish and Fish Habitat, Vegetation, Wildlife, Human Health, Infrastructure and Services, Land and Resource Use, Atmosphere, Groundwater and Surface Water, Infrastructure and Services, Economy, and Geology and Soil.

Current use of sites may be affected due to increased uncontrolled access during construction and operation, which could impact hunting and trapping. The outlet channels will also bisect important trails for accessing cultural sites.

Spiritual and cultural experiences may be affected from construction by dust, noise, and light pollution. During operation, the presence of the channels could impact cultural ways of life.

Indigenous health conditions may be affected through Project-related effects to air quality and noise levels, effects to drinking water sources, and effects to harvesting and consuming country foods.



Indigenous socio-economic conditions may be affected due to Project-related changes or interruptions to commercial activities such as fishing, trapping, forestry, recreation, and tourism. The Project will also reduce flood levels, which may be beneficial for Indigenous groups engaging in agricultural activities and provide employment opportunities for Indigenous groups.

Aboriginal and Treaty Rights may be affected by the Project as a result of the loss of accessible Crown land and through changes to TLRU, which would limit the ability of Indigenous groups to exercise Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

How will effects to Indigenous Peoples be addressed?

Mitigation measures developed for other VCs will address many of the effects to Indigenous Peoples. Additional mitigation measures include:

- Develop and implement Project-specific environmental management plans and monitoring programs
- Make available a schedule of construction and Project activities to all Indigenous groups
- Engage with Indigenous groups to better understand access and the use of the area
- Prior to construction kickoff, hold an appropriate ceremony under the direction of Indigenous knowledge holders
- Include mandatory Indigenous participation components in current and future tenders
- Continue to review land dispositions within the Notice Areas to uphold the Treaty Entitlement Agreement with Peguis First Nation
- Continue to engage with Indigenous groups regarding recommended measures identified by Indigenous groups

FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING

Follow-up and monitoring requirements specific to traditional land and resource use, Indigenous health and socio-economic conditions, and Aboriginal and Treaty rights have not been identified. Results of other relevant monitoring (fisheries, wildlife, etc.) will be shared with communities as part of the ongoing engagement process. This will also be used to share and discuss the anticipated effects of the Project and success of proposed mitigation. If any need for follow-up and monitoring is identified through ongoing engagement, this will be discussed with Indigenous groups.

CONCLUSIONS

The Project is expected to remove some traditionally-harvested plant species and cause changes to the amount and distribution of wildlife and fish species in the area; however, this is not expected to be a

long-term effect. The purpose of the Project is to reduce effects created by flooding on the availability of traditional resources for current use.

The outlet channels will cross traditional use trails and travelways, but resource users will be able to continue to travel in the area. However, crossing the outlet channels will only be possible at specific crossing locations which will be identified as site-specific mitigations are developed.

The Project may disturb and remove some cultural sites, and as a result, there may be some changes to restrictions on the ability to continue current practices. It is difficult to measure effects to cultural value or importance, but they can be reflected in the qualities of enjoyment or satisfaction associated with traditional resources, sites, areas, and places. Manitoba Infrastructure appreciates that intangible values are important and will continue to engage with Indigenous groups regarding mitigations to changes to cultural value or importance associated with current use, and concerning the recommendations identified by Indigenous groups.

With mitigation in place, Indigenous health effects are not anticipated from noise, air quality, or the consumption of country foods, drinking water or contact with surface or groundwater. Some effects on commercial fishing, trapping, forestry, and recreation and tourism will occur during construction; however, the reductions in lake levels and flood levels in Lake St. Martin as a result of the Project will provide positive effects to agricultural land use. Adverse residual effects on the availability of community infrastructure and services will be reduced through the implementation of the Emergency Response Plan.

Some effects on Aboriginal and Treaty rights may occur as a result of changes in Crown Land and changes to sites, resources, and access to sites, which is relied upon to practice activities such as hunting and fishing. Disruption to the ability to exercise rights is expected to be minimal because the Project is not expected to change the availability of species relied upon to exercise Aboriginal and Treaty rights. The loss of Crown land is estimated to be less than 1%.

Manitoba Infrastructure's engagement is ongoing, and Indigenous groups may provide additional information about the potential effects of the Project on Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

For more information or if you would like to share your concerns:

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