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11.0 CONCLUSIONS AND PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

11.1 Conclusions

The key conclusion of this EIA is that the Project will result in No Significant Environmental Effects based on the:

- Predicted residual effects of the proposed Project discussed in detail in Section 8.0 of this EIA;
- Environmental mitigation measures set out in Section 9; and
- The implementation of monitoring and follow-up programs, identified in Section 10.

11.2 Project Sustainability

Through policy and legislation, Manitoba has adopted principles and guidelines for assessing the sustainability of development. The Sustainable Development Act (Manitoba) defines sustainable development as *“meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”*. The report, Sustainable Development Strategy for Manitoba (1994), underlines the need for cooperation and consensus building that brings together all segments of society: business, environmental representatives, labour, educators, citizens and government.

Table 11-1 provides an assessment of the PR 304 to Berens River All-Season Road project using the seven principles and two key guidelines of the Sustainable Development Act (Manitoba). For each principle and guideline, information is provided to explain how the construction and operation of the Project is expected to be consistent with the respective principles and guidelines.

Overall, the PR 304 to Berens River All-Season Road is considered a highly sustainable project. At any time, if the Project is not considered viable, the potential for closure and rehabilitation are very high and would be very successful.

Table 11 - 1: Principles of Sustainable Development and Guidelines for Sustainable Development

Principles of Sustainable Development and Guidelines for Sustainable Development	
Principles of Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Act)	Application to the PR 304 to Berens River ASR Project
<p>1. Integration of Environmental and Economic Decisions</p> <p>1(1) Economic decisions should adequately reflect environmental, human health and social effects.</p> <p>1(2) Environmental and health initiatives should adequately take into account economic, human health and social consequences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed PR 304 to Berens River All-Season Road (the Project) represents implementation of the first stage of the provincial commitment to provide all-season road access to and between the remote, isolated communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. From the outset the Project has balanced environmental, social, economic and human health considerations. It is intended to provide a safe and more reliable means of transportation and interconnection to and between a number of remote communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. A comprehensive multi-disciplinary environmental effects analysis of the Project has been conducted as summarized in Section 8.0 of this EIA. On balance, it is considered that the benefits of the Project outweigh the very few potentially significant environmental effects.
<p>2. Stewardship</p> <p>2(1) The economy, the environment, human health and social well-being should be managed for the equal benefit of present and future generations.</p> <p>2(2) Manitobans are caretakers of the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being for the benefit of present and future generations.</p> <p>2(3) Today's decisions are to be balanced with tomorrow's effects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project is essentially action today to provide benefit for many generations into the future. Consistent with the recommendations of <i>Promises to Keep</i>, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT) initiated a planning process to examine the recommendations of the Regional Transportation Network Study in more detail, considering a variety of transportation modes including rail, dirigibles, hovercraft and ferries, in addition to an all-weather road system, to provide an efficient and reliable all-season transportation system to other communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, including an upgrade of the Rice River Road, and extension to the community of Berens River. MIT presented the selected route alignment from Hollow Water to Bloodvein to the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission in 2007. The Project will provide direct economic and social benefits for current generations and many generations in the future. These benefits are expected to provide indirect human health benefits as a road network will provide a connection for the communities to each other for social networking, economic benefits and provide an overall cheaper, more reliable transportation system. <p>Wherever possible, consideration has been given to providing capacity for future beneficial development as defined by the East Side Planning Initiative and the</p>

Principles of Sustainable Development and Guidelines for Sustainable Development	
	development of a Broad Area Plan for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.
Principles of Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Act)	Application to the PR 304 to Berens River ASR Project
<p>3. Shared Responsibility and Understanding</p> <p>3(1) 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>3(2) Manitobans share a common economic, physical and social environment.</p> <p>3(3) Manitobans should understand and respect differing economic and social views, values, traditions and aspirations.</p> <p>3(4) 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESRA is responsible and accountable to the public through the Environmental Assessment and Engagement Program, the Environmental Assessment Review and Approval Process. • An extensive public participation process has been undertaken to share information about the Project and to better understand and incorporate the views, values, traditions and aspirations of communities on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg. This information is part of an overall transportation network that will provide an all-season road to link all of the communities on the East Side. • The Project design has considered the various issues and concerns of Manitobans living on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.
<p>4. Prevention</p> <p>4(1) 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential significant adverse effects were avoided through the planning and design phases of the Project. For example, the all-season road alignment was designed to follow the existing winter road and distribution corridor to minimize disturbance to the natural environment as much as possible. • ESRA has committed to ensuring adverse effects of the Project are prevented, mitigated or compensated. • The Project is the subject of an extensive environmental impact study that has determined that no significant residual adverse effects are anticipated. Monitoring programs will be conducted during the construction and operational

Principles of Sustainable Development and Guidelines for Sustainable Development	
Principles of Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Act)	Application to the PR 304 to Berens River ASR Project
<p>5. Conservation and Enhancement</p> <p>5(1) Manitobans should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) maintain the ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems of the environment; (b) harvest renewable resources on a sustainable yield basis; (c) make wise and efficient use of renewable and non-renewable resources; and (d) enhance the long-term productive capability, quality and capacity of natural ecosystems. 	<p>phases to determine if the predicted effects are as anticipated. Should the monitoring programs identify unacceptable unanticipated effects, appropriate mitigation will be implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project is subject to an extensive environmental assessment study that has determined that with the project design and mitigation plans, no significant residual adverse effects are expected. • Restoration of areas temporarily cleared during construction of the Project, eg. The temporary access roads, quarries, quarry haul road etc., will be restored with native vegetation in these areas. Regeneration of sensitive habitat will be monitored and additional mitigation measures will be implemented if required. • Clearing of the all-season road alignment will be timed to minimize effects on wildlife.
<p>6. Rehabilitation and Reclamation</p> <p>6(1) Manitobans should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) endeavour to repair damage to or degradation of the environment; and (b) consider the need for rehabilitation and reclamation in future decisions and actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project has been designed to avoid adverse effects and thereby reduce damage or degradation of the environment. • Construction sites, including borrow areas, will be restored once they are no longer required.

Principles of Sustainable Development and Guidelines for Sustainable Development	
<p>7. Global Responsibility 7(1) 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"> • The Project does not have material effects (positive or adverse) on air, land or waters beyond Manitoba. • The construction phase will result in short term increases in air emissions but these are local and short-term in nature. • Extensive preliminary studies and reports have been completed in cooperation Promises to Keep Broad Area Plan and the East Side of Lake Winnipeg All-Weather Road Justification and Scoping Study.
Guidelines for Sustainable Development	Application to the PR 304 to Berens River ASR Project
<p>1. Public Participation – which means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project has developed a comprehensive Environmental Assessment Engagement Program (see Section 5 of this EA Document) that has provided opportunities for meaningful consultation with the First Nations and NAC Communities, the Manitoba Metis Federation, and other interested stakeholders. Input received from the Engagement Process has been used in selecting the preferred route, and in refining the proposed alignment of the proposed ASR. • The Engagement Process will continue allow for meaningful participation of the communities and interested stakeholders as the Project proceeds the EA Review process, detailed engineering design, and associated permitting and authorization requirements.
<p>2. Access to Information – which means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) encouraging and facilitating the improvement and refinement of economic, environmental, human health and social information; and (b) promoting the opportunity for equal and timely access to information by all Manitobans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project's EA Engagement Process has provided a means of facilitating the exchange of information as the Project has proceeded from its initial planning stages. Community notices, meetings, and the TK Surveys have provided input to the Project. Through these initiatives information on the Project has been shared with the various communities, interest groups, and stakeholders. Consultations have also been held with a number of Federal and Provincial government agencies in regard to resource management issues and regulatory approvals.