

LAKE MANITOBA LAKE ST. MARTIN

OUTLET CHANNELS PROJECT

LAND AND RESOURCE USE

Includes agricultural, industrial, recreational, residential, and commercial land use and activities

Environmental Impact Statement—Summary by Valued Component (VC)

Why is Land and Resource Use a VC?

Land and Resource Use is a VC because of regulatory considerations and its importance to communities, property owners, resource users (e.g., hunters, trappers, farmers, commercial operators and the general public, and other stakeholders).

What is the current state of Land and Resource Use?

The land in the area of the Project includes privately-held and Crown land in rural municipalities (RM of Grahamdale and West Interlake), Crown land in unorganized territory and First Nation reserves. Private properties dominate the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel area while the Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel area is Crown land. Several Indigenous communities are located near the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel. Important land uses include agriculture, hunting, recreation, and commercial, subsistence and recreational fishing.

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.

What effects might the Project have on Land and Resource Use?

The Project has the potential to:

- Remove land from agricultural production
- Conflict with agricultural activities during operation
- Restore agricultural capability and productivity in areas impacted by flooding around the Lake St. Martin shoreline during operation
- Reduce or degrade areas for hunting, trapping and commercial fishing
- Alter resource extraction in the area (mining aggregates, forestry)
- Alter quantity and quality of groundwater for residential and agricultural use

As part of construction, privately-owned property will be acquired for the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel. Aggregate and quarry development associated with the Project is currently undetermined although potential sites have been identified.

Agricultural land within the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel will be removed from production. Temporary land loss might affect current and potential agricultural land use in areas of quarry development, construction camps and staging areas.

Alterations to localized surface drainage and shallow groundwater flow, and realignment of drainage along the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel are anticipated to affect soil wetness and drainage regimes, which may affect **agricultural capability and land use**.



Access issues during operation could conflict with **agricultural activities**.

Hunting, trapping and fishing may be reduced or degraded from reduced harvesting success, access, and damage to equipment.

Resource extraction may be affected due to sourcing borrow materials for the project and alteration of high value forest sites.

Groundwater use may be affected due to aquifer drawdown.

How will effects to Land and Resource Use be addressed?

- Residents, property owners and stakeholders who experience direct land or structure loss will be subject to due process and policy for land acquisition
- Keep existing roads, road allowances, trails, portages and other travel ways accessible so not to interfere with other users
- Implement an Access Management Plan
- Contact stakeholders, recreational users/organizations, resource users/harvesters to the extent feasible and practical prior to Project start-up to notify them of Project construction activities and schedule
- Where construction or maintenance activities have the potential to interfere with field activities, hold discussions with the landowner or producers to move livestock/equipment
- Re-establish surface drainage patterns where possible
- Install warning signage to discourage members of the public from accessing the channels
- Where a decrease in water pressure in domestic or livestock wells results from Project activities, implement appropriate measures (i.e., providing landowners with new wells, pumps or temporary water supply)
- Mitigate groundwater seepage by allowing seepage to either infiltrate back into the subsurface, or flow back into waterbodies via the surface drainage pathway (the channel)

FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING

Land and resource follow up and monitoring includes monitoring and the collection of information on issues such as municipal land use, hunting and angling activity and development for the purpose of licensing, enforcement and resource management.

CONCLUSIONS

The Project will comply with the RM of Grahamdale development plan land use policies, and positive effects are anticipated due to less flooding risk.

Along and adjacent to the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel, some effects are anticipated due to the permanent loss of agricultural land and conflict with agricultural activities. Effects to agricultural land use around the Lake St. Martin area are expected to be positive, as a result of reduced lake levels in Lake St. Martin during periods of high water levels due to the Project.

The Project is not expected to affect Watchorn Provincial Park, or any federal or provincial protected lands. Sediment transport studies will be included as part of detailed design and identify whether the construction of groins to protect the inlet of the Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel may affect sand deposition along the beach at Watchorn Provincial Park. If the Project can potentially affect the beach, additional mitigation measures will be considered.

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

Visit www.gov.mb.ca/mit/wms/lmblsmoutlets/ or email outletchannel@gov.mb.ca