

6.0 CONCLUSION

During the routing and site-selection process for the transmission lines for the Keeyask Transmission Project, alternative routes for the Construction Power transmission line and Generation Outlet Transmission lines were assessed based on their potential effects on mammal species in the Project Study Area. Associated infrastructure, including Unit Transmission lines, the Keeyask Construction Power Station, Keeyask Switching Station, and the Radisson convertor station upgrade were also evaluated.

There were no substantial concerns with any of the alternative routes or with the associated infrastructure. The preferred route for the Construction Power transmission line was CP Route 1 primarily because it intersected fewer sensitive sites including caribou calving islands and streams. For the Generation Outlet Transmission lines, Route Alternative Options B or C were the preferred routes over A or D because either of these options did not intersect caribou calving islands and had less habitat and fragmentation effects on mammal habitat.

CP Route 1 and a modified routing of GOT Route Alternative Option B were the routes selected by Manitoba Hydro based on the overall site selection process, which gave consideration to biological effects, socio-economic effects, community concerns, cost, and engineering limitations.

Based on the selected locations for the transmission line ROWs and the associated infrastructure sites, the Project was not expected to substantially affect mammals or mammal habitat. With mitigation that includes the development of an access management plan, developing plans to coordinate caribou mitigation and monitoring activities among Manitoba Hydro's northern developments, the routing of access roads to avoid caribou calving islands, the restriction of hunting by project workers, the development of buffers to reduce the line of sight between hunters, predators and prey, and the placement of warning signs, predicted residual effects on VECs, including moose and caribou, were expected to be adverse, long-term and small. Monitoring was recommended to verify key elements of the effects predictions associated with mortality and habitat alteration.