

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

Alternative routes for the Construction Power and Generation Outlet transmission lines were evaluated from the terrestrial habitat, ecosystems and plants perspectives as part of the overall site selection process for the Keeyask Transmission Project. The evaluations were focused using VECs that represented each of these ecosystem components.

There were no major concerns with any of the alternative routes. The slightly preferred route for the Construction Power Transmission line was Alternative 1 because it created less fragmentation and had lower predicted effects on ecosystem diversity. Alternative C was the preferred route for the Generation Outlet Transmission line because it was expected to minimize effects on fragmentation, ecosystem diversity and priority plants, largely because more of this alternative route was near existing human features. Alternatives A and D created the highest fragmentation effects and Alternative D had the highest ecosystem diversity effects.

Construction Power Transmission Alternative 1 and a combination of segments from Generation Outlet Transmission Alternatives B and C (with one minor modification) 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. By combining segments from Alternatives B and C, the preferred Generation Outlet Transmission route had slightly lower effects on ecosystem diversity than Alternatives B or C.

Based on the selected locations for the transmission line ROWs and the station sites, the Project was not expected to substantially affect terrestrial habitat, ecosystems and plants. Predicted residual effects on the VECs, which included fragmentation, ecosystem diversity and priority plants, were expected to be adverse and long-term but regionally acceptable given the limited magnitude and geographic extent. This largely occurred because the degree of past and current development in the Regional Study Area was limited and because portions of the Project were located near existing or planned human infrastructure.