

**FINAL TERMS OF REFERENCE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**MEG Energy Corporation
Christina Lake Regional Project – Phase 3**

ISSUED BY: Alberta Environment
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

MEG Energy Corporation (MEG) is a Calgary-based, private energy company focused on the development and recovery of bitumen, shallow gas reserves and the generation of power in northeast Alberta. MEG owns 80 sections of oil sands lease in the Christina Lake area.

MEG currently has approval to construct and operate the first two phases of the Christina Lake Regional Project (CLRP) on 23 sections of land. In addition, MEG has filed a regulatory application (Phase 2B) to increase the production capacity of the Central Processing Facility to 60 000 b/d. The Phase 2B plant will be located immediately adjacent to the existing Phase 1 and 2 processing facilities.

MEG is now proposing a further expansion of the CLRP to develop the remainder of its oil sands lease. The Project would be an expansion at the current CLRP site and would utilize the steam assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) oil recovery technology. The Project would consist of two additional central processing facilities, SAGD wells and additional infrastructure. The Project will be designed and built to produce an incremental 150 000 barrels per day of bitumen (approximately 23 800 cubic metres per day). This production will be in addition to the 60,000 barrels of bitumen per day from the Phase 2 and proposed 2B operation, resulting in a total production of 210,000 barrels of bitumen per day (approximately 33 400 cubic meters per day).

The purpose of this document is to identify for MEG and appropriate stakeholders the information required by government agencies for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report prepared under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA)*.

1.2 Scope of Environmental Impact Assessment Report

MEG will prepare and submit an EIA that examines the environmental and socio-economic effects of the construction, operation and reclamation of the Project.

The EIA report shall be prepared with consideration to all applicable provincial and federal legislation, codes of practice, guidelines, standards and directives. The Proponent must identify the legislation, policies, approvals, and current multi-stakeholder planning initiatives applicable to the review of this Project.

The EIA report shall be prepared in accordance with these Terms of Reference and the environmental information requirements prescribed under the EPEA and associated regulations and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* if applicable. The EIA report will form part of MEG's application to the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB). An EIA report summary will also be included as part of the EUB Application.

The EIA report will include a glossary of terms and a list of abbreviations to assist the reader in understanding the material presented. It will also include tables that cross-reference the report (subsections) to the EIA Terms of Reference.

MEG will prepare a summary of the EIA report that will provide the reader with sufficient information to obtain a general understanding of the Project and its potential positive and negative effects. The summary report must be a stand-alone document; however, it can reference more detailed information presented in the EIA report itself.

The summary report should provide an overview of the EIA report including:

- (a) the Project components and development activities which have the potential to affect the environment;
 - (b) existing conditions in the Study Area, including existing uses of land, resources and other activities which have potential in combination with proposed development activities, to affect the environment;
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- (c) the environmental, cultural, and socio-economic impacts of the Project including the regional, temporal, and cumulative effects which are anticipated;
- (d) impact significance in terms of magnitude, extent, duration, frequency, and reversibility;
- (e) proposed environmental protection plans, mitigation measures and monitoring;
- (f) residual effects; and
- (g) an overview of modeling techniques used to forecast potential effects and assumptions used in assessing potential impacts.

2.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

- [A] Document the public engagement program implemented for the Project including:
 - (h) documentation of individual participation and attendance at each meeting including recording of specific comments or issues raised at the meetings;
 - (i) description and documentation of concerns and issues expressed by the public, MEG's analysis of those concerns and issues, and the actions taken to address those concerns and issues;
 - (j) how public input was incorporated into the Project development, impact mitigation and monitoring;
- [B] Document the aboriginal consultation program implemented for the Project including:
 - (a) documentation of individual participation and attendance at each meeting including recording of specific comments or issues raised at the meetings;
 - (b) description and documentation of concerns and issues expressed by aboriginal communities and groups, MEG's analysis of those concerns and issues, and the actions taken to address those concerns and issues;
 - (c) how aboriginal input was incorporated into the Project development, impact mitigation and monitoring; and
 - (d) consultation undertaken with Aboriginal communities with respect to traditional ecological knowledge and traditional use of land.
- [C] Describe plans to maintain the public engagement and aboriginal consultation process following completion of the EIA review to ensure that the public and aboriginal peoples will have an appropriate forum for expressing their views on the ongoing development, operation and reclamation of the Project.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 MEG and Lease History

- [A] Provide:
 - (a) a corporate profile; and
 - (b) the name of the legal entity that will develop, manage and operate the Project and hold the operating approvals.
- [B] Describe MEG and its history in Alberta's oil and gas industry, with specific reference to the existing MEG petroleum developments, proposed developments, resource characterization and environmental studies in the Christina Lake region.

3.2 Project Development

- [A] Provide a development plan that includes:
 - (a) the phases of development;
 - (b) bitumen/heavy oil recovery facilities;
 - (c) field maintenance operations;
 - (d) processing facilities;
 - (e) steam and/or power generation facilities;
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- (f) infrastructure (pipelines, access roads and power lines);
 - (g) other buildings and structures; and
 - (h) activities associated with construction, operations, decommissioning and reclamation.
- [B] Provide a schedule outlining the proposed phasing, sequencing and duration of components, including the timing of key steps in the pre-construction, construction, operation, decommissioning and reclamation stages of each phase.
- [C] Discuss the key factors controlling the schedule, restrictions for conducting certain development activities, and uncertainties.

3.3 Evaluation Alternatives

3.3.1 Project Alternatives

- [A] Discuss the need for the Project addressing the following:
- (a) any alternative means of carrying out the Project that are technically and economically feasible and where applicable indicate their potential environmental effects and impacts;
 - (b) compare identified alternatives to the Project or components of the Project and the anticipated effects and impacts of the alternatives. Discuss reasons for not selecting any identified alternatives;
 - (c) implications resulting from a delay in proceeding with the Project, or any phase of the Project; and
 - (d) potential cooperative development opportunities for the Project (e.g. shared infrastructure).
- [B] Discuss the implications of not going ahead with the Project.

3.3.2 Process and Infrastructure Alternatives

- [A] Describe the process and criteria used to select sites for facilities and infrastructure.
- [B] Discuss the route or site selection criteria for any linear or other infrastructure development or modification and provide the rationale for selecting the proposed alignment and design.
- [C] Discuss the options considered for supplying the thermal energy and electric power required for the Project and their environmental implications. Discuss the implications that alternative fuel sources may have on the selection of pollution abatement equipment or technologies.
- [D] Describe the criteria and rationale for selecting the preferred water supply sources. Include options for using saline groundwater and the criteria used to assess the feasibility of its use.
- [E] Discuss the potential for new or additional technology to increase resource recovery at later times in the field development and to affect the number of wells required.
- [F] Discuss options and technologies considered for wastewater treatment, wastewater management and wastewater disposal and reasons, including water quality and environmental considerations for selecting the preferred options in the context of best management practices and best available technologies.
- [G] Discuss the waste disposal options. Discuss the strategy for on-site waste disposal versus off-site waste disposal and identify:
- (a) the location of on-site waste disposal, including landfills, if applicable;
 - (b) the availability of off-site waste disposal facilities;
 - (c) the suitability of the site(s) from a groundwater protection perspective (provide geo-technical information to support the siting of disposal facilities); and
 - (d) site suitability with regard to existing and potential human activities in the area.
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3.4 Project Processes and Facilities

- [A] Provide maps and/or drawings of the Project components and activities including:
 - (a) existing infrastructure, leases and clearings, including exploration clearings;
 - (b) proposed central processing/treatment and field facilities;
 - (c) other buildings and infrastructure (pipelines and utilities);
 - (d) temporary structures;
 - (e) transportation and access routes;
 - (f) on-site hydrocarbon storage;
 - (g) containment structures such as retention ponds and storage ponds (e.g. lime sludge, stormwater runoff, boiler blow-down);
 - (h) water wells/intakes, pipelines, and storage structures;
 - (i) aggregate resources, borrow material and other road construction material and locations of any stockpiles that will be developed; and
 - (j) waste storage area and disposal sites.
- [B] Provide a list the facilities for which locations will be determined later.
- [C] Discuss planned accommodation for the workforce during the construction and operations stages.
- [D] Describe the primary resource recovery process, any proposed follow-up recovery process, and other related processes and process facilities of the Project.
- [E] Discuss the amount and source of energy required for the Project;
- [F] Discuss the proposed method to transport product to markets;
- [G] Provide a listing of chemical products to be manufactured, processed or otherwise used for the Project and describe, in general terms, how these items will be stored and managed. Identify products containing substances that are:
 - (a) Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) toxics;
 - (b) listed on the National Pollutant Release Inventory;
 - (c) dangerous goods as defined by the federal *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act*; and
 - (d) on the Domestic Substances List and categorized as requiring further assessment under Canada's Chemical Management Plan.
- [H] Describe the nature and amount of on-site hydrocarbon storage. Discuss contaminant and other environmental protection measures.

3.5 Transportation Infrastructure

- [A] Provide the results of consultation with Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation and discussions with other industry operators.
 - [B] Provide a summary of any Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) carried out for the project, or where no TIA has been prepared:
 - (a) describe the anticipated changes to traffic (e.g. type, volume) on highways during the life of the Project. Consider other existing and planned uses of the same highways; and
 - (b) identify needs to upgrade existing roads or construct new roads.
 - [C] Describe access corridors needed and/or planned by other resource stakeholders including those responsible for Forest Management Areas and other timber quota holders. Describe how their needs will be accommodated to reduce overall environmental impact from resource development.
 - [D] Describe and locate on maps of appropriate scale the transportation infrastructure requirements for the Project and how they relate to local communities.
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- [E] Describe road access to and road development within the Project Area, and identify the type and location of road construction and reclamation materials, the volume of material needed and the availability of these materials.
- [F] Indicate where Crown land dispositions may be needed for roads or other infrastructure outside the Project Area.
- [G] Describe crossings of watercourses or waterbodies required (with appropriate diagrams). Include:
 - (a) timing,
 - (b) construction standards or methods, and
 - (c) environmental protection plans.

3.6 Land Management

- [A] Provide a description and timing of land clearing activities.
- [B] Provide a timber salvage plan, highlighting end users and identifying proposed volumes for removal (by species and year) for the term of the proposed Project.
- [C] Identify any access restrictions and, where appropriate, measures taken to control access to Project Areas while ensuring continued access to adjacent wildland areas.
- [D] Provide a fire control plan highlighting:
 - (a) measures taken to ensure continued access for firefighters to adjacent wildland areas;
 - (b) forest fire prevention measures;
 - (c) measures for determining the clearing width of power line rights-of-way; and
 - (d) required mitigation measures for areas adjacent to the Project Area based on the FireSmart Wildfire Assessment System.

3.7 Air Emissions Management

- [A] Provide an emissions profile (type, rate and source) for the Project's operating emissions including point and non-point sources and fugitive emissions, and for construction emissions. Consider both normal and upset conditions. Discuss the following:
 - (a) odorous or visual emissions from the proposed facilities;
 - (b) annual and total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the life of the Project;
 - (c) the Project's contribution to total provincial and national GHG emissions on an annual basis;
 - (d) MEG's overall greenhouse gas management plans;
 - (e) the amount and nature of acidifying emissions, probable deposition patterns and rates;
 - (f) control technologies used to minimize air emissions such as sulphur dioxide (SO₂), hydrogen sulphide (H₂S), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOC), and particulate matter;
 - (g) emergency flaring scenarios (e.g. frequency and duration) and proposed measures to ensure flaring events are minimized;
 - (h) upset condition scenarios (e.g. frequency and duration) and proposed measures to ensure upset conditions are minimized;
 - (i) gas collection and conservation, and the applicability of vapour recovery technology; and
 - (j) fugitive emissions control technologies to detect, measure and control emissions and odours from equipment leaks.

3.8 Water Resources

3.8.1 Water Supply

- [A] Describe the water supply requirements for the Project, including:
 - (a) the expected water balance during the life of the Project. Discuss assumptions made or methods chosen to arrive at the water balances;
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- (b) the process, potable and non-potable water requirements and sources for construction, start-up, normal and emergency operating situations, decommissioning and reclamation. Identify the volume of water to be withdrawn from each source, considering plans for wastewater reuse;
- (c) the variability in the amount of water required on an annual and seasonal basis as the Project is implemented;
- (d) the expected cumulative effects on water losses/gains due to the Project operations;
- (e) potable water treatment systems for the life of the Project;
- (f) type and quantity of potable water treatment chemicals used; and
- (g) measures for ensuring efficient use of water including alternatives to reduce the consumption of non-saline water such as water use minimization, recycling, conservation; and technological improvements.

3.8.2 Surface Water Management

- [A] Describe MEG's surface water management strategy for construction, operation and reclamation stages, including:
 - (a) Design factors considered such as;
 - i) site drainage,
 - ii) run-on management,
 - iii) road, well-pad and plant run-off,
 - iv) erosion/sediment control,
 - v) slumping areas,
 - vi) groundwater protection,
 - vii) groundwater seepage,
 - viii) produced water management, and
 - ix) flood protection; and
 - (b) permanent or temporary alterations or realignments of watercourses, wetlands and other waterbodies.
- [B] Describe realignments of crown bed and shore and proposed compensation.
- [C] Provide results of the navigability assessment(s) for waterways that may be affected by the Project and a description of navigable waterways in the Study Area.

3.8.3 Wastewater Management

- [A] Describe MEG's wastewater management strategy including:
 - (a) the source, quantity and composition of each wastewater stream from the existing and proposed facilities;
 - (b) the proposed disposal locations and methods for each wastewater stream;
 - (c) formations for the disposal of wastewater;
 - (d) design of facilities that will collect, treat, store and release wastewater streams;
 - (e) type and quantity of chemicals used in wastewater treatment; and
 - (f) sewage treatment and disposal.

3.9 Waste Management

- [A] Characterize and quantify the anticipated dangerous goods, and hazardous, non-hazardous, and recyclable wastes generated by the Project, and:
 - (a) describe the composition and volume of specific waste streams and identify how each stream will be managed;
 - (b) identify the amount of drilling wastes, the options considered for disposal and the option(s) chosen;
 - (c) describe how the disposal sites and sumps will be constructed; and
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- (d) describe plans for pollution prevention, waste minimization, recycling, and management to reduce waste quantities over the life of the Project.

3.10 Conservation and Reclamation

- [A] Provide a conceptual conservation and reclamation plan for the Project that considers:
- (a) any existing Conservation and Reclamation Plan;
 - (b) pre-development information with respect to land capability, vegetation, commercial forest land base by commercialism class, forest productivity, recreation, wildlife, aquatic resources, aesthetics and land use resources;
 - (c) integration of operations, decommissioning, reclamation planning and reclamation activities. Discuss anticipated timeframes for completion of reclamation stages and release of lands back to the Crown including an outline of the key milestone dates for reclamation and how progress to achieve these targets will be measured;
 - (d) constraints to reclamation such as timing of activities, availability of reclamation materials and influence of natural processes and cycles;
 - (e) post-development land capability with respect to the following:
 - i) self-sustaining topography, drainage and surface watercourses representative of the surrounding area,
 - ii) pre-development traditional use with consideration for traditional vegetation and wildlife species in the reclaimed landscape,
 - iii) wetlands;
 - iv) self-sustaining vegetation communities representative of the surrounding area and reforestation and forest productivity; and
 - v) reforestation and forest productivity;
 - (f) a revegetation plan for the disturbed terrestrial and aquatic areas. Identify the species types that will be used for seeding or planting, and the vegetation management practices to be used. Outline how the disturbed areas will be returned to a state capable of supporting a self-sustaining vegetative community capable of ecological successions equivalent to pre-disturbance conditions. Discuss factors such as biological capability and diversity and end land use objectives;
 - (g) reclamation material salvage, storage areas and handling procedures;
 - (h) reclamation material replacement indicating depth, volume and type;
 - (i) pre-development and final reclaimed site drainage plans;
 - (j) integrating surface and near-surface drainage within the development area; and
 - (k) promotion of biodiversity.
- [B] Provide:
- (a) a conceptual ecological land classification (ELC) map for the post-reclamation landscape considering potential land uses and how the landscape and soils have been designed to accommodate future land use; and
 - (b) a discussion of any uncertainties related to the conceptual reclamation plan.

3.11 Environmental Management System

- [A] Summarize key elements of MEG's existing or proposed environment, health and safety management system.
- [B] Describe adaptive management plans that minimize the impact of the Project. Describe the flexibility built into the plant design and layout to accommodate future modifications required by any change in emission standards, limits and guidelines.
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- [C] Describe MEG's emergency response system to minimize adverse environmental effects, while protecting the safety of personnel, including:
 - (a) emergency response reporting for spill containment and management; and
 - (b) emergency response, public notification protocol and safety procedures.
- [D] Describe MEG's current and proposed source monitoring programs with respect to the following:
 - (a) air emissions, including fugitive emissions;
 - (b) wastewater treatment and release; and
 - (c) hazardous and non-hazardous waste treatment and storage.
- [E] Provide a conceptual plan to monitor reclamation performance and success (including soils, vegetation, wildlife and aquatic resources).
- [F] Discuss how the results of monitoring programs will be integrated with MEG's environmental management system.

3.12 Regional and Cooperative Efforts

- [A] Discuss MEG's involvement in regional cooperative efforts to address environmental and socio-economic issues associated with oil sands development, including:
 - (a) potential cooperative ventures that MEG has initiated, could initiate or could develop with other oil sands operators and other resource users;
 - (b) how MEG will work to develop and implement such cooperative opportunities;
 - (c) MEG's participation in any regional forums;
 - (d) how MEG would design and implement research programs within the Christina Lake region where necessary; and
 - (e) how regional environmental management initiatives will be incorporated into MEG's management practices.
- [B] Discuss MEG's regional monitoring activities including:
 - (a) monitoring that will be undertaken to assist in managing environmental effects, confirm performance of mitigative measures and improve environmental protection strategies;
 - (b) monitoring done independently by MEG;
 - (c) monitoring performed in conjunction with other stakeholders; and
 - (d) new monitoring initiatives that may be required as a result of the Project.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ASSESSMENT

4.1 Assessment Requirements

4.1.1 Scenarios

- [A] Define assessment scenarios including:
 - (a) a Baseline Case, which includes existing environmental conditions, existing and approved Projects or activities;
 - (b) Application Case, which includes the Baseline Case with the effects of the Project added;
 - (c) Planned Development Case, which includes past studies, existing and anticipated future environmental conditions, existing and approved projects or activities plus other planned projects.
 - [B] For the purpose of defining the scenarios, *approved* means approved by any federal, provincial, or municipal regulatory authority. *Planned*, means any project or activity that has been publicly disclosed prior to the issuance of these Terms of Reference or up to six months prior to the submission of an Application and EIA report.
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4.1.2 Study Areas

4.1.2.1 Project Area

- [A] The Project Area includes all lands subject to direct disturbance from the Project and associated infrastructure. For the Project Area MEG must provide:
- (a) the legal land description;
 - (b) the boundaries of the land under MEG's control (this may include lands under public land disposition or private lands leased or owned by MEG);
 - (c) the proposed EUB approval area;
 - (d) a map that shows the status of land tenure and identifies the locations of all proposed development activities and facilities; and
 - (e) a topographic map of appropriate scale showing the area proposed to be disturbed in relation to existing township grids, wetlands, watercourses, and waterbodies.

4.1.2.2 Local and Regional Study Areas

- [A] The Local Study Area (LSA) is the area existing outside the boundaries of the Project Area where there is a reasonable potential for immediate environmental impacts due to ongoing Project activities.
- [B] The Regional Study Area (RSA) is the area within which there is the potential for cumulative and socio-economic effects, and that may be relevant to the assessment of any wider-spread effects of the Project.
- [C] The study area for the EIA report shall include the Project Area as well as, the spatial and temporal limits of individual environmental components outside the Project Area boundaries where an effect can be reasonably expected. The EIA Study Area includes both Local and Regional Study Areas.
- [D] For each LSA and RSA MEG must:
- (a) provide the scientific rationale used to define the spatial temporal aspects, considering the location and range of probable Project and cumulative effects; and
 - (b) identify LSA and RSA boundaries on maps of appropriate scale that show existing township grids, wetlands, watercourses, waterbodies and other topographic features.

4.1.3 Cumulative Effects Assessment

- [A] MEG will conduct a cumulative environmental effects assessment of the Project based on the EUB/AENV/NRCB Information Letter *Cumulative Effects Assessment in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports under the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act June 2000*. MEG will include a summary of all proposed monitoring, research and other strategies or plans to minimize mitigate and manage potential adverse effects.
- [B] The identification and assessment of the likely cumulative effects of the Project will:
- (a) define the spatial and temporal Study Area boundaries, and provide the rationale for assumptions used to define those boundaries for each environmental component examined;
 - (b) describe the current (baseline) state of the environment in the Regional Study Area (used for the cumulative effects assessment) and the activities that have created the current conditions;
 - (c) assess the incremental consequences that are likely to result from the Project in combination with other existing, approved and planned projects in the region;
 - (d) discuss how relevant information or data used from previous oil sands and other development projects is appropriate for use in this EIA report;
 - (e) consider and describe deficiencies or limitations in the existing database for relevant components of the environment; and
 - (f) explain the approach and methods used to identify and assess cumulative impacts, including cooperative opportunities and initiatives undertaken to further the collective understanding of
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cumulative impacts. Provide a record of relevant assumptions, confidence in data and analysis to support conclusions.

4.1.4 Information Requirements

- [A] The EIA Report will include the following environmental information for each assessment scenario:
- (a) a description of and rationale for the selection of environmental attributes, parameters, or properties examined;
 - (b) for each selected environmental attribute, parameter, or property;
 - i) describe existing conditions. Comment on whether the available data are sufficient to assess impacts and mitigative measures. Identify environmental disturbance from previous, current, and approved activities that have become part of the baseline conditions,
 - ii) describe the nature and significance of the environmental effects and impacts associated with the development activities,
 - iii) present plans to minimize, mitigate or eliminate negative effects and impacts. Discuss the key elements of such plans,
 - iv) a description of the process and criteria used to determine the significance of environmental effects,
 - v) present a plan to manage environmental changes and identify any follow-up programs necessary to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment and to determine effectiveness of measures taken to mitigate adverse environmental affects, and
 - vi) identify residual impacts and comment on their significance;
 - (c) a discussion of the sources of information used in the assessment including;
 - i) a summary of previously conducted environmental assessments related to MEG's operations,
 - ii) literature and previous EIA reports and environmental studies, operating experience from current, similar operations; industry study groups; traditional knowledge; and government sources, and
 - iii) limitations or deficiencies that the information may place on the analysis or conclusions in the EIA report. Discuss how these limitations or deficiencies will be addressed within the EIA report;
 - (d) a description of the techniques used to identify and evaluate the environmental impacts and effects resulting from the project;
 - (e) a description of where deficiencies in information exist and MEG's plan, including rationale, for providing the necessary information. Where required, undertake studies and investigations to obtain additional information to address the information deficiencies;
 - (f) a sufficient base for the prediction of positive and negative impacts and the extent to which negative impacts may be mitigated by planning, Project design, construction techniques, operational practices and reclamation techniques. Impact significance will be quantified where possible and assessed including consideration of spatial, temporal and cumulative aspects;
 - (g) a plan that addressed the adverse impacts associated with the Project that may require joint resolution by government, industry, and the community. Describe how this plan will be implemented and how it will incorporate the participation of government, industry and the community; and
 - (h) baseline biophysical information in a manner that enables an ecological land classification (ELC) map of the Project Area to be completed to the ecosite classification.
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4.1.5 Modeling

- [A] For each model used in the in the assessment scenarios, provide:
 - (a) a justification for the model used. Air quality modeling should be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of the Air Quality Modeling Guidelines published by Alberta Environment;
 - (b) a documentation of the assumptions used to obtain the modeling predictions; and
 - (c) a discussion of the limitations of the models used and how these limitations were addressed, including sources of error and relative accuracy.

4.2 Climate, Air Quality and Noise

4.2.1 Baseline Information

- [A] Discuss baseline climatic and air quality conditions in the area including the following:
 - (a) the type and frequency of meteorological conditions that may result in poor air quality; and
 - (b) appropriate ambient air quality parameters such as SO₂, H₂S, total hydrocarbons (THC), NO_x, VOC, individual hydrocarbons of concern in the THC and VOC mixtures, ground-level ozone (O₃), visibility, representative heavy metals, and particulates (road dust, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}).
- [B] Provide representative baseline noise levels at receptor location.

4.2.2 Impact Assessment

- [A] Identify components of the Project that will affect air quality, and
 - (a) describe the potential for reduced air quality (including odours and visibility) resulting from the Project and discuss any implications of the expected air quality for environmental protection and public health;
 - (b) estimate ground-level concentrations of appropriate air quality parameters;
 - (c) discuss any expected changes to particulate deposition or acidic deposition patterns;
 - (d) identify areas that exceed Potential Acid Input (PAI) critical loading criteria;
 - (e) discuss interactive effects that may occur as a result of co-exposure of a receptor to all emissions; and
 - (f) describe air quality impacts resulting from the Project, and their implications for other environmental resources, including habitat diversity and quantity, vegetation resources and water quality.
 - [B] Identify stages or elements of the Project that are sensitive to changes or variability in climate parameters, including frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Discuss what impacts the change to climate parameters may have on elements of the Project that are sensitive to climate parameters.
 - [C] Identify components of the Project that have the potential for creating increased noise levels and discuss the implications. Present the results of a noise assessment. Include:
 - (a) potentially-affected people and wildlife;
 - (b) an estimate of the potential for increased noise resulting from the development; and
 - (c) the implications of any increased noise levels.
 - [D] Describe how air quality and noise impacts resulting from the Project will be mitigated.
 - [E] Describe the residual air quality and noise effects of the Project and MEG's plans to manage those effects.
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4.2.3 Monitoring

- [A] Describe ambient air quality monitoring that will be conducted during each phase of the Project to assess air quality and the effectiveness of mitigation.
- [B] Describe monitoring programs MEG may implement to monitor the effects of acid deposition.

4.3 Hydrogeology

4.3.1 Baseline Information

- [A] Provide an overview of the existing geologic and hydrogeologic setting in the Project and EIA Study Areas from the ground surface down to, and including, the oil producing zones and disposal zones. Document any new hydrogeological investigations, including methodology and results, undertaken as part of the EIA study and:
 - (a) present regional and Project Area geology using structure contour maps, geologic cross-sections and isopach maps to illustrate depth, thickness and spatial extent of lithology, stratigraphic units and structural features;
 - (b) present regional and Project Area hydrogeology describing:
 - i) the major aquifers, aquitards and aquicludes (Quaternary and bedrock), their spatial distribution, properties, hydraulic connections between aquifers, hydraulic heads, gradients, groundwater flow directions and velocities; include maps and cross sections,
 - ii) the chemistry of groundwater aquifers including baseline concentrations of major ions, metals and hydrocarbon indicators,
 - iii) the potential discharge zones, potential recharge zones and sources, areas of groundwater-surface water interaction and areas of Quaternary aquifer-bedrock groundwater interaction,
 - iv) water well development and groundwater use, including an inventory of groundwater users,
 - v) the recharge potential for Quaternary aquifers,
 - vi) potential hydraulic connection between bitumen production zones, deep disposal formations and other aquifers due to Project operations,
 - vii) the characterization of formations chosen for deep well disposal, including chemical compatibility and containment potential, and water quality assessments. The suitability of any onsite waste disposal sites should be discussed and supporting geological information provided, and
 - viii) the locations of major facilities associated with the Project including facilities for waste storage, treatment and disposal (e.g., deep well disposal) and describe site-specific aquifer and shallow groundwater conditions beneath these proposed facilities.

4.3.2 Impact Assessment

- [A] Describe Project components and activities which have the potential to affect groundwater resource quantity and quality during the life of the project.
 - [B] Describe the nature and significance of the potential Project impacts on groundwater with respect to:
 - (a) inter-relationship between groundwater and surface water in terms of surface water quantity and quality;
 - (b) implications for terrestrial or riparian vegetation, wildlife and aquatic resources including wetlands;
 - (c) changes in groundwater quality and quantity;
 - (d) conflicts with other groundwater users, and proposed resolutions to these conflicts;
 - (e) potential implications of seasonal variations; and
 - (f) groundwater withdrawal for Project operations.
-

- [C] Describe programs to manage and protect groundwater resources including, but not limited to, response/mitigation plans that may be considered in the event that adverse effects are detected.
- [D] Identify measures to reduce the environmental risks from casing failures.
- [E] Describe the residual effects of the Project on groundwater quality and quantity and MEG's plans to manage those effects.

4.3.3 Monitoring

- [A] Describe the monitoring programs proposed to identify impacts to groundwater quality and quantity resulting from the Project to measure the effectiveness of mitigation plans.

4.4 Hydrology

4.4.1 Baseline Information

- [A] Describe and map the surface hydrology. Include flow regimes of streams in the Project Area.
- [B] Provide surface flow baseline data for both the Local and Regional Study Area, including;
 - (a) seasonal variation, low, average and peak flows for watercourses; and
 - (b) low, average and peak levels for waterbodies.
- [C] Identify any surface water users who have existing approvals, permits or licenses.

4.4.2 Impact Assessment

- [A] Discuss changes to watershed(s), including surface and near-surface drainage conditions, potential flow impediment, and potential changes in open-water surface areas caused by the Project.
 - [B] Describe the extent of hydrological changes that will result from disturbances to groundwater and surface water movement:
 - (a) include changes to the quantity of surface flow, water levels and channel regime in local watercourses (during minimum, average and peak flows) and water levels in local waterbodies;
 - (b) assess the potential impact of any alterations in flow on hydrology in both the Local and Regional Study Areas and identify all temporary and permanent alterations, channel realignments, disturbances or surface water withdrawals;
 - (c) discuss both the Project and cumulative effect of these changes on hydrology (e.g., timing, volume, peak and minimum flow rates, river regime and lake levels), including the significance of effects for downstream watercourses; and
 - (d) identify any potential erosion problems in watercourses due to the Project.
 - [C] Discuss changes in sedimentation patterns in receiving waters caused by the Project.
 - [D] Describe impacts on other surface water users due to the Project. Identify any potential water use conflicts.
 - [E] Describe potential downstream impact if surface water is removed.
 - [F] Discuss the impact of low flow conditions and in-stream flow needs (IFN) on water supply, and water and wastewater management strategies.
 - [G] Discuss how potential impacts of temporary and permanent roads and well pads on peatland/wetland types will be minimized and mitigated.
 - [H] Describe mitigation measures to address impacts during the construction, operation, and reclamation stages including the following;
 - (a) alteration in flow regimes,
 - (b) potential water use conflicts, and
-

(c) increased sediment loadings.

- [I] Describe the residual effects of the Project on hydrology in the Local and Regional Study Areas and MEG's plans to manage those effects.

4.4.3 Monitoring

- [A] Describe monitoring programs to measure the effectiveness of mitigation plans.
- [B] Discuss any monitoring programs that may be considered to assess the impacts of changes in surface water flows and levels on aquatic resources, wildlife and vegetation.

4.5 Surface Water Quality

4.5.1 Baseline Information

- [A] Describe the baseline water quality of watercourses and waterbodies and their seasonal variations and relationships to flow and other controlling factors.

4.5.2 Impact Assessment

- [A] Identify Project components that may influence or impact surface water quality.
- [B] Describe the potential impacts of the Project on surface water quality:
- (a) discuss any changes in water quality resulting from the Project that may exceed the *Surface Water Quality Guidelines for Use in Alberta* or *Canadian Water Quality Guidelines*;
 - (b) discuss the significance of any impacts on water quality and implications to aquatic resources (e.g., biota, biodiversity and habitat);
 - (c) discuss seasonal variation and potential effects on surface water quality;
 - (d) assess the potential Project related and cumulative impacts of acidifying and other air emissions on surface water quality; and
 - (e) discuss the effect of changes in surface runoff or groundwater discharge on water quality in surface waterbodies.
- [C] Describe proposed mitigation measures to maintain surface water quality during the construction, operation and reclamation stages of the Project.
- [D] Describe the residual effects of the Project on surface water quality and MEG's plans to manage those effects.

4.5.3 Monitoring

- [A] Describe the monitoring programs that may be proposed to assess surface water quality impacts from the Project and the success of mitigations measures. Discuss the location of monitoring sites, the frequency of monitoring, the parameters to be monitored, the implementation of quality assurance programs, and the numerical methodology.
- [B] Describe how continuous monitoring will be used to evaluate Project effects, and how such monitoring will be used to identify the need for mitigation.

4.6 Aquatic Ecology

4.6.1 Baseline Information

- [A] Describe the existing fish and other aquatic resources (e.g., benthic invertebrates). Identify species composition, distribution, relative abundance, movements and general life history parameters.
- [B] Describe and map, as appropriate, the fish habitat and aquatic resources of the lakes, rivers and other waters and identify:
- (a) key indicator species and provide the rationale and selection criteria used;
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- (b) critical or sensitive areas such as spawning, rearing, and over-wintering habitats. Discuss seasonal habitat use including migration and spawning routes; and
- (c) current and potential use of the fish resources by Aboriginal, sport or commercial fisheries.

4.6.2 Impact Assessment

- [A] Describe the potential impacts to fish, fish habitat and other aquatic resources (e.g., stream alterations and changes to substrate conditions, water quality and quantity) considering:
 - (a) fish tainting, survival of eggs and fry, chronic or acute health effects, and increased stress on fish populations from release of contaminants, sedimentation, flow alterations, temperature and habitat changes;
 - (b) potential impacts on riparian areas that could impact aquatic biological resources and productivity;
 - (c) the potential for increased fishing pressures could arise from the increased workforce and improved access as a result of the Project. Identify the implications on the fish resource and describe any mitigation strategies that might be planned to minimize these effects; and
 - (d) changes to benthic invertebrate communities that may affect food quality and availability for fish.
- [B] As applicable, discuss the design, construction and operational factors to be incorporated into the Project to minimize effects to fish and fish habitat and protect aquatic resources.
- [C] Identify plans proposed to offset any loss in the productivity of fish habitats. Indicate how environmental protection plans address applicable provincial and federal policies on fish habitat including the development of a “No Net Loss” fish habitat objective.
- [D] Describe the residual effects of the Project on fish, fish habitat, and other aquatic resources and discuss their significance in the context of local and regional fisheries. Describe MEG’s plans to manage these effects.

4.6.3 Monitoring

- [A] Describe monitoring programs that may be proposed to assess fisheries impacts from the Project and the success of mitigation measures.

4.7 Vegetation

4.7.1 Baseline Information

- [A] Describe the existing vegetation and map vegetation communities for each ecosite phase.
 - [B] Describe and map peatlands and wetlands and discuss the distribution and relative abundance of wetlands.
 - [C] Identify, verify and map the relative abundance of species of rare plants and the ecosite phases where they are found.
 - [D] Identify key indicator species and discuss the rationale for their selection. Identify composition, distribution, relative abundance, habitat requirements and general life history. Address those species listed as “at Risk, May be at Risk, and Sensitive” as listed in *The Status of Alberta Species* (Alberta Sustainable Resources Development).
 - [E] Discuss the potential of each ecosite phase to support rare plant species, plants for traditional and medicinal purposes, old growth forests and communities of limited distribution. Consider their importance for local and regional habitat, sustained forest growth, rare plant habitat and the hydrologic regime.
 - [F] Describe the regional significance of landscape units that are identified as rare.
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- [G] Provide Timber Productivity Ratings for the Local Study Area lands, including identification of productive forested, non-productive forested and non-forested lands.

4.7.2 *Impact Assessment*

- [A] Identify the amount of vegetation and wetlands to be disturbed during the life of the Project.
 - [B] Discuss any potential effects the Project may have on rare plants or endangered species, as listed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and the Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre (ANHIC).
 - [C] Discuss temporary (include timeframe) and permanent changes to vegetation and wetland communities:
 - (a) comment on the effects and their implications for other environmental resources (habitat diversity and quantity, water quality and quantity, erosion potential, soil conservation, recreation and other uses), and
 - (b) comment on the sensitivity to disturbance (including acid deposition), as well as the techniques used to estimate sensitivity to disturbance and reclamation, of each vegetation community.
 - [D] Describe the regional relevance of any ecosite phase to be removed.
 - [E] Discuss from an ecological perspective, the expected timelines for establishment and recovery of vegetative communities and the expected differences in the resulting vegetative community structures
 - [F] Provide an ELC map that shows the reclaimed vegetation. Comment on the importance of the size, distribution and variety of these reclaimed landscape units from both a local and regional perspective.
 - [G] Compare the pre-disturbance and reclaimed percentages and distribution of all forested communities in the Project Area and determine the amount of commercial and non-commercial forest land base that will be disturbed by the Project.
 - [H] Discuss the impact of any loss of peatlands or wetlands, as well as how this will affect land use, fragmentation and biodiversity. Discuss measures and techniques that will be used to minimize the impact.
 - [I] Provide a mitigation strategy that will minimize Project impacts addressing the following:
 - (a) mitigation of the adverse effects of site clearing on rare plants and plant communities. Identify any setbacks proposed around environmentally sensitive areas such as surface waterbodies, riparian areas and peatlands/wetlands; and
 - (b) measures and techniques that will be used to minimize the impact of loss of peatlands or wetlands on land use, fragmentation and biodiversity.
 - [J] Describe the residual effects of the Project on vegetation and MEG's plans to manage those effects.
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4.7.3 *Monitoring*

- [A] Describe monitoring programs that may be proposed to assess vegetation impacts from the Project and the success of mitigation measures.

4.8 **Wildlife**

4.8.1 *Baseline Information*

- [A] Describe and map existing wildlife resources (amphibians, reptiles, birds and terrestrial and aquatic mammals), their use and potential use of habitats.
- [B] Identify key indicator species and discuss rationale for their selection. Identify composition, distribution, relative abundance, seasonal movements, movement corridors, habitat requirements, key habitat areas, and general life history. Address those species listed as “at Risk, May be at Risk, and Sensitive” as listed in *The Status of Alberta Species* (Alberta Sustainable Resources Development).

4.8.2 *Impact Assessment*

- [A] Describe Project components and activities that may affect wildlife and wildlife habitats.
 - [B] Document the potential changes to wildlife in the EIA Study Areas as follows:
 - (a) evaluate potential impacts on wildlife populations, habitat use, habitat availability/quality and food supply during all phases of the Project. Consider habitat loss, abandonment, reduced effectiveness, fragmentation or alteration as it relates to reproductive potential and recruitment for regional wildlife populations over the life of the Project;
 - (b) describe the spatial and temporal changes to habitat (type, quality, quantity, diversity and distribution) and to wildlife distribution, relative abundance, movements, habitat availability and the potential to return the area to pre-disturbed wildlife habitat/population conditions, including:
 - i) potential effects on wildlife as a result of changes to air, water, including both acute and chronic effects on animal health, and
 - ii) potential effects on wildlife due to improved or altered access into the area (e.g., vehicle collisions with wildlife), obstructions to daily or seasonal movements, noise and hunting mortality during operations and after reclamation; and
 - (c) map the anticipated changes due to the Project and other planned activities in both the Local and Regional Study Areas to describe potential effects of habitat fragmentation and the implications to wildlife.
 - [C] Provide a strategy and mitigation plan to minimize impacts on wildlife habitat during the life of the Project and to return productive wildlife habitat to the area, considering:
 - (a) consistency of the plan with applicable regional, provincial and federal wildlife habitat objectives and policies;
 - (b) habitat enhancement measures and a schedule for the return of habitat capability to areas impacted by the Project;
 - (c) the use of setbacks to provide for the protection of riparian habitats, interconnectivity of such habitat and the unimpeded movement by wildlife species using the habitat;
 - (d) the need for access controls or other management strategies to protect wildlife during and after Project operations; and
 - (e) measures to prevent habituation of wildlife, increasing the potential for human-wildlife encounters and consequent destruction of wildlife (e.g., black bears), including any staff training program, garbage containment or regular follow-up.
 - [D] Describe the residual effects of the Project on wildlife and wildlife habitat in the Local and Regional Study Areas and MEG’s plans to manage those effects.
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4.8.3 Monitoring

- [A] Describe monitoring programs proposed to assess wildlife impacts from the Project and the effectiveness of mitigation strategies and habitat enhancement measures, giving special attention to sensitive species.

4.9 Biodiversity and Fragmentation

4.9.1 Baseline Information

- [A] Describe the terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity metrics that will be used to characterize the existing ecosystems and probable effects of Project development and that will represent broad taxonomic assemblages, and:
- (a) describe the process and rationale used to select biotic and abiotic indicators for biodiversity within selected taxonomic groups;
 - (b) determine the relative abundance of species in each ecological unit (e.g., ecosite phase);
 - (c) provide species locations, lists and summaries of observed and estimated species richness and evenness for each ecosite phase;
 - (d) provide a measure of biodiversity on baseline sites that are representative of the proposed reclamation ecosites; and
 - (e) rank each ecological unit for biodiversity potential. Describe the techniques used in the ranking process.
- [B] Describe the current level of habitat fragmentation.

4.9.2 Impact Assessment

- [A] Describe the metrics that will be used to assess the probable effects of Project development. The Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Program protocols should be used wherever possible to conduct the biodiversity assessment. Discuss the contribution of the Project to any anticipated changes in regional biodiversity and the potential impact to local and regional ecosystems.
- [B] Identify and evaluate the extent of potential effects from fragmentation that may result from the Project.
- [C] Discuss the measures to minimize any anticipated changes in regional biodiversity.
- [D] Describe the residual effects of the Project on biodiversity and fragmentation and MEG's plans to manage those effects.

4.9.3 Monitoring

- [A] Describe monitoring programs proposed to measure changes to biodiversity and increased fragmentation caused by the Project and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

4.10 Terrain and Soils

4.10.1 Baseline Information

- [A] Describe and map the terrain and soils conditions including:
- (a) surficial geology and topography;
 - (b) the soil types and their distribution. Provide an ecological context to the soil resource by supplying a soil survey report and maps to include Survey Intensity Level (SIL) 2 for the Project Area;
 - (c) the suitability and availability of soils within the Project Area for reclamation;
 - (d) soils that could be affected by the Project with emphasis on potential acidification (by soil type); and
 - (e) the location of erosion sensitive soils.
-

4.10.2 Impact Assessment

- [A] Describe Project activities and other related issues that could affect soil quality (e.g., compaction, contaminants) and:
- (a) indicate the amount (ha) of surface disturbance from plant, field (pads, pipeline, access roads), aggregate and borrow sites, construction camps, drilling waste disposal and infrastructure-related activities;
 - (b) provide an inventory of the pre- and post-disturbance land capability classes for soils in the Local Study Area and describe the impacts to land capability due to the Project. Indicate the size and location of soil types and land capability classes that will be disturbed;
 - (c) discuss the relevance of any changes for the local and regional landscapes, biodiversity, productivity, ecological integrity, aesthetics and future use resulting from disturbance during the life of the Project;
 - (d) identify the potential acidification impact on soils and discuss the significance of predicted impacts by acidifying emissions resulting from the Project;
 - (e) describe the impact of the Project development on soil types and reclamation suitability and the approximate volume of soil materials for reclamation. Discuss any constraints or limitations to achieving vegetation/habitat reclamation based on anticipated soil conditions (e.g. compaction, contaminants, soil moisture, nutrient depletion, erosion, etc.);
 - (f) discuss potential for soil erosion during the life of the Project;
 - (g) identify the environmental effects of proposed drilling methods on the landscape and surficial and bedrock geology during the life of the Project;
 - (h) discuss the potential for casing and pipeline failures and their environmental effects; and
 - (i) discuss the potential for changes in the ground surface during operations (e.g., ground heave and/or subsidence). Discuss the environmental implications of any terrain changes during the steaming and recovery operations.
- [B] Provide a mitigation plan to address:
- (a) possible measures to minimize surface disturbance including the use of existing clearings for Project development;
 - (b) possible actions to address potential effects of acid deposition;
 - (c) actions to mitigate effects of any constraint or limitations to habitat restorations such as compaction, contaminants, soil moisture, erosion, nutrient regimes, etc.;
 - (d) possible measure to mitigate changes to ground surface (temperature, heave and subsidence) during operations;
 - (e) possible actions to address impacts to land capability; and
 - (f) any other measures to reduce or eliminate the potential impacts that the Project may have on soil capability and/or quality.
- [C] Describe the residual effects of the Project on terrain and soils and MEG's plans to manage those effects.

4.10.3 Monitoring

- [A] Describe monitoring programs proposed to measure impacts due to the Project on terrains and soils and the success of mitigation measures.

4.11 Land Use

4.11.1 Baseline Information

- [A] Identify the current land uses, including oil and gas development, agriculture, forestry, tourism, cultural use, food collection, trapping, fishing, hunting and other outdoor recreational activities.
- [B] Identify and map all Crown land, including bed and shore.
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- [C] Identify and map unique sites or special features such as Natural Areas, Environmentally Significant Areas, and Heritage Rivers.
- [D] Identify any land use policies and resource management initiatives that pertain to the Project, and discuss how the Project will be consistent with these initiatives.

4.11.2 Impact Assessment

- [A] Identify the potential impact of the Project on these land uses, including:
 - (a) impacts to unique sites or special features;
 - (b) anticipated impacts related to changes in public access;
 - (c) secondary effects, such as increased hunter, angler and other recreational access and facilitated predator movement, that may result from linear development;
 - (d) the implications of relevant land use policies and resource management initiatives for the Project, including any constraints to development;
 - (e) potential impacts to aggregate reserves that may be located on land under MEG's control and reserves in the region;
 - (f) the impact of development and reclamation on commercial forest harvesting in the Project Area. Include opportunities for timber salvage, revegetation, reforestation and harvest for the reduction of fuel hazard;
 - (g) the amount of commercial and non-commercial forest land base that will be disturbed by the Project. Compare the pre-disturbance and reclaimed percentages and distribution of all forested communities in the Project Area;
 - (h) how the Project disturbance impacts Annual Allowable Cuts and quotas within the Forest Management Area;
 - (i) the potential impact on existing land uses of anticipated changes (type and extent) to the pre-disturbance topography, elevation and drainage pattern within the Project Area resulting from disturbance during construction, operation and reclamation activities; and
 - (j) implications of the Project on regional recreational activities, public access and other land uses during and after development activities.
- [B] Discuss possible mitigative strategies to address:
 - (a) access management during and after Project operations;
 - (b) the needs of other users in the Local Study Area;
 - (c) measures to mitigate impacts on land use created by the Project; and
 - (d) how potentially-affected aggregate reserves will be salvaged and stockpiled with input provided by Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.
- [C] Describe the residual effects of the Project on land use and MEG's plans to manage those effects.

4.11.3 Monitoring

- [A] Describe the monitoring programs proposed to measure land use impacts resulting from the Project and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

5.0 HISTORICAL RESOURCES

- [A] Describe consultation with Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture (TPRC) and Aboriginal communities concerning the need for Historical Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA) for the Project and:
 - (a) provide a general overview of the results of any previous historical resource studies that have been conducted in the Study Area, including archaeological resources, palaeontological resources, historical period sites, and any other historical resources as defined within the *Historical Resources Act*;
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- (b) summarize the results from the field program performed to assess archaeological, palaeontological and historical significance of the Local Study Area;
- (c) provide a summary of the results of the HRIA conducted to assess the potential impact of the Project on archaeological, palaeontological and historical resources;
- (d) provide an outline of the program and schedule of field investigations that TPRC may require MEG to undertake to further assess and mitigate the effects of the Project on historical resources; and
- (e) document any stakeholder concerns with respect to the development of the Project based on the historical significance of the Study Areas.

6.0 TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE AND TRADITIONAL LAND USE

[A] Describe:

- (a) the extent of traditional use of land in the Local Study Area. Discuss the vegetation and wildlife used for traditional, food, ceremonial, medicinal and other purposes, and any potential effects the Project may have;
- (b) traditional uses including fishing, hunting, nutritional or medicinal plant harvesting and cultural use by local aboriginal peoples;
- (c) a map of cabin sites, spiritual sites, graves and other traditional use sites considered as historic resources under the *Historic Resources Act* (if the Aboriginal community is willing to have these location disclosed); and
- (d) how Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Traditional Land Use information was gathered and incorporated into the EIA report.

[B] Discuss the impact of development on these uses and identify possible mitigation strategies.

7.0 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT

[A] Describe those aspects of the Project that may have implications for public health or the delivery of regional health services. Determine whether there may be implications for public health arising from the Project. Specifically:

- (a) assess the potential health implications of the compounds that will be released to the environment from the proposed operation in relation to exposure limits established to prevent acute and chronic adverse effects on human health;
 - (b) provide the data, exposure modeling calculations, and describe the methods MEG used to assess impacts of the Project on human health and safety;
 - (c) provide information, including chemical analysis and modeling results, on samples of selected environmental media (e.g. soil, water, air, vegetation, wild game, etc.) used in the assessment;
 - (d) discuss the potential for changes to water quality, air quality and soil quality to increase human exposure to contaminants taking into consideration all Project activities;
 - (e) identify the human health impact of the potential contamination to country foods and natural food sources taking into consideration all Project activities;
 - (f) document the health concerns raised by stakeholders during consultation on the Project;
 - (g) document any health concerns identified by aboriginal communities or groups due to impacts of existing development and of the Project specifically on their traditional lifestyle and include an aboriginal receptor type in the assessment;
 - (h) assess the cumulative human health effects to receptors, including the First Nations and Metis receptors;
 - (i) as appropriate, describe anticipated follow-up work, including regional cooperative studies. Discuss how such work will be implemented and coordinated with ongoing air, soil and water quality initiatives;
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- (j) describe the potential health impacts due to higher regional traffic volumes and the increased risk of accidental leaks and spills; and
 - (k) discuss mitigation strategies to minimize the potential impact of the Project on human health.
- [B] Describe those aspects of the Project that may have implications for public safety. Determine whether there may be implications for public safety arising from the Project. Specifically:
- (a) provide a summary of the Project's emergency response plan;
 - (b) document the safety concerns raised by stakeholders during consultation on the Project;
 - (c) describe how local residents will be contacted during an emergency and the type of information that will be communicated to them;
 - (d) describe the existing agreements with area municipalities or industry groups such as safety cooperatives, emergency response associations and municipal emergency response agencies;
 - (e) describe the potential safety impacts due to higher regional traffic volumes; and
 - (f) discuss mitigation plans to ensure workforce and public safety during the life of the Project. Include prevention and safety measures for wildfire occurrences, water saturated plume from the cooling towers, icy roads in the winter months, accidental release or spill of chemicals to the environment and failures of structures retaining water or fluid wastes

8.0 SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

8.1 Baseline Information

- [A] Describe the existing socio-economic conditions for communities in the region and for the region as a whole.
- [B] Describe the factors that may affect existing socio-economic conditions including:
- (a) population changes;
 - (b) MEG's policies and programs regarding the use of regional and Alberta goods and services;
 - (c) a Project schedule and a general description of the overall engineering and contracting plan for the Project;
 - (d) workforce requirements for the Project including a description of when peak activity periods will occur; and
 - (e) planned accommodations for the workforce.

8.2 Impact Assessment

- [A] Describe the socio-economic effects of construction and operation of the Project, including:
- (a) impacts related to:
 - i) local employment opportunities,
 - ii) local business opportunities,
 - iii) regional and provincial economic benefits,
 - iv) housing,
 - v) construction camps,
 - vi) recreational activities,
 - vii) trapping, hunting and fishing, and
 - viii) effects on First Nations and Métis (e.g., traditional land use and culture);
 - (b) estimated total Project cost including a breakdown for engineering and Project management, equipment and materials, and labour for both construction and operations stages. Indicate the percentage of expenditures expected to occur in the region, Canada outside Alberta, and outside Canada;
 - (c) impacts of the Project on the availability of affordable housing and the quality of health care services. Provide a summary of any discussions that have taken place with the local municipalities and the Regional Health Authority concerning housing availability and health care services respectively;
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- (d) any effects expected on primary and secondary highway systems and other regional roads caused by anticipated traffic changes;
- (e) if a construction camp is needed, identify:
 - i) its location,
 - ii) the number of workers it is intended to house,
 - iii) whether the camp will service the Project only or other clients,
 - iv) the length of time the camp will be in service, and
 - v) what services will be provided in the camp (e.g., security, recreation and leisure, medical services); and
- (f) the impact on local and regional infrastructure and community services, including consideration of municipal “hard services”, education/training services, social services, urban and regional recreation services, law enforcement and emergency services.

[B] Discuss options for mitigating impacts including:

- (a) MEG’s policies and programs regarding the use of regional and Alberta goods and services;
- (b) plans to work with First Nation and Metis communities and other local residents and businesses with regards to employment, training needs, and other economic development opportunities arising from the Project;
- (c) steps that have been undertaken by industry, the municipality, provincial government or through regional and cooperative initiatives to address socio-economic issues and impacts to local and regional infrastructure;
- (d) the potential to overlap with other projects that are reasonably anticipated during the life of the Project;
- (e) mitigation plans that will be undertaken to address issues related to the availability of affordable housing and the quality of health care services; and
- (f) strategies to mitigate socio-economic concerns raised by the local municipality and other stakeholders in the region.

[C] Describe the significance of any residual effects of the Project on socio-economic conditions and MEG’s plans to manage those effects.

8.3 Monitoring

- [A]** Discuss monitoring plans proposed to measure the success of mitigation activities.
-