

**LAKE MANITOBA AND LAKE ST. MARTIN OUTLET CHANNELS PROJECT
RESPONSE TO IAAC TECHNICAL INFORMATION REQUESTS**

Question IAAC-50

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Program
EIS	environmental impact statement
IAAC	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
km	kilometre
MI	Manitoba Infrastructure
PER	Project Environmental Requirement
PR	provincial road

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EIS Guideline Reference: 7.3.2. Migratory birds; 7.3.5. Species at Risk; 7.4. Mitigation Measures

EIS Reference: 8.2.4.5 Change in Wetland Functions; 8.3 Wildlife

Context and Rationale

The EIS Guidelines require the proponent to provide information to support the assessment of effects to migratory birds. Section 5.1 of the Migratory Birds Convention Act prohibits the deposit of harmful substances to waters or areas frequented by migratory birds.

The EIS recognizes that road salt and potentially petroleum products from the PR 239 route are likely to affect natural wetlands as water from ditches to control runoff are likely connected. Water quality will likely be affected throughout the year and continuously through operation.

The proponent states, "...most effects should be offset with wetland compensation and are therefore considered low magnitude." Offsets cannot address adverse effects to migratory birds resulting from the release of harmful substances. A description of appropriate mitigation measures for this pathway of effects to migratory birds is required to assess the potential effects of the Project.

Information Requests

- a) Describe mitigation measures to address adverse effects to migratory birds associated with release of harmful substances to waters frequented by migratory birds. Include measures to mitigate the effects of the Project on waters frequented by migratory birds caused by road salt, oil and other contaminants from road construction and use.
- b) Discuss the potential effects of the Project on migratory birds, taking into account these proposed mitigation measures. Describe monitoring and follow up programs that will be used to confirm the predictions of the assessment.

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- a) The routing of the provincial road (PR) 239 realignment will reduce the number of bridge crossings over the channel and route PR traffic away from Goodison Lake (by approximately 1.5 km), which will help reduce the risk of road salt or petroleum products from entering Goodison Lake and affecting migratory bird habitat. Construction of the PR 239 realignment will follow existing municipal roads and will adhere to industry standard best management practices outlined in the Project Environmental Requirements (PERs) (Volume 1, Appendix 3F) and future Construction Environmental Management Program (CEMP) (EIS Volume 1, Section 3.7). Best management practices described in the PERs will be applied to all Project components and will include plans for hazardous material transportation and management, emergency response (i.e., spills), dust control, working in or near water, petroleum storage and equipment fueling and servicing, and erosion and sedimentation control. For example,

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the PER (2.6) and Manitoba Infrastructure (MI) specification (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/contracts/manual.html>) stipulate dust control application requirements and the PERs and Manitoba *Environmental Accident Reporting Regulation* stipulate reporting requirements and response measures for hydrocarbons and other products (e.g., see PER 2.5.2). The road will be operated and maintained in a manner consistent with Manitoba Infrastructure's practice for the current PR 239 and other public roads throughout the Province of Manitoba.

- b) Effect pathways and a discussion of the residual effects from the Project on migratory birds are discussed in Volume 3, Section 8.3.6.2 (Change in Habitat), Volume 3, Section 8.3.6.3 (Mortality Risk), and Volume 3, Section 8.3.6.4 (Change in Movement). Elaborating on those discussions and with respect to realignment of PR 239, the PR 239 realignment will primarily occur over existing municipal roads and direct habitat loss associated with the road widening is anticipated to be minor. There will be a temporary increase in sensory disturbance along the PR 239 realignment route during construction. Potential effects on migratory birds along the PR 239 realignment route are expected to be counteracted by reduced sensory disturbance along the existing PR 239 route and reduced risk of spills or contamination near Goodison Lake as the section near Goodison Lake will receive substantially reduced traffic loads. Construction of the PR 239 realignment will include compliance monitoring to verify adherence to the mitigation measures outlined in the CEMP and wildlife-specific monitoring as part of the Environmental Management Program's Wildlife Monitoring Plan (see also IAAC-15).