

Appendix 4-4

Round 4 APEP Questions and Comments

Round 4 (April 2015) – EIA and Project Overview

The purpose of Round 4 meetings was to provide Project information, review the options considered, summarize previous community engagement events, discuss the EIA and baseline data collection, discuss VCs and obtain feedback and input on the EIA process and VC selection. Input from these meetings helped to identify VCs to be assessed as part of the environmental assessment and to further refine the Project alignment and design.

Dates of meetings:

- April 30, 2015 (Berens River First Nation and NAC); and
- April 23, 2015 (Poplar River First Nation).

Meeting materials are presented in **Annex A**. A summary of comments and questions from Round 4 is provided in **Tables 4-4.1 to 4-4.3**.

Table 4-4.1: Round 4 Summary of Comments – Berens River First Nation and NAC

Topic	Comments
Overall Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boat and snow mobile launch points should not be provided at river and stream crossings.
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No comments
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moose are very important to the community, and should be a VC; ▪ The area along the North Etomami River just north of the Berens River junction is a community sensitive habitat area, and should be avoided. Happy to see the P4-ASR has been moved away from this area based on community feedback; ▪ Trappers to be notified when and where construction will occur so that traps in the area can be relocated; ▪ Wildlife movements: starting to see more wolverines coming into the community; and ▪ Caribou run north and south far to the east of the road alignment after freeze up in the fall and spring.
Aquatic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The protection of fish spawning areas is important. Fish should still be able to travel upstream, and fish runs should not be restricted; and ▪ Red sucker fish are an important catch.
Heritage, Culture, and Tradition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No comments.

Table 4-4.2: Round 4 Summary of Comments – Poplar River First Nation

Topic	Comments
Overall Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Questions related to federal funding for further road work; ▪ Questions on the type of crossing for the stream from Many Bays Lake. Bridge or culvert? ▪ A blessing should take place before construction activities
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No comments.

Topic	Comments
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Garter snakes found near rapids on reserve and along sandy beach west of the reserve; ▪ Blue jay and sparrows have been missing in the last few years; ▪ Yellow birds and robins are important to the community; ▪ There are more bears in the area than there have been in the past; ▪ Moose are hunted in identifies areas; ▪ A community VC is moose; and ▪ A wildlife refuge is a good mitigation measure.
Aquatic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The rivers are taking longer to freeze than in the past; and ▪ Creeks south of Poplar River are a travel route;; they are not deep enough for motor boats, paddling only.
Heritage, Culture, and Tradition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elders will not let the community hunt bears, cows (i.e., female ungulates, particularly during calving season) or eagles as it is culturally not acceptable; and ▪ In previous heritage reports the exact location of portages are not shown.

Table 4-4.3: Round 4 Summary of Questions and Responses

Question	Response from ESRA
Berens River First Nation and NAC	
The P4-ASR will bisect a registered trap line north of the North Etomami River. How will this be addressed?	ESRA indicated that they would work with the trapper to find an appropriate solution during road construction and road operations. Access points and safe crossing points for snow mobiles and ATVs can be incorporated into the road design.
Will there be restrictions in terms of hunting from the road?	ESRA indicated that restrictions on hunting have been made for construction workers on other projects, and the concept of a wildlife preserve on either side of the road has been discussed with First Nations and Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship (MCWS). Further engagement with the community about these potential mitigation measures would occur as the Project progresses.
Will there be boat launch sites provided at river and stream crossing points?	Access was identified as something that would have to be discussed with the community in subsequent engagement events.
Poplar River First Nation	
What are the mitigation measures for blasting on or around moose hunting areas?	For caribou – construction is quiet during calving where possible. For moose – instead of one large blast, split into smaller blasts, this will produce less noise and fly rock to the area. Wildlife will be monitored during and after construction, particularly to ensure that blasting activities do not negatively affect calving moose.
Will there be a restriction to hunting around the area while construction is occurring?	ESRA noted that there may be hunting restrictions around construction sites to protect workers.
Will funding be provided by the federal government for the on-reserve access roads?	In Bloodvein First Nation, federal funding was provided for the on-reserve access road; Little Grand Rapids First Nation and Pauingassi First Nation have requested funding and have not heard back as of yet.
Is there federal funding for the rest of the road?	The project is being funded by the Government of Manitoba at this time.

Question	Response from ESRA
Have equalization culvert locations been identified?	These will be finalized during the detailed design phase which has not yet started.
Are bridges an option for smaller creeks that people use for navigation?	The TK exercises are to identify travel requirements as well as portages. TK will be used to better understand Poplar River First Nation's use of the landscape and will factor into design of watercrossings structures.
How is TK information used?	TK information collected is used for design, project planning, environmental studies and the EIA.