

## 10.0 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK):** Knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities around the world which is developed from experience gained over centuries and adapted to the local culture and environment. ATK is transmitted orally from generation to generation, tends to be collectively owned and takes the form of stories, songs, folklore, proverbs, cultural values, beliefs, rituals, community laws, local language, and agricultural practices.

**Adverse Effects:** Negative effects on people and the environment that may result from a proposed project.

**Aesthetics:** Characteristics relating to the appearance or attractiveness of something.

**Aggregate:** Soil aggregate consisting of two or more soil particles bound together by various forces.

**Alternating Current (AC):** The oscillating (back and forth) flow of electrical current. AC is the common household electrical current and is used in transmission lines.

**Annual Allowable Cut:** The volume of wood that can be harvested in one year from any area of forest under a sustained yield management regime. The term allowable cut is generic and represents a class of models applied when substantial inventories of mature timber exist and the management focus is on harvest volumes (Dunster & Dunster, 1996).

**Anthropogenic:** of, relating to, or resulting from the influence of human beings on nature.

**Aquatic Macrophyte:** Aquatic plants that grow in or near water, and can include floating (e.g., duckweed), submergent (e.g., pondweed) and emergent (e.g., cattail rush) plants.

**Arboreal:** frequenting or inhabiting trees.

**Audible Noise:** The measure of noise emanating from a source in an audible frequency. Usually measured in dBA.

**Basil Treatment:** Refers to the application of herbicide to the lower portion of individual woody plants or stems.

**Biodiversity:** The variability among living organisms from all sources, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, terrestrial and marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they form a part and includes the diversity within and between species and of ecosystems (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency).

**Biological Control:** Limiting the growth or numbers of pests such as insects and weeds using natural means or chemicals.

**Bog:** A type of peatland that receives nutrient inputs from precipitation and dryfall (particles deposited from the atmosphere) only. Sphagnum mosses are the dominant peat forming plants. Commonly acidic and nutrient poor.

**Borrow pits:** Areas excavated (usually for sand or gravel) for construction purposes, such as construction of roads or highways.

**Broad habitat type:** The third coarsest level in the hierarchical habitat classification used for the terrestrial assessment. From coarsest to finest, the levels in the habitat classification system are land cover, coarse habitat type, broad habitat type and fine habitat type.

**Brood parasitism:** a reproductive strategy in which one species of bird lays eggs in the nest of another species; also referred to as nest parasitism.

**Buffer:** The area immediately surrounding an area of interest often imposed to surround or protect an area.

**Canadian Standards Association (CSA):** Organization that sets standards and criteria for operation of a project.

**Clearing:** The act of cutting and removing trees or other vegetation from a construction area. Vegetation may be cut by machine or hand methods.

**Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Manitoba (COSEWIC):** Committee established by the *Species at Risk Act* as the authority for assessing the conservation status of species that may be at risk of extinction in Canada.

**Conductor:** Any material that will readily carry a flow of electricity. In the context of transmission lines, three conductors comprise an Alternating Current (AC) circuit.

**Conservation Data Centre Ranking:** A Manitoba Conservation status rank assigned to a species by the Conservation Data Centre on the basis of a species' province-wide status. Species are assigned a numerical rank ranging from 1 (very rare) to 5 (demonstrably secure).

**Core Area:** The area remaining after removing human features and all areas within a buffer of these features.

**Corvid:** bird of the family *Corvidae*, including crows, ravens, jays, and magpies.

**Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA):** An assessment of the incremental effects of an action on the environment when the environmental effects are combined with those effects from other past, present or future projects or activities.

**Danger tree:** tall tree that is outside of the cleared transmission line right-of-way but may pose a risk of contact or short circuit with the line or structures. Danger trees are removed.

**Decommissioning:** Planned shut-down, dismantling and removal of a building, equipment, plant and/or other facilities from operation or usage and may include site clean-up and restoration.

**Deleterious Substances:** Any substance that, if added to any water, would degrade or alter the quality of that water so that it becomes toxic or harmful to aquatic organisms and habitat

**Discharge:** The volume of water flow in a watercourse, and can be expressed in cubic metres per second (m<sup>3</sup>/s).

**Easement:** The permission or right to use a defined area of land for a specific purpose such as a transmission line right-of-way. Transmission easements give Manitoba Hydro the right to access the right-of-way to construct, operate and maintain the transmission line.

**Ecodistrict:** A subdivision of an ecoregion characterized by relatively homogeneous biophysical and climatic conditions.

**Ecoregion:** An ecologically and geographically defined area that is smaller than an ecozone. The biodiversity of plants and animals that characterize an ecoregion are distinct from other ecoregions.

**Ecosystem:** A functional unit including the living and non-living things in an area, as well as the relationships between those living and non-living things.

**Ecozone:** An area of the earth's surface representing large and very generalized ecological units characterized by interacting abiotic and biotic factors; the most general level of the Canadian ecological land classification.

**Effective habitat:** an estimate of the percentage of habitat available to support individuals within a wildlife population after subtracting habitat alienated by human influences (e.g., sensory disturbances). Human influences do not include physical habitat losses.

**Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF):** EMFs are invisible lines of force surrounding any wire carrying electricity, and are produced by all electric tools and appliances, household wiring and power lines. The strengths of EMFs depend on the voltage level and the amount of current flow. Fields fall off sharply with increasing distance from a transmission line. Electric fields are easily blocked by vegetation, buildings or other obstacles, while magnetic fields are unaffected by such objects. Electric fields are measured in volts per metre. Magnetic fields are measured in milliGauss.

**Endangered:** MBESA status category. A species indigenous to Manitoba, which is threatened with imminent extinction or with extirpation throughout all or a significant portion of its Manitoba range.

**Endangered species:** A wildlife species listed under the Species at Risk Act that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction.

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**Environmental Assessment:** The actual technical assessment work that leads to the production of an environmental impact statement. The technical methodologies used must be scientifically sound, and explainable and defensible in a court of law.

**Fen:** Peatland in which the plants receive nutrients from mineral enriched ground and/or surface water. Water chemistry is neutral to alkaline. Sedges, brown mosses and/or Sphagnum mosses are usually the dominant peat forming vegetation.

**Forb:** a non-grassy herbaceous species.

**Forest Resource Inventory:** The provincial digital Forest Resource Inventory is a collection of attributes describing vegetation across the landscape interpreted from aerial photography.

**Geographic Information System (GIS):** The use of a computer system to overlay large volumes of spatial data of different kinds. The data are referred to a set of geographical coordinates and encoded in computer (digital) format so they can be sorted, selectively retrieved, statistically and spatially analyzed.

**Glacial till:** An unsorted, unstratified mixture of fine and coarse rock debris deposited by a glacier.

**Glaciofluvial:** Pertaining to streams fed by melting glaciers, or to the deposits and landforms produced by such streams.

**Glaciolacustrine:** Pertaining to lakes fed by melting glaciers, or to the deposits forming therein.

**Groundwater:** The portion of sub-surface water that is below the water table, in the zone of saturation.

**Habitat:** The place where a plant, animal or population lives; often related to a function such as breeding, spawning, feeding, etc.

**Herbaceous:** a plant that has leaves and stems that die down to the soil level at the end of the growing season and does not develop persistent woody tissue. Can also refer to the parts of a plant that die and are shed at the end of a growing season.

**Hibernaculum:** a shelter occupied during the winter by a dormant animal (e.g., red-sided garter snake)

**High Water Mark:** The visible high water mark of a waterbody where the presence and action of the water over many years creates a distinct mark on the banks. A high water mark can be visible as a natural line, or “mark” impressed on the bank or shore, the presence of a shelf, or changes in soil or vegetation characteristics.

**Ice Bridge:** A temporary crossing of a waterbody in winter. Creation of an ice bridge can include flooding the ice surface to create a thicker and stronger ice bridge to support heavy vehicles or machinery.

**Important Fish Habitat:** Habitat found in perennial watercourses that contain water and flow all year, and which have sufficient water depth to prevent freezing to the bottom as well as sufficient dissolved oxygen concentrations to support fish all year.

**Kilovolt (kV):** The unit of electromotive force or electrical pressure equivalent to 1,000 volts.

**Marsh:** A wetland with shallow, daily, seasonally or annually fluctuating water, which is received from surface runoff, stream inflow, precipitation, groundwater discharge, currents and/or tidal action. Soil water remains within the rooting zone for most of the growing season.

**Marshalling Yard:** An open area used to stock-pile, store and assemble construction materials.

**Mitigation:** With respect to a Project, the elimination, reduction or control of the adverse environmental effects of the project.

**Monitoring:** Continuing assessment of conditions at and surrounding an activity. This determines if effects occur as predicted or if operations remain within acceptable limits and if mitigation measures are as effective as predicted.

**Mustelid:** Any of numerous carnivorous mammals of the family Mustelidae, comprising the weasels, martens, skunks, badgers, and otters.

**Neotropical migrants:** species of birds that winter in tropical climates and breed within the temperate, boreal, or arctic regions of North America.

**Organic:** The compounds formed by living organisms.

**Orthophoto:** Images based on air photos, but which are true to scale and free from distortion. Orthophotos resemble air photos but, in fact, are maps.

**Peat:** Material consisting of non-decomposed and/or partially decomposed organic matter, originating predominantly from plants.

**Peatland:** Wetland where organic material has accumulated because dead plant material production exceeds decomposition.

**Physiography:** Physical geography, *i.e.*, the study of physical features of the surface of the Earth.

**Primary habitat:** the place where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows. Primary refers to abiotic and biotic features that are essential for providing life-history requirements for the survival of individuals in a population.

**Priority habitat:** A native broad habitat type that is regionally rare or uncommon, highly diverse (*i.e.*, species rich and/or structurally complex), highly sensitive to disturbance, highly valued by people and/or has high potential to support rare plant species.

**Priority plant:** A plant species that is particularly important for ecological/social reasons.

**Productive forestland:** Includes all forest land capable of producing merchantable wood regardless of its existing stage of productivity (Manitoba Conservation, 2007).

**Project footprint:** The land and/or water surface area affected by a project. This includes direct physical coverage and direct effects. Consequently, a project footprint may be larger than its physical dimensions if off-site activities are involved.

**Project Study Area:** The geographic limits in which a project is proposed to occur. It is large enough to allow for options to be identified.

**Provincial Forest:** Provincial forests have been established for the perpetual growth of timber, the preservation of forest cover and to provide for a reasonable use of the resources contained on the forestlands (Manitoba Government, 2011).

**Regional Study Area:** The larger area surrounding the Project that provides the context for evaluating the importance of Project effects for a particular VEC or topic.

**Residual Effect:** An environmental effect that remains or is predicted to remain after mitigation measures have been applied.

**Right-of-way (ROW):** A strip of land controlled and maintained for the development of a linear infrastructure such as a road or transmission [or distribution] line.

**Riparian:** Refers to terrain, vegetation or simply a position adjacent to or associated with a stream, flood plain, or standing body of water.

**Secondary habitat:** the place where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows. Secondary refers to and biotic features that are limited to some degree in being able to provide the requirements for the survival of individuals in a population.

**Species at risk:** A wildlife species that is extirpated, endangered, threatened or of special concern.

**Species of special concern category:** A species that may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

**Stratigraphy:** The layering of materials or soil horizons at a location.

**Subnivean -** situated or occurring under the snow.

**Sustainability:** Capacity of a thing, action, activity or process to be maintained indefinitely in a manner consistent with the spirit of Manitoba's Principles and Guidelines of Sustainable Development.

**Threatened:** MBESA status category. A species indigenous to Manitoba, which is likely to become endangered; or is, because of low or declining numbers in Manitoba, particularly at risk if the factors affecting its vulnerability do not become reversed.

**Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE):** Refers to land owed to certain First Nations under the terms of Treaties signed by the First Nations and Canada between 1871 and 1910. Each Treaty provided that Canada would provide Reserve Land to First Nations based on population; however not all First Nations received their full allocation of land. In 1997, the Manitoba Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement was signed by the TLE Committee of Manitoba Inc. (representing 20 First Nations), Canada and Manitoba.

**Umbrella species:** species selected for making conservation-related decisions, typically because protecting these species indirectly protects the many other species that make the ecological community of its habitat.

**Understory:** Vegetation beneath taller plants such as trees and small shrubs.

**Valued Environmental Component:** Any part of the environment that is considered important by the proponent, public, scientists and government involved in the assessment process. Importance may be determined on the basis of societal or cultural values, or scientific interest or concern.

**Watershed:** The region draining into a river, river system or other body of water.