

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

Question IAAC-29

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

EIS	environmental impact statement
EOC	emergency outlet channel
ERP	Emergency Response Plan
FRWCS	Fairford River Water Control Structure
GCM	global climate model
IAAC	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
LSMOC	Lake St. Martin outlet channel

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EIS Guideline Reference: 3.1 Designated Project; 7.6.3 Cumulative effects assessment

EIS Reference: 3.4.3.1 Outlet Channel; 3.5.3.1 Operation Criteria; 3.5.4.1 Permanent Facilities; 6.4.7.2 Changes in Regional Flow and Water Levels; 6.4.7.4 Changes in Local Drainage Areas and Local Drainage Patterns; 11.5.1 Project Residual Effects Likely to Act Cumulatively

Context and Rationale

Section 7.6.3 of the EIS guidelines requires the assessment of cumulative effects of the project in combination with other physical activities that have been or will be carried out.

The EIS states the Lake St. Martin Emergency Outlet Channel (EOC) will neither be incorporated as part of the Project nor decommissioned as part of the Project. The EIS explains that decommissioning is not currently planned but lacks clarity on what will be done with the EOC. The EIS states both that the EOC will only be used in the future under exceptional emergency conditions and also that the EOC is not expected to operate for flood control after the construction of the LSMOC. The EIS also states that repurposing of the EOC may occur to allow additional flows to the Buffalo Lakes and Buffalo Creek from Lake St. Martin and would potentially replace any flows lost from interception of wetland flows to the creek.

Information about the intended operation, repurposing, and/or decommissioning of the EOC is required to confirm appropriate scope of the Project and potential cumulative effects.

Information Requests

- a) Clarify if there are plans for the EOC, including conditions under which it would be operated, plans for repurposing, and considerations for potential future decommissioning.
- b) Describe how the cumulative effects assessment accounts for the plans described in response to a) as reasonably foreseeable future physical activities or provide an updated discussion of cumulative effects associated with the EOC and the Project.

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- a) Manitoba Infrastructure (MI) does not intend to operate the Emergency Outlet Channel (EOC) once the Project is in operation. The following summarizes specific related details:
 - The EOC is not a physical works component of the Project, nor an Associated Works (EOC is excluded from an itemization of physical works in Volume 1, Section 1.3.2 Project Components and Activities).

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- The EOC is not included in the Project's Operational Guidelines (Volume 2, Appendix 6J and 6K) which describes the basis by which the Project would operate in response to flood events.
 - The EOC may be used for flood protection before the Project is operational.
 - The EOC would only be retained after construction of the Project if repurposed as mitigation for fisheries or surface water. As stated in Volume 5, Table 16.2-1 Summary of Environmental Effects, there is an option to repurpose the EOC to mitigate changes to flows in Buffalo Creek. However, at this time Manitoba Infrastructure has no plans to implement this option.
 - If the EOC is not required for the purpose listed above, it would be decommissioned.
- b) As stated in Volume 2, Section 6.4.7.1 Analytical Assessment Techniques for Surface Water, and as identified in Volume 5, Table 11.1-1 Other Projects and Physical Activities for Consideration of Cumulative Environmental Effects, the EOC is categorized as an existing project. As such, and given what has been stated above in response (a) (i.e., EOC not operating upon commencement of Project operation), the EOC was not categorized in the cumulative effects assessment as a reasonably foreseeable future physical activity.