

Enclosure 2 : Guiding Questions for this Comment Period

Please respond by December 9, 2020

Value Chain Solutions Heartland Complex Expansion Project

Canadian Impact Assessment Registry File No.: 81148

The Agency encourages you to use the “Submit a Comment” feature on the Agency’s Registry website using reference number: 81148

Indigenous group: Lac Ste. Anne Métis (Gunn Métis Local 55)			
Contact Name:	Nicole Nicholls	Telephone:	<personal information removed>
Address:	c/o GML 55 Office PO Box 2057, Stony Plain, AB. T7Z 1X6	Fax:	
Email:	<email address removed> Cc: <email address removed>		

We request that you carefully review this form and that you refine your input as appropriate.

Potential Effects and Impacts

1. Please identify any effects of the Project that are of concern to your community. Also please identify any effects that you are aware of that are not listed in the initial project description. *Note: Information on effects and direct and incidental effects as well as effects within federal jurisdiction are defined in section 2 of IAA*¹.

- changes to water quality and quantity at the North Saskatchewan River and Astotin Creek Watershed affecting water resources, fish and fish habitat, and LSAM aboriginal rights to fish, travel and exercise other aboriginal rights in the North Saskatchewan River and Valley.
- changes in air quality affecting the use and enjoyment of LSAM's traditional lands and waters, the health of members out on the land and the quality of traditional vegetation, aquatic and wildlife resources for harvesting.
- changes to the environment from transport and storage of bitumen product caused by accidents and malfunctions contaminating LSAM's traditional lands including water resources and traditional vegetation, aquatic and wildlife resources.
- increased industrialization of LSAM key cultural landscape of the North Saskatchewan River valley

¹ A link to IAA text can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/corporate/acts-regulations/legislation-regulations.html>

- potential disturbance to things of historical and archeological significance by land disturbance due to the location of the Project on traditional lands
 - potential impacts to *Species of Concerns* and *Migratory Birds* due to further land industrialized and increased pollution in the Project area.
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2. Please describe how the potential effects of the Project could result in changes to your community's:

(a) physical and cultural heritage (e.g. ceremonial sites, burial sites, cultural landscapes)

The North Saskatchewan River Valley is a historical and current travel route that is an important part of LSAM's cultural landscape. Travelling the river by canoe is a cultural activity that helps to connect members with their roots and helps to reinforce cultural identity and transmission of culture to younger generations. Increased industrialization and pollution along the river affects the cultural landscape and could also affect members' experience and result in avoidance of this important cultural area and activity.

(b) current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes (e.g. hunting, fishing, trapping)

LSAM members assert fishing rights in the North Saskatchewan River, and also hunt and harvest plant foods and medicines in the North Saskatchewan River valley and assert historical and future rights to harvest in the Project area. Sensory disturbances and concerns regarding contamination impact associated with industrial projects such as this one, affect members' experience of harvesting and may lead to avoidance of harvesting in this area.

(c) structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance (e.g. artifacts, important historic buildings or symbols)

Given LSAM's historical use of the Project area, LSAM is concerned about the potential effects on things of historical and architectural significance with the Project area.

3. Please describe how the Project may result in changes (both positive and negative) to your community's :

(a) health, social or economic conditions (e.g. employment opportunities, easier access to goods and services, economic development, accessibility to health-care services);

To date, the proponent has not engaged with the community, in order to understand or anticipate any positive changes to the community's economic conditions.

LSAM is concerned about potential negative health impacts from increased air

pollution, the potential for malfunctions and spills due to increase storage and pipe and rail transport within the rest of the LSAM territory, and the consumption of deteriorated quality of traditional resources due to increased air and water pollution.

LSAM is concerned about potential negative social impacts from further industrial activity in the Project area further deterring traditional harvesting activities within the Project area and generally on traditional lands. As a consequence this has potential social impacts including with respect to social cohesion and values within the community.

(b) Indigenous knowledge, indigenous language or indigenous culture. Any additional industrial Project that has effects on the North Saskatchewan River and use of the river by LSAM members will have an impact on cultural practices and on the ability of members to transmit their culture to younger generations.

4. Please describe how the Project may result in any change (positive or negative) to :

(a) the intersection of sex and gender with other identity factors (would there be effects to different sub-groups within your community, identified based on factors such as gender, age, race, religion etc.. For example, to women, youth, elders); This is a concern that we would ask to be included within the impact assessment specifically within the LSAM community with respect to women, elders and young people.

(b) sustainability, considering, for example, the interconnectedness and interdependence of human-ecological systems and the well-being of present and future generations.

Any additional industrial project that has effects on the North Saskatchewan River Valley and use of the river by LSAM members will have an impact on cultural practices and on the ability of members to transmit their culture to younger generations. This will have negative implications for the sustainability and resilience of LSAM's culture and identity.

5. If you expect the Project may impact your community's potential and/or established rights, please describe how.

As described above, further industrialization and pollution in an already disturbed area will contribute to the cumulative effects on LSAM's harvesting rights, which include the use of traditional lands, waters and resources for subsistence, medicinal, spiritual, economic, commercial, recreational and cultural purposes and all activities necessarily incidental to these rights.

Approach to Consultation and Engagement

6. If a federal impact assessment is required for the Project, the Agency will be developing a draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan and, if applicable,

will contact you to seek your comments. Please provide information on how you would like to be consulted by the Agency (for example, does your community have specific cultural practices, traditions or protocols, etc.).

We look forward to development of an engagement and partnership plan with the federal Crown on the Project. A key component of our consultation process is to collect as much detailed information as possible, including through direct engagement with the proponent supported by traditional land use studies, the retention of expert advice and face-to-face meetings with the Crown and proponent for mitigation measure agreement.

7. Please also provide your views on how you would like the proponent to engage your community during all phases of the Project.

The proponent has not yet reached out to engage GML 55 / LSAM. We find it concerning that their project description implies that they have. They should contact us by email using the contact information provided. LSAM would like to have one on one meetings with the proponent to learn about the Project and discuss and agree on mitigation measures. We also expect to be involved throughout the impact assessment, construction, operation and reclamation phases of the Project, if it is approved.

8. If a federal impact assessment is required for the Project, the Agency will act as the Crown Consultation Coordinator and will be responsible for implementing the Duty to Consult. Do you have any views on how the Agency should work with your community in relation to the assessment of impacts on the potential and/or established rights of your community?

A baseline, cumulative and project specific traditional land use and rights study is required to be funded and carried out to meaningfully assess the impacts of the Project on LSAM rights, in addition to a jointly developed rights assessment as per Impact Assessment Agency methodological guidelines.

Murleen Crossen

Print Name of responder

President

Title of responder

<Original signed by>

Signature

December 9, 2020

Date

Heartland Complex Expansion Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
1145-9700 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4C3
Email: <mailto:iaac.heartland.aeic@canada.ca>