

Table 3-1. Justification for Selection of VECs

Valued Environmental Components	Relative Abundance or Status	Public Concern	Professional Concern	Economic Importance	Regulatory Concern	Comments
Valued Ecosystem Components						
Geology/ Soils		√	√		√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project infrastructure integrity • Effect of road on local steep slopes
Hydrology and Surface Water Quality		√	√		√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alberta Water Act</i> • <i>Federal Navigable Waters Protection Act</i>
Vegetation (including wetlands) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native vegetation • Special Status Species 	√	√	√		√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alberta Water Act</i> • <i>Federal Species at Risk Act</i> • Edmonton Corporate Tree Management Policy C456 • Alberta Interim Wetland Policy • Natural Areas policies
Wildlife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat • Movement Corridors • Special Status Species 	√	√	√		√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Federal Species at Risk Act</i> • <i>Federal Migratory Birds Convention Act</i> • <i>Alberta Wildlife Act</i>
Fish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat • Special Status Species 		√	√		√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Federal Fisheries Act</i> • <i>Federal Species at Risk Act</i>
Valued Socio-economic Components						
Land Disposition and Zoning					√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alberta Public Lands Act</i> • <i>Big Lake ASP</i>
Outdoor Recreation		√	√			
Visual Resources		√	√			
Valued Heritage Components						
Historical Resources		√	√		√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alberta Historical Resources Act</i>