

15.0 SUMMARY

This Water Management Plan entailed a comprehensive review of existing facilities and operating regimes and gathering input and feedback through the public and First Nations consultation processes. The goal of the plan is to develop sustainable options of managing levels and flows that will contribute to the environmental, social and economic well-being of the people of Ontario.

The background information provided in this report included physical and biological descriptions of the watershed (with parks, conservation reserves, threatened and endangered species also identified), socio-economic profiles of the communities and First Nations communities in the watershed and descriptions of the waterpower structures and facilities with current operating regimes. The Planning Team developed options based on the issues and concerns brought forth by the public and Planning Team. Where there were key gaps in information to address particular issues, studies were identified. After further public consultation and First Nation consultation on the options, the selected options were chosen for each facility. There was then a final consultation with the public and First Nations on the Draft WMP. The end result of this WMP is the Revised Description of Operating Plans for each facility that is legally enforceable under the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act*.

The role of the Standing Advisory Committee is to review and advise the Steering Committee on matters relating to the implementation, monitoring and communications of the Water Management Plan. The term of the plan is ten years with yearly reports and a review during year five. At the beginning of year nine, the Standing Advisory Committee will initiate a review of the plan using a similar process as the initial planning process.

This WMP is the result of the cooperation and contribution of personnel from waterpower industry, MNR, First Nations, and the public. The success of the Matabitchuan River WMP is a result of the efforts and teamwork of those involved.