

Spatial and Temporal Boundaries

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) defines a Valued Component (VC) in the *Impact Assessment Act* as:

“Environmental, health, social, economic and potentially other elements of the natural and human environment that is identified as having scientific, social, cultural, economic, historical, archaeological or aesthetic importance.”

Based on the project components, each VC will include their own Spatial and Temporal Boundaries.

Temporal Boundaries

Temporal boundaries for the assessment (i.e., consideration of when and for how long project effects are likely to occur) address the potential effects during the Project's construction, operation, and decommissioning/closure phases over relevant timescales.

Four Project phases have been defined for the assessment across all VCs. These temporal boundaries to be used in the assessment of residual effects are also considered applicable for the assessment of cumulative effects.

Spatial Boundaries

Spatial boundaries for the assessment (i.e., the location and extent of potential effects likely to occur) will be selected based on the geographic extent over which Project activities and their effects on VCs are likely to occur, as well as other ecological, technical, Indigenous knowledge, and social considerations.

Three geographic areas have been defined for the assessment of selected VCs:

- **Project Area (PA):** encompasses the Project footprint and is the anticipated area of physical disturbance associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project.
- **Local Study Area (LSA):** the area in which Project-related effects (direct or indirect) can be predicted or measured with a reasonable level of accuracy and confidence. The LSA encompasses the PA and is VC-specific, as it is based on the reasonable geographic extent by which Project-related effects can be predicted.
- **Regional Study Area (RSA):** the area that establishes the context for determining significance of Project-specific effects. It is also the area within which potential cumulative effects – the residual effects from the Project in combination with those of past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects – may extend. The RSA encompasses the PA and the LSA.