

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The environmental analysis of the proposed Project and alternatives describes: the affected environment; direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that would result from construction and operations; and mitigation measures that could reduce impacts to each affected resource. The environmental analysis is organized by physical, biological and human environmental resources in Sections 5.1 through 5.22.

Sections 5.1 through 5.22 discuss the affected environment, construction and operations impacts, and measures to mitigate impacts to affected resources. The environmental consequences of constructing and operating the proposed Project would vary in context, intensity and duration. Four levels of impact duration were considered: temporary, short term, long term, and permanent. Temporary impacts would generally occur during construction, with the resources returning to pre-construction conditions almost immediately afterward. Short-term impacts would continue for approximately 3 years following construction. Impacts were considered long term if the resources would require more than 3 years to recover. Permanent impacts would occur as a result of activities that modify resources to the extent that they would not return to pre-construction conditions during the life of the proposed Project, such as with construction of aboveground structures. Impacts that would result in change in the environment are quantified and described qualitatively.

The proposed Project would incorporate measures to reduce environmental impacts as described in Section 5.23. The AGDC would incorporate mitigation measures required in authorizations and permits issued by environmental permitting agencies into the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed Project.