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June 27, 2023

File: MV2023L8-0005

Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Mackenzie Valley Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N7

Sent by email

Dear Mark Cliffe-Phillips,

Re: Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Infrastructure – Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Application for Water Licence – Miscellaneous – Hay River Dredging

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Board) met on June 22, 2023 and considered the Application Package from Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Infrastructure for Water Licence (Licence) MV2023L8-0005 for the Hay River Dredging Project (Project) in accordance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The Board has reviewed the evidence put forward by the Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Infrastructure and has determined that no preliminary screening is required as outlined in Section 119(b) of the MVRMA, which states that preliminary screenings are not conducted for any development:

(b) that is carried out in response to an emergency in circumstances such that it is in the interest of protecting property or the environment or in the interest of public wellness, health, or safety to carry out the proposal forthwith.

In particular, the Board recognizes the urgency with which the Project needs to be completed to ensure that this shipping season is not impacted. The reliance of communities across much of the region on barged goods for everyday goods and services, such as fuel for heat and electrical generation, highlight the emergent need for the Project to be completed without delay. The Board also acknowledges that the Hay River Harbour is an important transportation hub that, if impeded, would have immediate impacts to up to 12 communities.

The Board has determined that the Project is exempt from preliminary screening because the Project is being proposed in response to an emergency to protect property, and that it is in the interest of public welfare, health, and safety.

Please contact [Kathy Racher](#) in writing or at (867) 766-7457 with any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tanya MacIntosh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Tanya MacIntosh
Chair, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

BCC'd to: Dehcho Distribution List
 Aileen Stevens – Government of the Northwest Territories - Department of Infrastructure
 Rebekka Lindskoog – Associated Environmental