



**Sahtu Land & Water Board**  
**REASONS FOR DECISION**  
**Issued Pursuant to Section 72.25 & 121 of**  
**The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act**  
**And Pursuant to Section 54**  
**of The Waters Act**

**Amendment of Water Licence S19L8-002 (Type "B")**

This is the decision of the Sahtu Land & Water Board with respect to the Amendment Application for Type B Water Licence dated Oct 28, 2019 made by:

**Government of Northwest  
Territories – Dept. of  
Infrastructure  
P. O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, NT X1A2L9**

for: undertaking the in-water geotechnical drilling operation on-ice, for collecting critical sub-river geotechnical data for advancing the design of foundations for the bridge piers, for the proposed Great Bear River Bridge, Tulita, NT.

With respect to this application, written notice was given to 24 organizations within the Sahtu Settlement Area and 22 outside of the settlement area in accordance with Sections 63 & 64 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. There was no Public Hearing held in association with this application.

**DECISION**

After having been satisfied that the project has been screened pursuant to s.124(1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, and that any potential adverse environmental effects were insignificant or mitigatable with known technology, and as such the application could proceed through the regulatory process and after reviewing the submission of the Applicant and after reviewing the written comments received by the Board; the Board, having due regard to the facts and circumstances, the merits of the submissions made to it, and to the purpose, scope and intent of the MVRMA and Regulations made there under has determined that:

Amended Water Licence S19L8-002 will be issued with updated conditions and no change in term of the Licence.

The Board's reasons for this decision are as follows:

- The Board is satisfied that appropriate consultation has been conducted and that advice has been sought and considered, in accordance with sections 63 and 64 of the MVRMA;
- Information contained in Staff Report 3 for S19L8-002 relative to environmental impacts and/or public concern;
- It is the opinion of the Board that the updated Preliminary Screening Report previously approved for the Land Use Permit S19S-001/S19L8-002, has addressed all potential impacts and mitigation measures related to on-ice in-water geotechnical drilling.
- The on-ice geotechnical drilling is planned to be undertaken (eight days of activity) during February-

S19L8-002

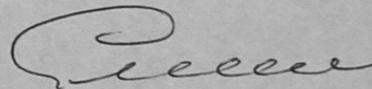
March 2020, which lies within the Restricted Activity Timing Window. Board is relying on the review comment and assessment from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) that undertaking the project during the Timing Window is unlikely to result in impacts to fish spawning areas at the project location or downstream.

- It is the opinion of the Board that the terms and conditions attached to S19L8-002, pursuant to the MVRMA and the *Waters Act*, will ensure that any potential environmental impacts resulting from this activity are not significant;
- Conducting the undertaking in compliance with the terms and conditions imposed by the Licence will minimize any disturbance to the natural conditions of surrounding water bodies;
- It is the opinion of the Board that the Licensee has fulfilled the requirement for engagement and traditional knowledge study with local communities;
- The Licensee will continue comprehensive, meaningful and ongoing engagement efforts with local communities to address concerns and to improve local understanding of the undertaking and potential effects;
- It is the opinion of the Board, based on comprehensive review of the information presented by the Licensee and reviewers and in consideration of the terms and conditions included in S19L8-002, that the undertaking is determined to conform to the Sahtu Land Use Plan;
- The use of water and/or deposit of waste proposed by the Applicant is of a nature contemplated by the MVRMA and the *Waters Act*.

The Applicant has been notified through a provision included in the scope of the existing Water Licence S19L8-002, that compliance with the term and conditions of this Licence has no effect on the Licensee's responsibility for compliance with the requirements of any other legislation.

The Board will provide any referenced material or documents and/or reasons for decision for any specific clause or clauses contained within the application if requested to do so in writing.

SIGNED this 16th day of Dec 2019 on behalf of the SAHTU Land & Water Board.



Larry Wallace (Chair)  
SAHTU Land & Water Board.