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December 28, 2020

File: S20X-006 / S20L1-004

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

Sent by email

Dear Mr. Cliffe-Phillips,

Re: Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Application for Land Use Permit and Water Licence – Husky Slater River Program EL494 – Reclamation and Interim Care and Maintenance, Sahtu Region, NWT

The Sahtu Land and Water Board (Board) met on December 22, 2020 and considered the Application from Husky Oil Operation Ltd. (Husky) for a new Type A Land Use Permit (Permit) S20X-006 and Type B Water Licence (Licence) S20L1-004 for the Slater River Program on EL494 – Reclamation and Interim Care and Maintenance Project, in accordance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

Husky had requested an **exemption from preliminary screening** because the applications are a consolidation of several authorizations related to the Slater River Program, all of which have recently expired, and no new activity or area was proposed to be added or modified. The scope of the new applications for the continuation of this Program are for the Closure and Reclamation of some Project components that are no longer required, and Interim Care and Maintenance for Project components that may be required in the future (Husky currently has a pending Significant Discovery Licence and wishes to keep their options open). The authorizations being consolidated are S13L1-006/S13X-003 (site-wide services), S13L1-005/S13A-002 (oil and gas drilling) and S12X-006 (groundwater and surface water monitoring program). Preliminary Screening (PS) decisions for each of these three applications were approved and filed on the Public Registry.

Based on the evidence provided, including Board staff consolidation of the three PS records, the Environmental and Socioeconomic Effects document submitted to the Board, and the public record for the proceeding, the Board is **not satisfied** that the consolidated screening has included all of the proposed scope and activities for the reclamation and interim care and maintenance Project Application. The Board does **not approve** the Preliminary Screening Exemption.

S20L1-004 – S20X-006 – Husky Slater River EL494 Program – Reclamation and Interim Care and Maintenance Preliminary Screening Determination – Dec 28_20

If the Board does not receive notice of referral to environmental assessment by end of day of January 7, 2021, it will resume the regulatory process for this Application.

Our Board and staff look forward to continued communications throughout the pause period. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact Paul Dixon at (867) 598-2413 ext. 225 or email at Paul.dixon@slwb.com.

Yours sincerely,



Larry Wallace
Chair, Sahtu Land and Water Board

Copied to: Tuli'ta Distribution List
Laurie Henderson, Husky
Attached: Preliminary Screening Report and Reasons for Decision