



JAN 18 2018

Ms. JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre, PO Box 938, 5102-50th Ave
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

jdeneron@reviewboard.ca

Dear Ms. Deneron:

I am writing to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Review Board on behalf of all the responsible ministers to invoke a two-month extension to the timeline for the ministers' decision on the Report of Environmental Assessment for the Prairie Creek All-Season Road, EA1415-01, per section 130 (4.03) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

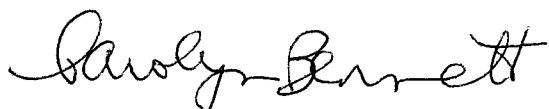
On September 12, 2017, the Northern Projects Management Office, on behalf of both the federal and territorial governments, sent out an invitation to five Indigenous parties to the environmental assessment, asking them to comment on whether the environmental assessment process addressed any concerns that they had raised to date regarding potential adverse impacts of the project on established or asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights. Letters were sent to the Nahanni Butte Dene Band, the Liddlii Kue First Nation, the Dehcho First Nations, the Katlodeeche First Nation, and the Acho Dene Koe First Nation. The Northern Projects Management Office received detailed responses to these letters that will require the responsible ministers' departments to carry out further consultation prior to making a final decision on the Report of Environmental Assessment.

Per section 130 (4.02) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, my decision on the Report of Environmental Assessment is due to the Board by February 12, 2018. Extending this time limit by two months will allow the federal and territorial governments to complete their Aboriginal consultations, permitting officials to make well informed decision recommendations, including around section 35 duties to consult, to their ministers.

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I remain hopeful that the full two-month extension will not be required; however, my colleagues and I wanted to give you and all interested parties sufficient warning that we likely will not be able to complete all the required Crown consultation and related analysis within the five-month decision timeline window.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Bennett". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Hon. Carolyn Bennett, M.D., P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Dr. Joe Dragon
Mr. Willard Hagen
Ms. Katherine Cumming
Mr. Jonathan Tsetso
Mr. Nicholas Winfield
Mr. Patrick O'Neil
Ms. Georgina Williston
Ms. Shelagh Montgomery
Mr. Gary Bohnet
Mr. Mike Aumond
Mr. Paul Guy
Ms. Sylvia Haener
Mr. Mark Cliffe-Phillips