



Mr. Willard Hagen
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
7th Floor – 4910 50th Avenue
P.O. Box 2130
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2P6

NOV 13 2015

Mr. Paul Dixon
Executive Director
Sahtu Land and Water Board
P.O. Box 1
FORT GOOD HOPE, NT X0E 0H0

Mr. Scott Paszkiewicz
Executive Director / Senior Land Use Planner
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board
P.O. Box 235
FORT GOOD HOPE, NT X0E 0H0

Dear Sirs:

**Howard's Pass Access Road Upgrade Environmental Assessment (EA-1516-01)
and the Sahtu Land Use Plan**

On July 10, 2015 Parks Canada referred the Selwyn Chihong Mining Ltd. Howard's Pass Access Road (HPAR) upgrade to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) for environmental assessment (EA). The proposed development crosses Zone 41 of the Sahtu Land Use Plan (the Plan). The zone is currently a "proposed conservation initiative"; however, an amendment (AM2015-01) is presently in progress.

The proposed development was referred to the Review Board for EA before an appropriate regulatory authority had determined whether the proposed land use activity (as described in the application for a licence and permit) conforms to the Plan. The Plan states (p. 56) that determinations of conformity "will have preceded



the Review Board's assessments." Further, as noted within the Plan's Implementation Guide (p.41), a determination of conformity should be completed as soon as an application is received, and prior to the preliminary screening, EA (if referred) and regulatory phases.

Section 24.1 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* requires the boards of the Mackenzie Valley to coordinate their activities. There is no evidence on the public record with regard to the proposed land use activity and a conformity determination. The GNWT therefore respectfully requests that the boards take the necessary actions to complete and file on the public record as soon as possible a conformity determination for this land use activity, that includes a consideration of Section 2.5 D of the Plan (Application to Land Uses that are a Legacy of Decisions Before the Approval of the Plan).

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Lorraine Seale (Lorraine_Seale@gov.nt.ca), Manager, Project Assessment Branch, and/or Darha Phillipot (Darha_Phillpot@gov.nt.ca), Manager, Land Use Planning.

Sincerely,



Terry Hall
Director
Land Use and Sustainability

Attachment

c. Mr. Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Mr. David Little
Executive Director
Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Ms. Catherine Conrad
Senior Director
Environment and Renewable Resources
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada)