

EA1617-01
Tłıchq All-season Road

October 28, 2016

To: Aboriginal Governments and organizations**Re: EA 1617-01 Tlıchq All-season Road, Review Board Information requests to Aboriginal government organizations and resource managers**

The Tłıchq Government (TG), Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN), North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA), and Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation (DGGFN) have all expressed traditional and cultural use interests in the region of the proposed Tlıchq All-season road Project, EA1617-01. The developer for the project, the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Transportation (GNWT-DOT) has been issued the Terms of Reference and Adequacy Statement to respond to. Some of the potential impacts identified during the scoping phase of the environmental assessment relate to harvested species and an alteration of the land for traditional users. The Review Board is seeking information from your organization to help describe and evaluate the potential adverse impact to Aboriginal well-being and the way of life that might occur as a result of the Project, as per its mandate under section 115(1)(c) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The Review Board is asking information requests of your organization at this time because it believes the response will be useful to the GNWT-DOT in understanding the potential impacts to harvesters and traditional land users from the proposed all-season road. This improved understanding will assist the GNWT-DOT in selecting appropriate mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant adverse Project-related effects to harvesters or land users.

The Review Board requests responses to these information requests by November 30, 2016 so that GNWT-DOT can incorporate the information into its Adequacy Statement Response.

Information Requests to TG, YKDFN, NSMA and DGGFN:

1. Fish Harvesting (in response to GNWT #20)
2. Perception of land (in response to GNWT#24)
3. Heritage Resources (in response to GNWT #26-31)

1. Fish harvesting

To: TG, YKDFN, NSMA, DGGFN, WRRB, DFO

References: Whati Community Scoping Meeting (PR#19 p6), Project Description Report (PR#7 p5-7), draft Adequacy Statement (PR#47 p10), GNWT ORS recommendation #20

Preamble: The GNWT-DOT described the potential for harvesting of fish by non-Tlıchq residents and advised that over harvesting would be prevented by following appropriate territorial and federal regulations. During the community scoping meeting in Whati in August 2016, community members stated that increased harvesting pressure on aboriginal fisheries as a result of the new all-season



access was a priority issue. In its response to the draft Terms of Reference and Adequacy Statement, GNWT-DOT suggested that the Review Board ask Aboriginal organizations and fisheries management organizations to give their views on potential changes to fish harvesting and how they plan to manage (DFO, TG, WRRB) fisheries in the area.

Information request: Please list potential aboriginal fisheries in waterbodies along the road route, as well as Lac La Marte. Evaluate and describe the potential for changes to harvesting pressure on these aboriginal fisheries as a direct or indirect result of the construction and operation of the TASR (for example as a result of increased access to aboriginal fisheries off of the road). Please describe how any listed changes will affect harvesters and impact the affected fishery. Provide any suggestions for mitigation measures to reduce any perceived significant impact or improve management of the fishery and describe how and why the mitigation measure is effective.

2. Perception of the land

To: TG, Community of Whati, YKDFN, NSMA and DGGFN

References: draft Adequacy Statement (PR#47 p16), GNWT ORS recommendation #24

Preamble: Table 5-4 of the draft Adequacy Statement requires GNWT-DOT to assess the potential impacts on traditional use and way of life, specifically to describe potential impacts on how the operation of the road would affect the perception of the land by traditional users. GNWT-DOT advised in its comments on the draft Adequacy Statement that it is improper for GNWT to speak for the community members and that the question is better directed to TG and the community of Whati.

Information request: Please describe and evaluate potential direct or indirect impacts and mitigation to traditional use and way of life from the proposed all-season road including from:

- anticipated disturbances to wildlife and wildlife movement associated with the operation of an all-season road affecting the perception of the land by traditional users; and
- a change in perception of the land resulting in changes to traditional use or value of the area.

3. Heritage Resources and culturally important sites

To: TG, Community of Whati, YKDFN, NSMA and DGGFN

References: PDR (PR#7 p 7—1, 8-30-32), draft Adequacy Statement (PR#47 p16), GNWT ORS recommendations #26-31

Preamble: The draft Adequacy Statement asks the developer to describe and predict impacts to important heritage resources for Aboriginal groups that may be directly or indirectly affected by the construction and operation of the Tlicho All-season Road and its related activities. In its comments on the draft Adequacy Statement, GNWT states that it is the Aboriginal Groups and organizations that have the responsibility to identify culturally important sites in the project area and to propose mitigation. GNWT therefore suggests that the Review Board ask Aboriginal governments and organizations to provide the location of culturally important sites within the project area.

Information request: Please provide the location of heritage resources and culturally important sites in the project area that are likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the Project. In addition, please



evaluate potential impacts to any identified heritage resources and recommend mitigation if appropriate.

The Review Board respects the confidentiality of culturally important sites and heritage resources; the intent of this question is for the Review Board to ensure any potentially affected site has been reviewed and that decisions on the Project can be made with the safety of the heritage resource in mind. If a potentially affected heritage resource is identified, please indicate to the Review Board if you would like the information kept confidential and not submitted to the Public Registry.