



AUG 10 2016

Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Cliffe-Phillips:

Tłı̄chǫ All-Season Road - EA1617-01: Government of the Northwest Territories participation

I am writing to clarify how the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) plans to participate in the environmental assessment (EA) of the proposed Tłı̄chǫ All-Season Road (TASR). The GNWT, led by the Department of Transportation (DOT), is the developer (proponent) of the all-season road project. The Tłı̄chǫ Government and Whatı̄ Community Government strongly support the proposal and have provided input throughout the development of the applications.

On March 31, 2016, DOT applied to the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board for a land use permit and water licence to construct the TASR. On July 21, 2016, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) referred this development to EA on its own motion.

Broadly speaking, the GNWT will take the same approach to participation in the TASR EA as set out in the April 19, 2013 letter to MVEIRB regarding GNWT participation in the Mackenzie Valley Highway EA (EA12-13-002).

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As the developer, the GNWT is automatically a party to the EA; GNWT will not be seeking any additional party status. Government departments such as Lands, Environment and Natural Resources, Industry, Tourism and Investment, Health and Social Services, and Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations will work directly with the Department of Transportation to ensure that the proposed highway meets all government criteria for management and mitigation as well as any requirements related to Aboriginal consultation and accommodation.

GNWT departments will not put forward information requests or provide a final technical report/intervention to the MVEIRB, other than the work put forward by the developer. GNWT departments will, however, be available to respond to questions and provide expert advice or information to parties on request. If the Review Board or another party requires information from a GNWT department other than the developer, the Project Assessment Branch (PAB) in the Department of Lands will coordinate GNWT responses. MVEIRB and parties should direct any requests for information from a GNWT department other than the developer to PAB.

Finally, once the Review Board issues its Report of Environmental Assessment, the GNWT responsible ministers will work closely with federal responsible ministers to fulfill their statutory decision-making responsibilities based on the relevant evidence provided during the EA. The Tłı̨chǫ Government will also have statutory decision-making responsibilities; the responsible ministers will work with the Tłı̨chǫ Government as appropriate during this period.

I trust that this information is helpful. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Melisa Pink, Manager, Project Assessment, at 867-767-9183 ext. 24069 or Melissa_pink@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,



Kate Hearn
Assistant Deputy Minister, Planning
and Coordination
Lands

- c. Mr. Michael Conway
Regional Superintendent, North Slave
Department of Transportation

Ms. Laura Duncan
Tłchq Executive Officer
Tłchq Government

Mr. Matt Spence
Director-General
Northern Projects Management Office