



VIA EMAIL AND FAX

Garry Bailey, President
Northwest Territory Métis Nation
PO Box 720
Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0

JUN 23 2017

Dear Mr. Bailey:

RE: Participation in the Tłı̄chọ All Season Road Project Environmental Assessment (EA1617-01 [2016])

The Government of the Northwest Territories (the “Developer”) has applied to the Wek’èezhii Land and Water Board (“WLWB”) for the required Land Use Permit and Water License to develop the Tłı̄chọ All Season Road (the “Project”), a 97 kilometer all season road from NWT Highway three to Whatì. On July 21, 2016, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (“MVEIRB” or the “Review Board”) referred the Project to environmental assessment (“EA”).

The location of the proposed Project is within the area that the Northwest Territory Métis Nation (“NWTMN”) has previously asserted Aboriginal rights. Accordingly, the purpose of this letter is to encourage the NWTMN to participate in the processes of the Review Board and the WLWB, as well as any engagement efforts of the Developer.

During the EA, a variety of opportunities are available for potentially affected Indigenous groups to communicate any concerns to the Review Board, including during technical review and public hearing phases of the EA. When providing such input, groups are encouraged to:

- clearly indicate, in as much detail as possible, whether any adverse impacts on their s. 35 rights are anticipated as a result of the Project; and, if so,
- clearly indicate the specific right(s) that may be affected, the specific impact(s) on those right(s), how those impacts can be mitigated, as well as any evidence that will help in understanding those impacts; and,
- support the Review Board in understanding the evidence, including traditional knowledge, with respect to both potential impacts and mitigations.

The WLWB has developed Engagement Guidelines which require the Developer to prepare an engagement plan for affected communities and maintain an engagement record. In addition to the EA process, direct engagement with the Developer is one of the principal means through which groups can:

- fully understand the nature and scope of the Project;
- identify any potential adverse impacts of the Project;
- explore alternatives to eliminate or mitigate such impacts; and,
- offer local knowledge or advice on the Project.

For those matters within its mandate, the Government of Canada will rely on the consultative processes of the Review Board and the WLWB, as well as the engagement conducted by the Developer, as the primary means for discharging any potential consultation obligations. The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will act as the federal Crown consultation coordinator in relation to the Project for the duration of the EA.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Adrian Paradis, Senior Project Manager ((867) 669-2595; Adrian.Paradis@CanNor.gc.ca). The Government of Canada looks forward to your representatives actively participating in the EA, regulatory processes and related engagement opportunities.

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

cc: Kate Hearn, Assistant Deputy Minister, Planning and Coordination, Department of Lands, Government of the Northwest Territories

Jayleen Robertson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Infrastructure, Government of the Northwest Territories

Mark Hopkins, Director General, Environment and Renewable Resources Directorate, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Georgina Willison, Head, Environmental Assessment North, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Mark D'Aguiar, Fisheries Protection Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Rob Johnston, Deputy Director, Sustainable Mineral Resource Development Division Natural Resources Canada

Michele Taylor, Regional Director General, Prairie and Northern Region, Transport Canada

Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board