



November 27, 2014

Mr. Simon Toogood
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO Box 938
Yellowknife NT, X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Toogood,

Mackenzie Valley Highway Project – Revised Terms of Reference Submission

Attached is a revised Terms of Reference (TOR), which has been reviewed for conformity with the revised project description for the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project. Changes to the original TOR have been identified through track-changes, while comments in the margins help to clarify changes.

The revised TOR has been reviewed internally by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). During the internal GNWT review, a distinction was made between ongoing maintenance activities and the actual existence of the highway itself. The revised TOR has been reworded in such a way to ensure the scope of the project does not include operation and maintenance activities that are expected to continue for the life of the project, but rather includes the potential impacts caused by the actual existence and use of an all-weather highway. This distinction has been made because O&M activities are considered to be outside of the scope of development subject to assessment because their impact on the environment is considered insignificant. The departments of Transportation, Lands, and ENR are in agreement with the chosen wording outlined in the TOR.

We look forward to working with the Review Board to complete the Environmental Assessment of this important project.

Yours truly,



Rhonda Batchelor
Director
Environmental Affairs Division
Department of Transportation

c. D. Auger, Assistant Deputy Minister, DOT
C. Henry, Project Assessment Analyst, Lands
L. Seale, Manager, Project Assessment, Lands