

SEP 09 2015

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
c/o Ms. JoAnne Deneron, Chairperson
@ chubert@reviewboard.ca

Dear Ms. Deneron:

EA1314-01 Jay Project – Review Board request for progress report on environmental assessment measures for NWT barren ground caribou on operating mines in NWT


This letter is in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) letter of September 3, 2015 requesting the status of previous environmental assessment (EA) measures related to the Bathurst caribou herd. As parties are aware, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is responsible for the management of the Bathurst caribou herd, in conjunction with our co-management partners.

The Review Board requested an update on whether the measures listed have been implemented, if the measures implemented have been effective, and in any case if not, why not. ENR's initial analysis of the measures indicates that a number of them have already been implemented in some form. For the measures that may not have been implemented, providing details on why that is the case requires further background work. Additionally, responding to the question about the effectiveness of past measures requires research and analysis as well as careful consideration of the original intent of the measures.

ENR acknowledges the importance of monitoring the implementation of the measures from previous EAs and believes that the Review Board's request is valuable and has merit. However, ENR will require additional time to provide a response that is thoughtful and of value to the Board. The Review Board asked for a response from ENR by September 9, 2015, providing the department with three working days to respond to the request. ENR is of the opinion that the timeframe for this request is unreasonable.

ENR is prepared to provide a written response to the Board's request before the end of the undertaking period, which is October 8, 2015 (based on the most recent work plan for the Jay Project). Should you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Ms. Kate Witherly at 867-873-7482 or kate_witherly@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,



Ernie Campbell
Deputy Minister

c. Ms. Colleen Swords, Deputy Minister
AANDC

