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EA1415-02

Simon Toogood
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Review Board
Box 938
#200 Scotia Centre, 5102 – 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

E-mail: stoogood@reviewboard.ca

Dear Mr. Toogood:

RE: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF A NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SS. 79(1) OF THE SPECIES AT RISK ACT

This letter confirms receipt of your letter of notification pursuant to ss. 79(1) of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), on February 19, 2014 in the context of the Chedabucto mineral exploration project proposed by Husky Oil Operations Limited.

This mineral exploration project is currently undergoing an environmental assessment under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA). Environment Canada will continue participating in the assessment of the environmental effects review of the project as per s. 22 of the MVRMA.

As a disclaimer, please note that this letter serves only to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of notification pursuant to ss. 79(1) of SARA; it should not be considered as a response from Environment Canada on any other requirement regarding this assessment of environmental effect process.

Environment Canada is the lead jurisdiction under SARA for notification purposes for the species Common Nighthawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow Rail, and advises that you must consider, during the environmental assessment process, best available information regarding these species such as: final or draft federal Recovery Strategies/Action Plans/Management Plans, COSEWIC status reports available on the SARA Public Registry (<http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca>).



Little Brown Myotis, Woodland Caribou (Boreal population), Wood Bison, Short-eared Owl, Rusty Blackbird are managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT); as such, you are advised to consult the GNWT – Environment and Natural Resources for their information, expertise and advice on this/these species.

Environment Canada can provide information, expertise and advice on species Common Nighthawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow Rail.

The species Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Horned Grebe, Wolverine noted in your letter are not listed under SARA but have been designated by COSEWIC. The species Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee and Red-necked Phalarope have been designated by COSEWIC, but were not included in the notification letter. As such you are advised that it is best practice to consider them just as they were listed under SARA.

You are advised to contact the GNWT – Environment and Natural Resources for information, expertise and advice on species Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee and Wolverine.

Environment Canada can provide information, expertise and advice on species Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Horned Grebe and Red-necked Phalarope.

Please note that under ss. 79(2) of the SARA, the person required under an Act of Parliament to ensure that an assessment of environmental effect is conducted must identify adverse effects on all listed species, which include species of special concern and the critical habitat of extirpated, endangered and threatened species; and if the project is carried out, ensure that measures are taken to avoid or lessen those effects and to monitor them. These measures must A) be consistent with best available information including any Recovery Strategy, Action Plan or Management Plan in a final or proposed version; and B) respect the terms and conditions of the Species at Risk Act regarding protection of individuals, residences, and critical habitat of extirpated, endangered, or threatened species.

The competent minister's role within environmental assessment is to provide technical advice and support to assist in addressing these requirements. However, it should be noted that the SARA competent minister also has certain specific obligations relative to species and critical habitat protection stemming from SARA itself, separate from or the environmental assessment process.

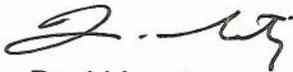
For further information on your responsibilities regarding the consideration of wildlife species at risk in the environmental assessment process, please consult the following documents available on Environment Canada's website (<http://www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/default.asp?lang=En>):

- *Addressing Species at Risk Act Considerations Under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act for Species Under the Responsibility of the Minister responsible for Environment Canada and Parks Canada;*

- *The Species at Risk Act Environmental Assessment Checklists for Species Under the Responsibility of the Minister Responsible for Environment Canada and Parks Canada;*
- *Environmental Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada.*

While these SARA documents make specific reference to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and are currently being updated, much of their content may be relevant to other federal environmental assessment regimes in Canada's North such as the MVRMA.

Yours sincerely,



David Ingstrup
Regional Director
Canadian Wildlife Service
Prairie and Northern Region

J-FD/mma

cc Loretta Ransom, A/Head, Environmental Assessment North, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Bradley Summerfield, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Jean-Francois Dufour, Environmental Assessment Officer, Northern Conservation Section, Canadian Wildlife Service
Andrea Patenaude, Wildlife Biologist, Environmental Assessment/Habitat, Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
Sarah True, Regional Environmental Coordinator, North Slave Regional Office, Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT

