



August 26, 2020

MR. ZIAUR RAHMAN
MANAGER OF SURFACE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Dear Mr. Rahman:

Annual Review of the Tłıchǵ All-Season Road Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP)

As per Measure 10-2, Part 3 of the Mackenzie Valley Review Board's *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision* (Report of EA) for the Tłıchǵ All-Season Road (TASR) project (EA-1617-01), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is required to conduct an annual public review of the TASR Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP). ENR is working with the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (WLWB) and the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) to coordinate the annual public review of the TASR WMMP. ENR requests that Infrastructure (INF) submit an updated version of the WMMP (v. 4.0) to ENR and the WLWB by **September 15, 2020**. The updated WMMP will then be posted on the WLWB's Online Review System for public comment for a period of 30 days.

ENR notes that the Conformance Table attached to [version 3.4 of the WMMP](#) contains a number of commitments to address direction from the WLWB that are still outstanding. Further direction from the WLWB on required updates to the WMMP are outlined in their [April 16, 2020 decision letter](#) approving v. 3.4 of the WMMP, as well as their [July 09, 2020 Reasons for Decision](#) regarding INF's Type B Water Licence Amendment Application – On-site sewage lagoon and groundwater well (W2016L8-0001). ENR expects version 4.0 of the WMMP to address these outstanding requirements, and to identify any further changes to the WMMP that INF would like to propose. INF should work with ENR and North Star Infrastructure (NSI), both of whom are responsible for implementing different aspects of the WMMP, to identify any such changes. As per Section 5.3 of the WMMP (v.3.4), a review of the study designs for the wildlife effects monitoring programs was completed and is attached (Attachment 1) for INF's information. This review

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includes several recommendations on improvements or changes to the wildlife effects monitoring programs which should be considered by INF, ENR, and NSI, and addressed in version 4.0 of the WMMP. ENR also notes that Measures 7-1, 9-1 Part 2, 9-3, and 10-2 Part 2 of the Report of EA require updates to the WMMP when applicable information becomes available.

Version 4.0 of the WMMP should include updates to the revision history table to clearly identify which sections of the WMMP have been modified from version 3.4 of the plan, and any new sections that have been added to the plan.

Once the public comment period has concluded, INF is required by Measure 10-2, Part 3, to respond to comments posted on the WLWB's ORS, indicate how recommendations were incorporated, and provide reasons for recommendations which were not incorporated.

After responding to these comments, INF is expected to make further updates to the WMMP that reflect these responses and submit version 4.1 of the WMMP to the WRRB as a management proposal under section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchǵ Agreement by **November 06, 2020**.

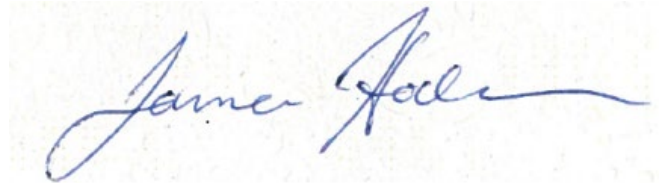
Following the WRRB's review process, and after having responded to the WRRB's recommendations, INF is expected to submit a final updated version of the WMMP (v. 4.2) to the Minister of ENR and the WLWB for approval.

A detailed description of the steps and timeline involved in the WMMP annual public review and subsequent WMMP approval process is provided in the table in Attachment 2 to this letter.

During the review and subsequent approvals of the updated WMMP, INF will continue to operate under the current WMMPs approved by the Minister of ENR and the WLWB.

Please contact Dr. James Hodson, Manager, Habitat and Environmental Assessment, Wildlife and Fish Division, at (867) 767-9237, extension 53227 or james_hodson@gov.nt.ca if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Hodson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

James Hodson
Manager, Environmental Assessment &
Habitat
Environment and Natural Resources

Attachments

c. Ms. Erin Kelly
Deputy Minister
Environment and Natural Resources

Mr. Nathen Richea
A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate Change
Environment and Natural Resources

Ms. Brett Elkin
A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations
Environment and Natural Resources

Ms. Karin Clark
A/Director, Wildlife and Fish Division
Environment and Natural Resources

Mr. Bruno Croft,
Superintendent, North Slave Region
Environment and Natural Resources

Mr. Ryan Fequet
Executive Director
Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board

Ms. Jody Pellssey
Executive Director
Wek'èezhì Renewable Resource Board

Mr. Dave Green
Environmental Manager
North Star Infrastructure

Ms. Jody Small
Head, Environmental Assessment North (NT and NU)
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Mr. Zabey Nevitt
Senior Advisor, Sustainability and Resource Management
Tłchq Government

Ms. Violet Camsell-Blondin
Manager, Lands Regulation
Tłchq Government

Ms. Sarah Gillis
Director, Environment Department
Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Ms. Adelaide Mufandaedza
Environment Manager
North Slave Métis Alliance

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

Attachment 1 - Rettie, J. 2019. Review of wildlife effects monitoring in the Tłıchǫ All-Season Road WMMP. 39 pgs. [PDF document]

Attachment 2 – Process and Timeline for the TASR WMMP annual public review and subsequent approvals

Month/Year	Public review of version 4 of the WMMP
August 2020	[late August] Letter issued to INF (including NSI and ENR) directing them to update the WMMP to version 4.0, including any changes that they would like to propose with supporting rationale, and submit it to ENR and the WLWB by September 15 .
September 2020	<p>INF submits version 4.0 of the WMMP to ENR and WLWB by September 15.</p> <p>Version 4 of the WMMP posted to the WLWB Online Review System for a 30 day public comment period. Version 4.0 of the WMMP should include the following attachments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Independent review of TASR WMMP wildlife effects monitoring programs (Rettie, 2019). - 2019 Annual Water Licence report - Any other results from wildlife surveys conducted as part of the TASR WMMP in 2020 that can be included. <p>WLWB sends out a notice of a 30-day public review to the WLWB distribution list for the TASR project.</p>
October 2020	<p>Comments submitted to the WLWB ORS by October 15</p> <p>INF (and ENR/NSI) respond to comments on the ORS by October 31</p>
November 2020	<p>INF submits version 4.1 of the WMMP to the WRRB by November 06 as a management proposal under section 12.5.1 of the Tłchq Agreement. Version 4.1 of the WMMP should contain an updated revision history table indicating how comments from the public review period have been addressed.</p> <p>WRRB posts Version 4.1 of the WMMP on their website for public comment.</p>
December 2020	<p>The WRRB Board meeting is planned for the last week of November or first week of December.</p> <p>WRRB review and decision is circulated 7 days following their Board meeting (assume December 11), including final recommendations on version 4.1 of the WMMP.</p>
January 2021	<p>INF (and ENR/NSI) take up to 42 days (as per WRRB rules of procedure) to respond to WRRB recommendations.</p> <p>INF (and ENR/NSI) make further changes to the WMMP, if required, and then submit version 4.2 to ENR and WLWB for approval (assume end of January 2021).</p>

February 2021	<p>ENR/WLWB take up to 30 days to make a decision to approve, approve with further conditions, or reject version 4.2 of the WMMP (end of February/early March 2021).</p> <p>Depending on the scope of changes to version 4.2 of the WMMP required as a result of the WRRB review, the WLWB may determine that another public review period is required before a decision on approval is made.</p>
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COPY LIST

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