



Catherine Fairbairn
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Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
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DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

July 22, 2024

Dear Ms. Fairbairn:

Submission of Comments on the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project Environmental Assessment Workplan (EA1213-02)

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has completed a review of the 'Notice of Proceeding – Information Requests and Updated Workplan' document for the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project) that was distributed by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) on July 8th, 2024. Attached are the questions and concerns that the GNWT has about the proposed schedule for the remainder of the Project's Environmental Assessment.

Should you have any questions or if you would like further information, please contact me at (867) 767-9082 ext. 31035, or by email at Seth_Bohnet@gov.nt.ca. Alternatively, you can reach out to Patricia Coyne, Manager MVH Environmental Affairs at (867) 767-9082 ext. 31033, or by email at Patricia_Coyne@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,

Seth Bohnet
Director, Strategic Infrastructure
Infrastructure

Attachment – EA1213-02 MVH Workplan Review (July 8, 2024 Version)

c. Distribution List

Distribution List:

Robert Jenkins

Assistant Deputy Minister, Energy and Strategic Initiatives
Infrastructure

Patricia Coyne

Manager, Mackenzie Valley Highway Environmental Affairs
Strategic Infrastructure, Infrastructure

EA1213-02 - MVH Workplan Review (July 8, 2024 Version)

Page	Section	Reviewer's Comment	Reviewer's Recommendation
1	Workplan	The GNWT notes that the deadline for Response to IR's is September 27, 2024. As community IRs have yet to be received, it is not yet certain if the GNWT will require any extensions beyond September 27, 2024.	Suggest the September 27, 2024 is tentative, and that the Developer may request extension if necessary.
1	Workplan	Can the Review Board provide information on the location and timing of the community and technical sessions to be held in October 2025?	Provide additional information
2	Next Steps after IRs	The GNWT is proposing to provide a DAR addendum that captures changes to the DAR to enable changes made to be more clear to parties and the Review Board.	Recommend rewording
5	Workplan	Can the Review Board provide information on the location and number of public hearings to be completed in early 2025?	Provide additional information
4	Updated Draft Workplan - July 8, 2024	The updated workplan notes that since the legislated timelines came into force on March 25, 2014 that the Review Board has spent 118 days of its time on the draft Terms of Reference and a conformity determination. There is no mention of the time spent since the conformity determination. It would be useful if the draft workplan included a running total of the days that have been spent on the Review Board's time to help anticipate if there will be a need in the future to compress the activities on the Review Board's "clock" or anticipate if an extension for the environmental assessment proceeding will be required. The GNWT is aware that an interactive timeline is posted on the public registry for this EA.	Include the running total of days spent on the Review Board's time on the workplan.
5	Developer's response to IRs (Round 2)	There is a possible typo on the Date for the identified section. The Decision for the EA is anticipated to be finalized by Mid-2025, yet the work plan says the developer has up to Dec 2025 to respond to the second round of IRs.	The date should be confirmed and reflected correctly on the workplan.
5	Technical sessions and public hearings	If technical sessions and/or public hearings are held in small communities, there may be insufficient accommodations and other facilities for all participants. Remote/virtual participation for some government participants could reduce this pressure.	The GNWT is interested in whether remote/virtual participation will be available for technical sessions and public hearings.