



BY EMAIL

Ruari Carthew
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
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DEC 14 2016

Dear Mr. Carthew:

Tłıchǵ All-Season Road - EA1617-01: GNWT seeking clarification on final Terms of Reference and Adequacy Statement

The Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) has reviewed the final Terms of Reference and Adequacy Statement that the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) released on October 28, 2016. After reviewing the material, the GNWT requested a meeting with Review Board staff in order to further discuss the released documents. During this December 2, 2016 meeting, the GNWT sought input from the Review Board on the following topics:

Topic: Cultural Impacts Session

Will a technical session for cultural impacts be required in addition to the technical session that will take place in Behchokǵ?

Board staff indicated it is unlikely as there has been a significant amount of engagement, Aboriginal Governments and Organizations are submitting Information Requests, and the technical session in Behchokǵ should allow for community members to bring forward any additional information.

Topic: Fish Harvesting

The GNWT requested clarity on the Traditional Knowledge areas that should be assessed for fish harvesting (Table 5-1, p.12 AS).

Board staff indicated that all fishing areas from the Traditional Knowledge Report should be assessed, not just the areas that intersect with the road.

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Topic: Adequacy Statement Response Structure

The GNWT requested clarity on how the Adequacy Statement Response (ASR) should be structured as it is different from a typical Developer's Assessment Report (DAR); to what extent should it be a stand-alone document?

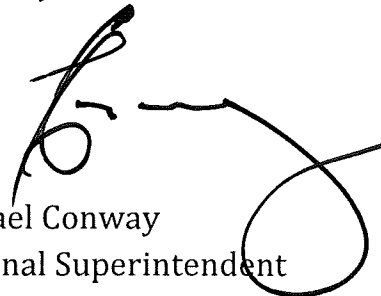
Board staff identified that readability is key. Baseline information from the Project Description Report (PDR) doesn't need to be repeated in the ASR; however, the ASR should list what is in the PDR and provide a few sentences to help bridge the gap. The Review Board's Public Registry should be used when hyperlinking material from the PDR into the ASR.

Topic: Impact Assessment

The Terms of Reference and Adequacy Statement provide examples to classify impacts. GNWT would like to confirm that there is leeway in how the impact classification is presented, provided that the ASR not deviate from the intent of the Terms of Reference, the Adequacy Statement, or the Review Board's Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines.

The GNWT requests confirmation from the Review Board as to whether the GNWT's understanding of the December 2, 2016 meeting is correct. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (867) 767-9089 ext. 31194 or by email at Michael_Conway@gov.nt.ca at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Conway', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Michael Conway
Regional Superintendent
North Slave Region
Department of Transportation