

Kimberley Cliffe-Phillips

From: Wilson,Anne [Yel] [Anne.Wilson@EC.GC.CA]
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2004 2:44 PM
To: Kimberley Cliffe-Phillips
Cc: Fournier, Mike [Yel]; Harbicht, Stephen [Yel]
Subject: Deh Cho Bridge.ppt

Hi Kimberly,
Attached is EC's presentation for next weeks public hearing in Fort Providence. Please give myself or Mike (669-4743) a call if any questions.

Anne

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<<Deh Cho Bridge.ppt>>

Environment Canada's Intervention on the Deh Cho Bridge Project



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Presentation Overview

- Mandate of Environment Canada
- Concerns raised regarding:
 - Migratory Birds
 - Species at Risk
 - Water Quality
 - Cumulative Effects

EC's Mandate

- *Department of the Environment Act*
- *Migratory Birds Convention Act and Migratory Birds Regulations*
- *Species at Risk Act*
- *Fisheries Act – Pollution Prevention Provisions*
- *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*

Migratory Birds

- The proposed bridge may result in disruption of bird migration and mortality of migratory birds.
- Concerns center on effects of lighting and bird strikes.
- The DCBC has committed to mitigation measures which will prevent or reduce these impacts on migratory birds.

Migratory Birds

- The proposed bridge will attract, and provide nesting habitat for, migratory birds (e.g. raven, swallows) and possibly raptors.
- Maintenance activities may threaten to disturb or destroy the nests, eggs or young of these migratory birds.
- This would contravene Section 6 of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.

Migratory Birds

- DCBC has committed to the following mitigation measures:
- to ensure visual inspections are as unobtrusive as possible, particularly during the breeding season
- to restrict any obtrusive mechanical inspections and maintenance until after the breeding season which is **approximately** May 15 to July 15
- to avoid active nests if encountered outside of these dates until nesting is complete (i.e. the young have left the nest)
- during years of intensive maintenance, when activities are necessary during the breeding season, to prevent nesting by using strategies such as visual or auditory deterrents or surface gels.

Species at Risk

- The review of species at risk was based on too narrow of a list of species.
- The proponent should examine the potential effects of the project on species listed as “sensitive” or “may be at risk” under the “General status ranks of wild species in the NWT”.

Water Quality

- Water quality may be affected by release of sediments and/or discharge of water of unacceptable quality into the Mackenzie River
 1. during the excavation of the south haul-out and north ferry landing;
 2. during the pumpout of water from within the cofferdams; and
 3. due to use of road salts.

Water Quality

- The proponent has committed to the following mitigation measures and monitoring:
 1. use of silt curtains and other appropriate field measures to minimize migration of suspended solids into the river;
 2. field monitoring of turbidity and/or TSS to determine appropriate excavation and discharge rates for removal of fill materials and dewatering of pier cofferdams, respectively, such that CCME guidelines are not exceeded in the receiving environment; and
 3. field monitoring of water quality for salinity and conductivity to confirm calcium chloride is not migrating from the detour roads into the river.

Water Quality

- Any water to be discharged must be confirmed to be non-deleterious prior to release.
- Alternative disposal means and locations should be identified in the event water quality is not acceptable for release (i.e. does not meet the provisions of Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*).

Cumulative Effects

- The proponent was requested to provide a broader review of and more definitive conclusions of the potential cumulative environmental effects (EC Information request – IR 2.1.21).
- Environment Canada recommends that the proponent commit to an adaptive management approach with regard to potential impacts (both short and long term) of the project on migratory birds and species at risk and their habitats.



EC thanks the Board for this opportunity to present our submission, and would be happy to take any questions.