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Gestion de l'Habitat du Poisson
Suite 101 5204, 50e Avenue
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Your file *Votre référence*
EA03-008

Our file *Notre référence*
SC02159

October 14, 2004

Kimberley Cliffe-Phillips, Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 939
5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Dear Ms. Cliffe-Phillips:

**Re: DFO Deh Cho Bridge (EA03-008) Public Hearing Presentations and
Speaker's Notes**

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fish Habitat Management – Western Arctic Area (DFO) has reviewed the environmental assessment documentation on the above project. Please find attached DFO's Public Hearing Presentation and Speaker's Notes, which includes comments and recommendations for this project. Our review was limited to potential impacts of the project on fish and fish habitat pursuant to the responsibilities of DFO under the habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act*.

DFO appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the above project and material. Please contact me at (867) 669-4927 if you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail.

Sincerely,

Ernest Watson
Area Habitat Biologist
Fish Habitat Management
Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Western Arctic Area

cc: J. Dahl, Area Chief, Habitat, DFO-FHM
G. Fillatre, Fishery Officer, DFO-C&P

**MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING OCTOBER 21, 2004
DEH CHO BRIDGE CORPORATION – MACKENZIE RIVER BRIDGE
PROJECT**

**INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA – SPEAKING NOTES –
PRESENTATION AND CLOSING REMARKS**

1. INTRODUCTIONS

- Staff present

2. PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- INAC has conducted a thorough technical review of the proposed development including the Developer's Assessment Report, IRs and DCBC responses, Peer Review Summary from the Review Board, and other supporting documentation.
- INAC recognizes the importance of this proposed development to the north and its people.
- We want to ensure that all aspects of the proposed development have been considered and appropriate mitigation measures are in place.
- The presentation will cover the following areas: land administration and spill contingency planning. Most of the IRs have been addressed to date and we are satisfied with DCBC's commitments.
- INAC is pleased with the efforts of DCBC in providing timely and comprehensive responses during the information request stage of this EA.

3. KEY POINTS

- INAC has submitted a number of IRs requesting additional information on the design, land depositions, care and maintenance and operating systems for this structure and facilities.
- The outstanding issues are land administration and spill contingency planning.
- First, we are concerned that DCBC did not identify all lands required for this proposed development, and secondly that project splitting does not occur.
- Furthermore, INAC recommends that the GNWT submit appropriate land applications for review and consideration by the MVLWB and INAC. INAC also recommends that the Developer verify and reconcile the lands required for this project with the Land Administration Division of INAC.
- We requested that DCBC identify alternate waste disposal sites and work with the GNWT on this issue. If it is the intent of DCBC to dispose its waste in the south borrow pit (see map) located 200 m to the west of km 23+270, Yellowknife HWY #3, adjacent to the access road leading to the CCG docking facility (Crown land), then

the GNWT should apply for a land transfer from Crown lands to Commissioner's lands. INAC does not want this as a future liability on Crown lands. We also recommend that the MVLWB apply a security deposit for any liabilities of this land.

- INAC does agree with the proposed spill containment system as outlined by DCBC, however, we do recommend that an annual review of maintenance performance and frequency of spills be conducted to assess the system's effectiveness.

4. CONCLUDING REMARKS

- This project is not likely to have significant impacts to the environment with the proposed mitigation measures as identified earlier.
- We look forward to participating in the regulatory process.

