



Ms. JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Review Board
PO BOX 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

AUG 21 2017

Dear Ms. Deneron:

Tłıchų All Season Road EA-1617-01 - Timing Considerations

The Tłıchų All Season Road (the Project) is a priority of the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT). In July of 2016 the Project was referred to Environmental Assessment. In its referral Reasons for Decision, the Mackenzie Valley Review Board stated that, “the evidence on the record indicates that the Tłıchų All-Season Road proposed by the GNWT might cause significant adverse biophysical and social impacts and public concern” (PR#2).

Throughout the Environmental Assessment (EA) process, the GNWT has worked closely with the Tłıchų Government, P3 Canada as well as the Mackenzie Valley Review Board staff to ensure a fulsome yet efficient EA process and has endeavored to provide information required for the EA in a timely manner.

Clearly, the schedule provided by the Mackenzie Valley Review Board is linked to a number of other issues related to the Project, including procurement and funding. At this time the GNWT is planning for an EA schedule in which the Review Board holds public hearings by mid-November.

After last week’s Technical Sessions in Behchokò, the GNWT is concerned about the increasing potential for delays to the EA timeline. The GNWT committed to release an updated Wildlife Management and Mitigation Plan (WMMP) by September 22, 2017, and proposed a two week period for parties to review this document. GNWT further committed to hold bilateral discussions on the WMMP and to host an in-person ‘show and tell’ of the updated WMMP. Parties had differing views on the appropriate review time.

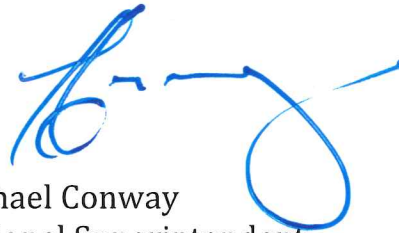
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The GNWT would like to remind all parties that the WMMP has been in the public realm in draft form on the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board registry since March 30, 2016, and therefore has been available for comment for over a year. As stated during the technical sessions, the revised WMMP will consolidate GNWT commitments and other information provided since March 2016. The GNWT would like to reiterate that this is the first time a WMMP has been submitted voluntarily as part of a development project application.

The GNWT would respectfully request consideration of the proposed EA Schedule (see attached), and that two weeks is a reasonable period for all parties to review the information that will be contained in the updated WMMP and to incorporate these reviews in technical reports. The Tł̨ch̨ Government made similar requests, on the record, at the Technical Sessions for the process to adhere to these timelines.

We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Michael Conway
Regional Superintendent
North Slave Region
Infrastructure

Attachment

c Mr. Jim Martin
Chief Executive Officer
Tł̨ch̨ Government

TASR draft Timeline for Environmental Assessment Process - Updated August 21st, 2017

		Start Date	End Date	Process step	Duration	Duration (days)
1	✓	28-Oct-16	30-Nov-16	Information requests to AGOs - <i>extended to Dec 21</i>	7.5	54
2		16-Nov-16	21-Dec-16	Party Status Application Invite (due Dec 21) Still Open Until Public Hearing	5 weeks	35
3	✓	28-Oct-16	21-Dec-17	TG and Whati Information requests	7.5 weeks	54
4	✓	7-Feb-17	14-Feb-17	Draft ASR for GNWT review (Jan 16 date expected to be moved)	1 week	7
5	✓	1-Mar-17	10-Mar-17	Second GNWT review of ASR (Feb 20 date expected to be moved)	2 weeks	14
6	✓	1-Nov-16	13-Apr-17	Developer submits Adequacy Statement Response (printed by Golder)	23 weeks	163
7	✓	13-Apr-17	28-Apr-17	Conformity check of Adequacy Statement Response	2 weeks	14
8	✓	29-Apr-17	2-Jun-17	Information requests (<i>was May 29, extended to Jun 2</i>)	4.5 weeks	34
9	✓	30-May-17	21-Jul-17	Developer responses to information requests	7 weeks	52
10	✓	21-Jul-17	11-Aug-17	Board and parties prepare for technical sessions	3 weeks	21
11	✓	15-Aug-17	17-Aug-17	Technical Session in Behchokò	1 week	7
12		18-Aug-17	8-Sept -17	Developer response to undertakings from Technical Session	3 weeks	21
13		8-Sept-17	29-Sep-17	Technical Reports submitted (Parties' Interventions)	3 weeks	21
13a		22-Sept-17	6-Oct-17	Updated draft WMMP circulated to Parties for consideration in Parties' Technical Reports. Technical Reports due date extended to 6-Oct-17	2 weeks	14
13b		25-Sept-17	26-Sept-17	Half-day workshop for WMMP review (if there are interested parties)	-	0.5
14		-	-	Pre-hearing conference	-	-
15		6-Oct-17	25-Oct-17	Developer response to Technical Reports (Intervention)	2.5 weeks	18
16		25-Oct-17	1-Nov-17	Deadline for Parties' Presentations	1 week	7
17		1-Nov-17	8-Nov-17	Deadline for Developer's Presentation	1 week	7
18		13-Nov-17	17-Nov-17	Public Hearings in Whati and Behchokò (*min of 30 business days' notice in advance of hearing = ~40 calendar days)	1 week	7