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Via email: Lisa.Dyer@canada.ca

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Re: Federal participation in the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) is requesting the Government of Canada (Canada's) participation in the environmental assessment of the Government of Northwest Territories Department of Infrastructure's (GNWT-INF) proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project. The EA is now in the analytical phase. The expertise of federal departments is relevant and important to the Review Board to help inform its analysis of impacts and environmental assessment decision for the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

The Review Board conducted issue scoping in 2013, including in potentially affected communities. The project's *Terms of Reference* considered what the Review Board heard during community scoping sessions. It includes two Key Lines of Inquiry, which are 1) local social and economic considerations; and 2) caribou, moose, and harvesting.

Other subjects identified in the *Terms of Reference* include:

- terrain, soils and permafrost
- air quality
- noise
- water quality and quantity
- sediment quality
- species at risk and of concern
- fish and fish habitat
- wildlife and wildlife habitat
- birds and bird habitat
- vegetation

- biodiversity
- country foods
- culture and traditional land use
- land use
- heritage resources
- climate change

Federal departments with relevant mandates and expertise that may help the Review Board better understand the key lines of inquiry and other subjects of note, include:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada, for fish and fish habitat
- Environment and Climate Change Canada, for migratory birds, species at risk under their authority, climate change, water quality, air quality, and environmental emergencies
- Health Canada, for air quality health effects, contamination of country foods, drinking and recreational water quality, noise impacts, methodological expertise in human health risk assessment, and public health emergency management of toxic exposure events
- Transport Canada, for traditional and non-traditional land and water use
- Natural Resources Canada, for permafrost and terrain
- Any other departments that have relevant mandates or expertise

Canada's participation may also be relevant to considerations of project impacts on Indigenous rights.

The Review Board is part of an integrated resource management system and operates in a coordinated manner with other boards, governments, and regulatory authorities. The Review Board is requesting Canada's assistance in accordance with s. 22 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. This section is not limited by government department regulatory roles. It enables the Review Board to obtain any information from government departments that the Board requires to perform its functions.

The Review Board encourages Canada's full participation in the EA, including the public hearing, and values its knowledge and expertise to help inform the assessment of potential impacts of the Project. Please direct questions to Senior Environmental Assessment Advisor Catherine Fairbairn at 867-766-7054 or cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca.

Sincerely,



Mark Cliffe-Phillips
MVEIRB Executive Director