



VIA EMAIL

Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938 – 5102 50th Street
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

APR 10 2018

Dear Mr. Cliffe Phillips:

Government of the Northwest Territories decision-making structure for the Tłı̄chǫ All-Season Road Project

In its March 29, 2018 Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision (REA), the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) recommended that the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT), as represented by the Department of Infrastructure (the developer), proposed Tłı̄chǫ All-Season Road Project (the Project) be approved, subject to the implementation of the mitigative measures and the developer's commitments as listed in the REA.

As a matter of good governance practices, and for purposes of transparency, the GNWT is providing the following as an overview of how the decision-making process will be undertaken given that the GNWT is both proponent and decision-maker, a situation contemplated by the statutory framework of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The GNWT Minister of Lands will sign the final decision letter responding to the Review Board's recommendation and REA on behalf of all responsible ministers (RMs) under section 130 of the MVRMA. The Department of Infrastructure and its Minister, as the department leading the GNWT in the role of developer, will not participate in this decision-making process. During the decision-making process, and until the decision letter has been received by the Review Board, the GNWT is implementing an internal firewall between the Departments of Infrastructure and Finance (and consultants working for those departments) and the staff of other departments who will assist the RMs in the section 130 decision-making process. This includes any regulatory discussions that pertain to any measures included in the REA.

The GNWT acknowledges that for various reasons, there may need to be conversations about the Project between the Departments of Infrastructure and Finance and other departments, outside of the section 130 decision-making process.

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If conversations regarding the Project take place between either Infrastructure or Finance, and any department involved in the section 130 decision, a record of the conversation will be provided to the registry.

The GNWT will work with the Tłıchǵ Government as required for measures that have been directed to both governments. The decisions made by both governments are made independently of each other.

We hope this letter clarifies to parties involved in the Tłıchǵ All-Season Road Project how the GNWT will organize itself to ensure there is no bias in the decision-making process. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact Melissa Pink, Manager Project Assessment Branch, Department of Lands (867-767-9180 ext. 24021 or Melissa.pink@gov.nt.ca).

Regards,



Kate Hearn
ADM Planning and Coordination
Department of Lands
Government of the Northwest Territories

c: Mr. Mark Hopkins, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch,
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Mr. Patrick O'Neill, Director General, Explosive Safety and Security
Branch, Natural Resources Canada

Ms. Georgina Williston, Head, Environmental Assessment North,
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Mr. Tom Hoggarth, Regional Director, Ecosystem and Fisheries
Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Mr. J. Grant Pryznyk, Chair, Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board

Grand Chief George Mackenzie, Tłıchǵ Government

President Bill Enge, North Slave Métis Alliance

Chief Edward Sangris, Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Chief Ernest Betsina, Yellowknives Dene First Nation