



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

August 4, 2010

The Honourable Chuck Strahl
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6
Via Fax 613-944-9376

The Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of the Environment
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec, K1A 0H3
Via Fax 819-953-0279

RE: Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, Town of Inuvik and GNWT - CONSTRUCTION OF THE INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY, Northwest Territories

Dear Ministers:

I wrote on May 7, 2010 concerning the referral by the Environmental Impact Screening Committee to the Environmental Impact Review Board of the development proposal referred to as the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, Town of Inuvik and GNWT – Construction of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway, Northwest Territories. As you indicated in your response to that letter, there is a general consensus that the principle of 'one project-one review' should be implemented in relation to the highway development proposal.

After extensive consultation with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency over the last two months, the Environmental Impact Review Board has decided to proceed with a Standard Public Review as set out in its operating procedures of February 5, 2004. The Board believes that this review can encompass the requirements of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and its regulations and will address our concerns about proceeding with the review in an expeditious manner. The Board will continue to work cooperatively with CEAA staff to ensure those requirements are identified. The Review Panel that will be established to conduct this review will have two members appointed by the federal government and two members appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council and will be taken from permanent members of the Review Board. A budget and funding request necessary to conduct the review was submitted to INAC on July 5, 2010 as required by our funding arrangements. This arrangement does not cover participant funding as provided by CEAA.

The Board is anticipating that this will satisfy the current requirements of the federal government and is consistent with the regulatory reform that is being pursued in the Northwest Territories. Thank you for your support and interest in this review. Our report will be provided to your offices and other agencies that have the authority to authorize the development upon its conclusion.

Elizabeth Snider

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Snider". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Chair

cc Nellie Cournoyea IRC
Frank Pokiak IGC
Elaine Feldman, CEAA