

Tuktoyaktuk – Inuvik Working Group

To ensure the Fisheries resources of the Husky Lakes and area are sustainably managed.

C/o Fisheries Joint Management Committee
PO Box: 2120
Inuvik, NT
XOE 0T0

June 27th, 2011

To: Elizabeth Snider
Chair, Environmental Impact Review Board

Re: Conformity Review of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway project [02/10-05]

During the week of June 20-24, 2011 the Tuktoyaktuk – Inuvik Working Group (TIWG) conducted a conformity review of the proponents Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Through this review the following was concluded:

ToR Section 7.2: Alternative Route Options

The developer did provide information on alternate route descriptions, criteria, rational and feasibility in section(s) 2.1 and 2.6 of the EIS, however, a reflection of the environmental assessment information requested for the alternate routes is lacking. This information should be provided at the earliest possible opportunity.

ToR Section 10.1.4: Water Quality & Quantity

Water Quality & Quantity was discussed in section 3.1.5 and 3.1.6 of the EIS and information was provided on the potential for changes to water quality due to in stream activities and the probable impacts at water crossings. Information on the potential impacts of the project on water quality and quantity with respect to the discharge or seepage of wastewater effluent, contaminants, chemical additives, etc seemed to be absent. A lack of consideration of the potential effects of slope stability, increased turbidity, the formation of frost bulbs and related icings at watercourse crossings and possible changes to water quality due to thaw slumps was also identified through this review.

ToR Section 10.1.6: Fish & Fish Habitat

The developer did provide information on the proposed methods of watercourse crossings, the criteria used to select each method and the anticipated extent of physical disturbance resulting from each method, however, the information on the potential for the project to impact sensitive life stages of fish and fish habitat is deficient. It was also felt that since the project is projected to provide increased access to Husky Lakes, an area of great social and cultural value to the Inuvialuit, more attention needs to be given to the possible impacts to fish resources of the area due to increased access and how this in turn could affect Inuvialuit Subsistence Harvesting activities.

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Appendix A: Baseline Information Requirements

Water Quality & Quantity

Baseline information on water quality and quantity was incomplete as many requested information topics were not discussed in the EIS. Some of which include; identification of water courses with year round flow, identification of seasonal or perennial springs located in or near the study area, identification and/or information on naturally occurring springs and an indication on the recharge ability of lakes to be used for winter road watering, etc.

Fish & Fish Habitat

Baseline information provided on fish and fish habitat was more complete, however, it is felt that attention should be given to all possible fish species in the area and not just to species of harvesting value as every species has a role to play in the ecosystem. Forage fish were not included in the list of fish species as was requested in the ToR and again information was lacking on sensitive habitat.

The Tuktoyaktuk – Inuvik Working Group appreciates the opportunity to participate in the conformity review for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway project and looks forward to continued participation in the EIRB Public Review Process. We hope these comments will be of assistance to the EIRB.

Sincerely;



C. Inglangasuk
Co-Chair, Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik Working Group