



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

February 21, 2012

Mr. Darrel Nasogaluak
Chairperson
Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee
P.O. Box 286
Tuktoyaktuk, NWT X0E 1C0

Dear Sir:

RE: Environmental Review of the Tuktoyaktuk to Inuvik Highway Project

Thank you for your letter of February 2nd, 2012 on the captioned topic. As you may be aware, the Review of this project is taking place pursuant to both the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). While both of these authorities call for a timely Review, they also set out legal requirements which must be met by the Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) during the course of its Review. Those requirements are mandatory and go beyond the specific concerns of the Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC) listed in your letter (see for example sections 11(29), 11(32) and 13(11), 13(12) and 13(13) of the IFA and section 16 of CEAA).

As a result of its scoping work, the Review Board has been advised of the concerns of the Tuktoyaktuk HTC. The Review will provide an opportunity for the thorough consideration of the concerns raised by your HTC. At the same time, the Review Board will ensure that its Review satisfies all legal obligations before it submits its final report to the appropriate governmental authorities.

The Information Requests (IR) issued by the Review Board are extensive. This step has been necessary because of discrepancies between the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the terms of reference issued by the Review Board. The Review Board decided that initiating the technical review phase of the Review process could likely address ongoing concerns about the conformity of the EIS and proceeded with the IRs. We have the developers' responses to our initial questions and the technical review phase will be completed shortly. Hearings and a final report will follow.

The Review Board must balance its efforts to ensure that the Review satisfies all legal obligations with the needs and interests of Inuvialuit and residents of the region. It is the Review Board's intention to complete this Review in a fair and timely fashion.

Yours truly,

Eli Nasogaluak
Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Environmental Impact Review Board
Phone: (867) 777-2828
Fax: (867) 777-2610 eirb@jointsec.nt.ca