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August 9th 2012

Our File No.: 4336 001 009
Your File No.: EIRB 02/10-05

Eli Nasogaluak
Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Environmental Impact Review Board
Joint Secretariat – Inuvialuit Renewable Resources Committee
107 Mackenzie Road, Suite 204
P.O. Box 2120, Inuvik, NT
X0E 0T0

Via Email at eirb@jointsec.nt.ca

RE: EIRB 02/10-05 - Issues for Discussion at the Technical Sessions Regarding the Environmental Assessment and Review of the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, Town of Inuvik and Government of the Northwest Territories Construction of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway

Dear Mr. Nasogaluak,

Environment Canada (EC) is pleased to submit the following issues to the Environmental Impact Review Board (the Board) for discussion at the upcoming Technical Sessions as part of the environmental assessment and review process for the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, Town of Inuvik and Government of the Northwest Territories (the Developer) Construction of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway (the Project).

EC requests that Topics # 9 – Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat and # 10 – Birds and Habitat be discussed at the Technical Sessions. It is our understanding the Developer will be distributing a report on August 15th 2012 outlining the results of additional wildlife baseline surveys carried out during the Summer of 2012. This report should also include revised habitat suitability mapping for species at risk and calculations of potential habitat loss for each species. As we have not yet seen the results of the summer surveys, we cannot provide specific questions at this time. However, we anticipate that our questions at the Technical Sessions will focus on the wildlife survey report to be released on August 15th.

EC also notes that our recommendations pertaining to the cumulative effects assessment for species at risk outlined in our letter to the Board dated June 15th 2012 have not yet been addressed. EC recognizes that the Developer may not be in a position to address these recommendations before the Technical Sessions given that the results of this summer's field surveys will not be available in time to complete the cumulative effects assessment. EC therefore anticipates that we will not likely be asking questions pertaining to Topics #22 – Biophysical Cumulative Effects, # 24 – Biophysical Mitigation Measures and #26 – Biophysical Follow-up and Monitoring unless additional information specific to these topics becomes available before the Technical Sessions. EC expects to address these issues in our written Technical Submission.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Stacey LeBlanc at (780) 951-8953 or Stacey.LeBlanc@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Ogilvie', with a stylized horizontal line extending from the end.

Carey Ogilvie
Head, Environmental Assessment North
Environmental Protection Operations
Prairie and Northern Region

cc: Susanne Forbrich (Manager, Environmental Assessment and Marine Programs, EPO)
Vanessa Charlwood (Head, Western Arctic Unit, EC-CWS)
James Hodson (Environmental Assessment Coordinator, CWS)
Stacey LeBlanc (Environmental Assessment Coordinator, EPO)
Mike Fournier (Senior Environmental Assessment Coordinator, EPO)