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Inuvik, Northwest Territories
X0E 0T0

Your file Votre référence
02/10-05
Our file Notre référence
10-HCAA-CA6-0006

Environmental Impact Review Board
PO Box 2120
Inuvik, NT
X0E 0T0

Sent via email: eirb@jointsec.nt.ca

August 13th, 2012

Dear Mr. Nasogaluak:

Subject: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Issues for Discussion at the Technical Sessions for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway.

As requested by the Environmental Impact Review Board, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) would like to submit the following list of questions and issues anticipated for discussion at the Technical Sessions to be held August 22 and 23rd in Inuvik for the review of the proposed Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project.

- Lessons learned from the Tuktoyaktuk to Granular Source 177 access road: further clarification regarding some of the challenges and lessons learned from the project and how it will be applied for the construction of crossings for this proposed project;
- Final list of all crossing, including the inclusion of the latest fisheries information: Department of Transportation (DoT) has committed to providing this information either prior to or just following the technical sessions. It has also been acknowledged that some crossing designs will not be final until later, and as such scenarios will be developed to consider the kinds of mitigation measures needed for all crossing types.
- Fish Passage: DFO agrees that fish passage monitoring by capturing fish is not necessary, but there is a need to monitor and ensure that flows are always maintained up and downstream of fish-frequented water crossings. Further clarification is needed as to how DoT plans to monitor fish passage.
- Timing for the construction of crossings: further clarification is needed on when crossing installation would take place and a discussion on the types of mitigation measures necessary. This information could be included as part of the scenarios mentioned above in the final list of crossings;
- Borrow sources and the use of explosives near water: DFO would like to clarify that based on NWT-specific monitoring results we recommend the use of a lower threshold value than indicated in our guidelines. DFO will be inquiring as to the specific plans for quarry development with regards to water bodies.
- Monitoring: In response to DFO's IR#109, clarification is needed on how training of environmental monitors will be done;
- Action Plan – Increase Access to Fisheries Resources: DFO is seeking clarification on the Action Plan referred to by the proponent and how the plan will work with other fisheries management initiatives in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. DFO will provide information on the initiatives the department is involved in for fisheries management along the planned highway corridor.

- Cumulative Effects: the future Mackenzie Valley Highway should be considered. to the degree information is available. respecting that potential development in the cumulative effects assessment.
- Fish Habitat Compensation Plan: An authorization under the Fisheries Act is likely required for the project and therefore the development of a plan to offset the loss of fish habitat would also be needed. DFO would be seeking a draft outline of a plan prior to the hearings.

Should you have any questions please contact at me at sarah.olivier@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or by phone at (867) 669-4919.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Olivier', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sarah Olivier
Senior Environmental Assessment Analyst, Western Arctic Area
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

c.c.: Corrie Gibson - DFO
Bev Ross - DFO
Amanda Joynt - DFO
Larry Dow - DFO