



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

August 29, 2012

Manager, Environmental Assessment
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A2L9

Attention: Mr. Gavin More

Dear Mr. More,

Re.: Request for Clarification of Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Proceeding

The Review Panel is requesting clarification of the role of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), GNWT in the balance of the Review of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway proposal. You indicated in the Technical Sessions and in recent correspondence to the Panel that ENR would be joined by a number of other Territorial Government officials to address the project and any Panel questions which may result during the hearings.

Please explain the relationship between ENR and the Developer (the Department of Transportation, GNWT, the Town of Inuvik and the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk) and indicate whether ENR has been a part of the Developer's team up to this point in the proceeding. In the interests of fairness to other parties, it is essential that ENR advise the Review Panel whether the Technical Submission that ENR indicated it would be submitting will be an independent evaluation of the information filed by the Developer.

The Review Panel is also requesting clarification about the GNWT approach to mitigation and monitoring of both direct and indirect socio-economic effects from the proposed construction and operation of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway. At the Technical Sessions, the Department of Transportation indicated that they would be responsible for mitigation and monitoring during construction but that once construction was completed, their responsibilities would be limited to the right of way. The information provided by ENR at the Technical Sessions about socio-economic impacts was that no specific mitigation and monitoring were planned and that any action by the GNWT would be from a broad government policy and programming perspective.

It is not clear to the Review Panel how this division of labour will work and more particularly whether this approach will ensure that potential effects of the development will be adequately mitigated. During the hearings, the Review Panel will likely have questions for the GNWT, regarding the mitigation and monitoring for any socio-economic effects that may occur if the project proceeds.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Thank you,



Eli Nasogaluak
Environmental Impact Review Coordinator
Environmental Impact Review Board

cc. Jim Stevens