

September 10, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Nasogaluak,

Infrastructure Canada (INFC) is pleased to provide this letter as our submission to the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) as part of the environmental assessment review process being conducted for the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, Town of Inuvik, and the Government of the Northwest Territories' Construction of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway (EIRB 02/10-05).

This submission is intended to provide a brief overview of our mandate and of our role in this project.

As you may know, in Budget 2011, the Government of Canada committed to contributing \$150 million to support the construction of an all-season road between Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. Budget 2011 noted that the project would be completed in partnership with the Government of Northwest Territories, the private sector, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and local communities.

INFC, within the Transport, Infrastructure and Communities portfolio, will administer the federal contribution to this project on behalf of the Government of Canada. Our mandate is to work with provinces, territories, municipalities, the private sector and non-profit organizations, along with other federal departments and agencies, to help build and revitalize the infrastructure Canadians need and use every day.

As the administrator of the federal contribution to the project, INFC is a responsible authority under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) and a competent government authority under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA). Relying upon the scientific expertise of other federal government departments, INFC will coordinate the Government of Canada's single response to the EIRB Panel Report that will meet the federal requirements under both the CEAA and the IFA.

Key issues about the project are still being reviewed by the expert parties. Since INFC will rely on the expertise of other federal government parties with respect to the issues, INFC anticipates that we will be able to take a position on the project once the expert parties have completed their review which is expected to be at the final submission stage of the review.

As of September 4, 2012 INFC is not in a position at this time to conclude on whether the requirements of the CEAA and the IFA have been met. INFC recommends that the Developer be required to address the gaps identified by the federal expert departments in order to ensure that both CEAA and IFA requirements are met.

INFC does not require time on the agenda for a technical presentation; however we would appreciate the opportunity to make opening remarks and will be available at the Public Hearings in both Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk to answer questions should they arise.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Phoebe Miles at (613) 948-8160 or phoebe.miles@infc.gc.ca.

Thank you,



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