



October 5, 2012

By email to: eirb@jointsec.nt.ca

Mr. Eli Nasogaluak
Environmental Impact Review Coordinator
Environmental Impact Review Board
PO Box 2120
Inuvik, NT, X0E 0T0

Dear Mr. Nasogaluak,

RE: Review Panel Ruling Directive & Revised Schedule
EIRB FILE NO: 02/10-05 – Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project

The Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO) is writing to the Review Panel on behalf of all federal departments participating in the environmental impact review for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project. This letter is a response to the Review Panel's ruling directive and revised schedule, dated September 28, 2012.

The Government of Canada requests that the Review Panel provide the opportunity for an information request (IR) process and set the schedule for the remainder of the review as outlined in their first option (with an IR process) in the September 28 directive. Under this schedule federal departments will be prepared to submit information requests, as necessary, on October 15 and final technical submissions on October 29. We also note that providing the opportunity for information requests will not cause any delay to the review process as the date for the issuance of the Panel's report will be January 4, 2013 with or without an information request process.

The Government of Canada would appreciate the opportunity to ask questions and clarifications about the additional reports, plans and analysis to be submitted by the proponent. Parties have not yet had the opportunity to effectively review all of the proponent's recent submissions, or any outstanding submissions, and cannot confirm at this time whether any IRs will be required. However, the proponent is submitting a large volume of information and providing an opportunity for questions could support the resolution of outstanding issues prior to the submission of final reports by the parties.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this information further, please do not hesitate to contact Kate Witherly at kate.witherly@cannor.gc.ca or 867-766-8436.

Sincerely,

Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

cc: Conrad Baetz, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Stacey LeBlanc, Environment Canada; Amanda Joynt, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Rebecca Stranberg, Health Canada; Phoebe Miles, Infrastructure Canada
John King, Natural Resources Canada; Nelson Perry, Parks Canada
Michael Molinski, Transport Canada