



P. O. Box 1871
Inuvik, Northwest Territories
X0E 0T0

April 22, 2008

Your file Votre référence
G 08 H 004

Our file Notre référence
08-HCAA-CA6-00046

Mr. Johnny Edwards
Gwich'in Land & Water Board
P.O. Box 2018
Inuvik, NT X0E0T0

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Subject: Fuel Storage, Mackenzie East Channel, Gwich'in Wellness Centre

Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Fish Habitat Management Program (DFO) received the proposal, put forth by the Gwich'in Tribal Council, on April 21, 2008.

The proposal has been reviewed to determine whether it is likely to result in impacts to fish and fish habitat which are prohibited by the habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act* or those prohibitions of the *Species at Risk Act* that apply to aquatic species.*

We understand that the proponent's plans include:

- Shipping up to 35,000 litres of diesel fuel from Inuvik to the site between November and April. Fuel will be stored in a double hulled Enviro-Tank.
- Storing approximately 250 litres of gasoline and 12,000 litres of propane on site.
- Shipping water from Inuvik between November and April.
- Water will be drawn from the Mackenzie River between May and October.
- Grey water and black water will be treated and discharged onto land away from any water body.

To reduce potential impacts to fish and fish habitat we are recommending the following mitigation measures be included into the proposed plans:

1. Every effort should be made to retain riparian vegetation, as it is critical for the protection of littoral and riparian fish habitats as well as for providing cover and enhancing bank stability.
2. Water intakes should be properly screened and be equipped with fine mesh of 2.54 mm (1/10") to prevent the entrainment and/or impingement of fish. Please refer to the Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guideline (DFO, 1995) which is attached for your reference.

*Those sections most relevant to the review of development proposals include 20, 22, 32 and 35 of the *Fisheries Act* and sections 32, 33 and 58 of the *Species at Risk Act*. For more information please visit www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

3. The construction of temporary crossings over ice-covered streams is conducted as specified in the attached Ice Bridges Operational Statement. This Operational Statement provides specific advice on ice bridge construction, maintenance and removal. If it is determined that the conditions and measures described in the Operational Statement can not be complied with, DFO should be contacted with the details of the project.
4. All fuel storage should have secondary containment (such as doubled walled tanks, berms etc.) that is sufficient to ensure that fuel will not be able to enter any water body.
5. A spill contingency plan should be made available to all persons required to work on site and followed in the event of a spill.
6. Spills of oil, fuel or other deleterious material should be reported immediately, as per existing reporting protocols, to the NWT/Nunavut 24-hour Spill Report Line at (867) 920-8130, including all spills near or into a water body.

Provided that the additional mitigation measures described above are incorporated into the proposed plans, DFO has concluded that the proposal is not likely to result in impacts to fish and fish habitat.

The proponent will not need to obtain a formal approval from DFO in order to proceed with the proposal.

If the plans have changed or if the description of the proposal is incomplete the proponent should contact this office to determine if the advice in this letter still applies.

Please be advised that any impacts to fish and fish habitat which result from a failure to implement the proposal as described or incorporate the additional mitigation measures included in this letter could lead to corrective action such as enforcement.

If you have any questions please contact the undersigned at (867) 777-7516, by fax at (867) 777-7501, or by email at Erica.Wall@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Erica Wall
Habitat Biologist

cc Freddy Carmichael, Gwich'in Tribal Council
 Nicole Lights, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board
 Derrick Moggy, DFO Yellowknife
 Larry Dow, DFO Inuvik
 Terry Stein, C&P, DFO Inuvik