



Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council

P.O. Box 30 Fort McPherson, NT X0E 0J0

Phone: (867) 952-2330

Fax: (867) 952-2212

Wednesday November 18, 2015

AlecSandra Macdonald
Gwich'in Land and Water Board
PO Box 2018
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0
Via email:amacdonald@glwb.com

Dear AlecSandra,

Re: Water License Application: G99L8-001-and 002 – Department of Transportation Peel and Mackenzie River ferry crossings.

The Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council held their regular meeting on Thursday November 12, 2015, at which time a review of the applications was done.


The following are concerns/comments for Gwich'in Land and Water Board to consider before any decision is made on the applications:

- The Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council supports the Designated Gwich'in Organization's motion for a public hearings to be held in Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic so that community members can voice their concerns/comments.
- There has been poor communication by D.O.T. with the Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council.
- It has been brought to the Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council's attention that the ferry workers don't consistently adhere to the Spill Contingency Plan, and that spills and other incidents are not being reported to the appropriate authorities. The communities of Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic are not notified of any spills or incidents that occur at the ferry landings.
- Are the ferry workers trained to clean up oil spills?
- Are the ferry workers certified with heavy equipment or class 1 license?
- Where is all the granular material that is retrieved from the ferry landings stored?
- A Gwich'in environmental monitor should be present when granular material is being retrieved.
- Why are the ferries operating right into November for the past two years? Where is funding coming from to off-set the cost?
- Have there been any studies done on the ferry landings and are the effects of depositing granular material on the fishing spots and eddies next to the ferries understood?
- Have there been any studies done on the Peel River with a focus on the sand bars and eddies and does the deposit of granular material contribute to the changes on the river?

- If there should be a major spill resulting from a truck transporting fuel or other hazardous materials near the landings - how will D.O.T. proceed to clean up and restore water and shore line back to their original state? What happens to the water that humans, animals and birds drink? What happens to the fish, other aquatic species, birds and plants that use and live in the water - who takes responsibility for this?
- We, the people of Fort McPherson, value our land and waters, we use the fish and drink the water, and we want the next generation to have safe drinking water and good fish to eat.
- Due to climate and environmental changes, the Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council considers a shorter term for the license appropriate. What are the reasons for D.O.T.'s request for a 25 year license?
- The Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council requests that the GLWB consider a license term of 5 years.

Please take our concerns into consideration when making a decision on the water license renewal applications for the Mackenzie and Peel ferry landings. The Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council looks forward to working with the Department of Transportation in protecting the water and environment for the next generation. If you require any information, please feel free to call the Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council at (867) 952-2330.

Thank you,



Mary Rose Tetlich
President
Tetlit Gwich'in R.R.C.