



November 5th, 2012

Angela Love
Regulatory Specialist
Sahtu Land & Water Board
P.O. Box 1
Fort Good Hope, NT
X0E 0H0

**RE: Land Use Permit Application S12X-006
Husky Oil Operations Ltd – Groundwater Baseline Drilling Program
Tulita District, Sahtu Settlement Area**

Dear Ms. Love:

As requested in correspondence from the Sahtu Land and Water Board dated October 29th, 2012, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fish Habitat Management – Western Arctic Area (DFO) has reviewed the above mentioned Land Use Permit application submitted by Husky Oil Operations Ltd. (Husky) for a groundwater baseline drilling program in the Sahtu Settlement Area. This program will be supported with water use, access and camps permitted and licensed previously. Under Sections 124 and 125 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*, DFO is participating in a preliminary screening by providing specialist information and/or advice. Our review was limited to potential impacts of the project on fish and fish habitat pursuant to the responsibilities of DFO under the habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act* or those prohibitions of the *Species at Risk Act* that apply to aquatic species.*

Our review consisted of:

- Land Use Permit application S12X-006 and supporting documents distributed by the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB)
- E-mail correspondence from Angela Love (SLWB) to Rick Walbourne (DFO) dated October 30th, 2012.
- E-mail correspondence from Jenica von Kuster (Husky) to Rick Walbourne (DFO) dated October 31st, 2012.

It is our understanding that the proposal consists of:

- Groundwater drilling investigations at twenty shallow drilling sites and five bedrock drilling sites
- Water use previously licensed under Water Licenses S11L3-002 and S11L3-003
- Use of camp and access previously permitted under Land Use Permit S11T-002

* 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.

- The project will occur from January to March 2013;

Provided that the plans are implemented as described, DFO has concluded that the proposal is not likely to result in impacts to fish and fish habitat.

Please be advised that any impacts to fish and fish habitat which result from a failure to implement this proposal as described may result in contravention of the *Fisheries Act*.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (867) 669-4926, by fax at (867)669-4940, or by email at rick.walbourne@dfo-mpo.gc.ca .

Sincerely,



Rick Walbourne
Habitat Biologist
Fish Habitat Management
Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Western Arctic Area

c.c: Jenica von Kuster – Husky Oil Operations Ltd.
Steve Deschene – Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada