

7.2 Review Comments from Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

ID	Topic	Reviewer Comment/Recommendation	Proponent Response
1	General File	<p>Comment: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) - Cover Letter. </p>	
5	<p>Topic 1- Appendix 1 EPP - Temporary crossings over ice-covered water bodies</p>	<p>Comment: Where the construction of temporary crossings over ice covered water bodies is required, the proponent should conduct the activities as specified in DFO's Northwest Territories protocol on Ice Bridges and Snow Fills. This provides specific advice on ice bridge and snow fill construction, maintenance and removal. </p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>The proponent should follow the DFO's Northwest Territories Operational Statement on Ice Bridges and Snow Fills for any temporary crossings over ice covered water bodies related to the proposed land use activities.</p>	<p>Nov 7: Suncor has reviewed DFO's Northwest Territories Operational Statement on Ice Bridges and Snow fills. Suncor does not anticipate requiring an ice bridge or snow fill, however, if snow fills are deemed necessary, the measures as outlined in the Northwest Territories Operational Statement on Ice Bridges and Snow fills will be incorporated into the construction, operation, and de-commissioning of the winter road access. Suncor will post the operational statement at the work site to ensure it is readily available for personnel.</p>
6	<p>Appendix 1. EPP - Winter Water Withdrawal - General</p>	<p>Comment: The removal of water under ice covered water bodies can impact fish through oxygen depletion, loss of overwintering habitat and/or reductions in littoral habitat. </p> <p>Recommendation: DFO recommends that the proponent adhere to the DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal from Ice-Covered Waterbodies in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (attached) to avoid such impacts. To mitigate impacts to fish from water withdrawal from ice covered water bodies, and to provides tandardized guidance to water users, including volume limits for certain water source types, DFO has developed this protocol in conjunction with industry and other regulators.</p>	<p>Nov 7: The rationale outlined in the DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal from Ice-Covered Water bodies in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut states, "In the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, winter activities such as access road construction, exploratory drilling, and camp operations often require large amounts of water. Excessive amounts of water withdrawn from ice-covered water bodies can impact fish through oxygen depletion, loss of over-wintering habitat, and/or reductions in littoral habitat." Suncor is not proposing to withdraw excessive amounts of water; for the duration of the</p>

program Suncor will withdrawal 15,000m3 which is much less than 10% of the available under ice volume. Nehkedi Environmental Limited (Nehkedi) contacted the Department of Fisheries and Oceans prior to submitting the SLWB application to discuss the DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal from Ice-Covered Water bodies in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Nehkedi was advised that the water source, Colville Lake, is extensive and the amount of water required is minimal and only being taken over a short period of time, therefore, the project would not need to be submitted for review to DFO and no further water body assessments would be required.

- 7 Appendix 1. **Comment:** DFO has a prepared a Fish Screen Design EPP - Winter Criteria for Flood and Water Truck Pumps guidance Water document. The objective of this document is to Withdrawal provide fish screen design criteria for common - General applications related to water withdrawal for the Construction construction and maintenance of seasonal winter of Winter roads.  **Recommendation:** DFO recommends that the Roads proponent adhere to the recently finalized Fish Screen Design Criteria for Flood and Water Truck Pumps (attached) where appropriate. The proponent should also review the attached 'Water Flow Calculation Form' and the supplementary 'Application of the NWT Winter Water Withdrawal Protocol with Bathymetric Profiles of Select Small Lakes in the Mackenzie Delta Region' (Attached)
- Nov 7:** Suncor has reviewed the attached documents and, as per Table 7-12 of the Environmental Protection Plan, Suncor has proposed to adhere to the Fish Screen Design Criteria for Flood and Water Truck Pumps (DFO, 2011) and the Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guidelines (DFO, 1995). Suncor has proposed additional environmental protection and mitigation measures as described in Table 7-12 to prevent potential effects on fish and fish habitat.