



Sahtu Land & Water Board
REASONS FOR DECISION
Issued Pursuant to Section 121 of
The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act
Water Licence S20L8-002 (Type “B”)

This is the decision of the Sahtu Land & Water Board (the Board) with respect to an application for a Land Use Permit and Water Licence dated September 18, 2020 made by:

The Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Transportation,
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

for: Construction of the Prohibition Creek (all-season) Access Road, Tulita District, NT

With respect to this application, written notice was given to 24 organizations within the Sahtu Settlement Area and 14 outside of the settlement area in accordance with Sections 63 & 64 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA). There was no Public Hearing held in association with this Application.

DECISION

After having been satisfied that the project has been screened pursuant to s.124(1) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, and that any potential adverse environmental effects were insignificant or mitigable with known technology, and as such the application could proceed through the regulatory process and after reviewing the submission of the Applicant and after reviewing the written comments received by the Board; the Board, having due regard to the facts and circumstances, the merits of the submissions made to it, and to the purpose, scope and intent of the MVRMA and Regulations made thereunder has determined that:

Land Use Permit S20L8-002 will be issued subject to the terms and conditions contained therein.

REASONS

The Board's reasons for this decision are as follows:

- The Board is satisfied that appropriate consultation has been conducted and that advice has been sought and considered, in accordance with sections 63 and 64 of the MVRMA;
- The Project conforms to the Sahtu Land Use Plan
- The construction of the Access Road provides training, employment and economic opportunities for Tulita District beneficiaries;
- The construction of the Access Road provides access to Sahtu lands for recreation, tourism and business development, including easier access for community members to their traditional fishing and hunting areas;
- It is the opinion of the Board that the terms and conditions attached to S20E-005 and S20L8-002, pursuant to the MVRMA, will ensure that any potential environmental impacts resulting from this development are not significant. The effects of the Project on the environment can take place in an environmentally responsible manner provided that environmental considerations and mitigation measures outlined in the Land Use Permit and Water Licence application documents are followed;

- GNWT-INF will continue comprehensive, meaningful and ongoing engagement efforts with local communities to address concerns and to improve understanding of Project activities and potential effects; and
- The use of land proposed by the Proponent is of a nature contemplated by the MVRMA.
- The Project has widespread support. Also, the benefits of the project clearly exceed the environmental cost.

The Proponent has been notified through a provision included in the scope of the Land Use Permit, that compliance with the terms and conditions of this Permit has no effect on the Permittee's responsibility for compliance with the requirements of any other legislation.

SIGNED this 27th day of October 2020 on behalf of the SAHTU Land & Water Board.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry Wallace".

Larry Wallace
Chair, Sahtu Land and Water Board.