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Staff Report

Applicant: Aurora College - Thebacha Campus	
Location: Fort Smith – Salt Mountain Area, NT	File Number: MV2016F0017
Date Prepared: August 4, 2021	Date of Board Meeting: August 19, 2021
Subject Extension Request	

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to present to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB/the Board) a request, submitted by Aurora College – Thebacha Campus, to extend the term of Land Use Permit (Permit) MV2016F0017 for an additional two years.

2. Background

- August 25, 2016 – Issuance of Permit MV2016F0017;
- June 23, 2021 – Permit extension request received;
- June 29, 2021 – Permit extension request distributed for public comments;
- July 20, 2021 – Due date for public comments (none received);
- July 27, 2021 – Due date for responses to comments (none received);
- **August 19, 2021 – Extension request presented to the Board for decision; and**
- August 24, 2021 – Current expiration of Permit MV2016F0017.

3. Discussion

Permit MV2016F0017 was issued to Aurora College - Thebacha Campus on August 25, 2016, with the expiry date of August 24, 2021. The Permit allows for quarrying and road maintenance activities as well as the use of equipment in the Salt Mountain area of Fort Smith in support of the college’s Heavy Equipment Operation Program (HEO). The program offers safe training, in a low-traffic area. The work undertaken by students of the program is intended to benefit road users residing in the area where the work is being carried out. The associated GNWT-Quarry Permit allows for the removal of 18,000 cubic metres of shale, 3000 cubic metres of gravel, and 3000 cubic metres of sand.

On June 23, 2021, Aurora College requested an a 2-year extension to Permit MV2016F0017.

Engagement

An Engagement Record was included as part of the Permittee's request, which indicates that the following Parties were engaged:

- Fort Smith Metis Council;
- Salt River First Nation;
- Smith's Landing First Nation; and
- Town of Fort Smith.

The engagement included initial and follow-up emails sent to the above-mentioned parties on May 25, June 10, and June 18, 2021. No issues or concerns were raised during the review period.

Type of Area

The project is in a territorially - administered area.

4. Comments

Inspection Report

Board staff have reviewed the GNWT-Lands Inspection Reports for the file, available on the public registry. The site inspections were carried out on August 26, 2016, June 13, 2017, and June 12, 2018. No environmental issues or concerns were identified.

5. Public Review

The extension request was distributed for public review on June 29, 2021, using the new Online Review System (ORS). No submissions were received from reviewers by the July 20, 2021, deadline, and no responses were required by Aurora College by the July 27, 2021, deadline. Consequently, no review summary is attached.

Draft Permit

No changes are proposed to the conditions. An updated cover page was drafted using a newly approved template, for the Board's consideration.

6. Security

The GNWT is exempted from posting reclamation security under section 94 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. There is no condition requiring the posting of security in the Permit. No changes are proposed.

7. Conclusion

Board staff conclude there are no outstanding issues or concerns with this Request, and that it can be granted.

8. Recommendation

Board staff recommend the Board **make a motion to approve an extension to term of Land Use Permit MV2016F0017** for an additional two-years.

9. Attachments

- [Registry page for Permit MV2016F0017](#)
- [Extension Request and Supporting Information](#)
- Draft Land Use Permit Cover Page
- Draft Land Use Permit Conditions
- Draft Decision Letter from the Board

Respectfully submitted,



Sean Joseph
Regulatory Specialist