



March 31, 2016

Ryan Fequet
Executive Director
Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board
1 – 4905 48th Street
Yellowknife NT, X1A 3S3

Dear Mr. Fequet,

Tłıchq All-Season Road (TASR) Application Submission Package

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), with the support of the Tłıchq Government and Whatì Community Government, is pleased to submit a Type A Land Use Permit application and Type B Water Licence application to the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (WLWB) in order to construct an all-season road from Highway 3 (KM 196) to the community government boundary of Whatì. This project has been identified as a GNWT commitment under the Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories 2016-2019.

The proposed project consists of constructing an all-season two lane gravel road with an approximate length of 94 km and right-of way width of 60 m. The cleared driving surface will be approximately 8.5 m in width. Culverts and/or two lane bridges will be utilized over water crossings as is necessary. The road has been engineered to meet RLU 80 standards, which equates to a design speed of 80 km/h and a posted speed limit of 70km/h. This design standard will allow for year-round use by commercial and private vehicles according to the size and weight limitations outlined in NWT regulations. Traffic levels for the proposed Tłıchq All-season Road (TASR) have been estimated at 20 to 40 vehicles per day. This estimate has taken into consideration any potential traffic volumes of a mine north of Whatì if it were to begin production and develop a road that meets the TASR.

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The proposed footprint is entirely contained within the Wek'èezhì area and begins approximately 40 km southwest of Behchokò. Approximately 17 km of the road is located on Tłchq lands. Four to five borrow sources will be developed including their respective temporary access roads in order to provide material for road construction. Two to three temporary 150-person camps will be staged within the borrow sources. Only one camp will be in operation at a time. Temporary access roads may also be required in order to access suitable water sources for camp use. There are 15 tributaries along the alignment, which include 4 major bridge crossings: Duport River, an unnamed tributary near KM 45, James River and La Martre River. Please see the attached Project Description Report for further details.

Management plans are an important component of the proposed TASR and have been developed to provide suitable mitigation techniques which will be employed during the construction of the proposed TASR to ensure any associated environmental impacts remain minimal. A listing of these plans include: an Emergency Response Plan; Spill Contingency Plan; Waste Management Plan; Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan; Engagement Plan; Erosion and Sediment Control Manual; Quarry Operations Plan(s); Archaeological Site Find Protocol; Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Plan; Closure and Remediation Plan; and In-field Water Analysis Plan.

The Whatì Community Government has been working towards an all-season road for over 30 years. Both the GNWT and Tłchq Government have been working jointly since 2011 to bring this project to fruition. Extensive Tłchq community engagement has indicated that there is overall support for an all-season road to Whatì as it will improve the quality of life of the residents of Whatì. Both the Community Government of Whatì and the Tłchq Government are cognizant of the possible negative aspects (such as out-migration of young people, housing availability and crowding, increased access to alcohol and drugs and increased substance abuse, among others) that an all-season road could bring to Whatì. By taking a proactive approach and addressing the concerns head on by developing suitable community-based mitigation measures that ensure programs, policies and ongoing engagement are occurring now

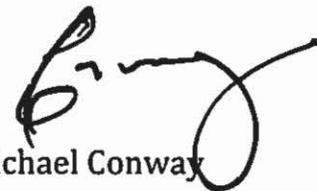
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(See Motion 2015-018 and Special Inter-Agency Committee), these concerns can be effectively mitigated while reducing the cost of living and providing improved employment opportunities to the community.

In research and through the Inter-Agency Committee (2013), key issues were identified and Whatì has since focused on developing plans, policies and programs (e.g., Emergency Response Plan, Community Resilience Plan, among others). The mitigations described in the PDR will enable the development of the proposed TASR to proceed with minimal impact to the environment, while successfully connecting a remote NWT community and opening up the potential for potential future economic gains.

Should you wish to discuss the proposed Tłıchų All-season Road project at any time, you may contact me at (867) 767-9089 ext. 31194 or by email at Michael_Conway@gov.nt.ca at your earlier convenience.

Sincerely,



Michael Conway
Regional Superintendent
North Slave Region

Attachment

c. **Mr. Russell Neudorf, Deputy Minister
Department of Transportation**

**Ms. Laura Duncan, Tłıchų Executive Officer
Tłıchų Government**