



DECEMBER 16, 2022

MR. ZIAUR RAHMAN
MANAGER OF SURFACE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Dear Mr. Rahman:

Annual Review of the Tłıchǵ All-Season Road Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan

As per Measure 10-2, Part 3 of the Mackenzie Valley Review Board's *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision* (Report of Environmental Assessment (EA)) for the Tłıchǵ All-Season Road (TASR) project (EA-1617-01), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is required to conduct an annual public review of the TASR Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP). ENR is working with the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (WLWB) and the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) to coordinate the annual public review of the TASR WMMP. ENR requests that the Department of Infrastructure (INF) submit an updated version of the WMMP (v. 6.0) to ENR and the WLWB by **January 20, 2023**. The updated WMMP, subject to meeting conformity requirements, will then be posted on the WLWB's Online Review System for public comment for a period of 30 days.

INF should work with ENR and North Star Infrastructure (NSI), both of whom are responsible for implementing different aspects of the WMMP, to identify any changes. Version 6.0 of the WMMP should include updates to the revision history table to clearly identify which sections of the WMMP have been modified from version 5.2 of the plan, and any new sections that have been added to the plan.

Once the public comment period has concluded, INF is required by Measure 10-2, Part 3, to respond to comments posted on the WLWB's Online Review System, indicate how recommendations were incorporated, and provide reasons for recommendations which were not incorporated.

After responding to these comments, INF is expected to make further updates to the WMMP that reflect these responses and submit version 6.1 of the WMMP to the WRRB as a management proposal under section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchǵ Agreement by **April 3, 2023**.

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Following the WRRB's review process, and after having responded to the WRRB's recommendations, INF is expected to submit a final updated version of the WMMP (v. 6.2) to the Minister of ENR and the WLWB for approval.

A detailed description of the steps and timeline involved in the WMMP annual public review and subsequent WMMP approval process is provided in the table in Attachment 1 to this letter. Please note that while ENR, WRRB and WLWB will endeavour to cooperate to meet the timelines outlined below, adjustments to the schedule may occur due to each organization's processes and legislated obligations.

During the review and subsequent approvals of the updated WMMP, INF will continue to operate under the current WMMPs approved by the Minister of ENR and the WLWB.

Please contact Kathy Unger, Manager, Habitat and Environmental Assessment, Wildlife and Fish Division, at (867) 767-9237, extension 53227 or kathy_unger@gov.nt.ca if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kathy Unger
Manager, Environmental Assessment & Habitat
Environment and Natural Resources

Attachments

c. Mr. Ryan Fequet
Executive Director
Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board

Ms. Jody Pellissey
Executive Director
Wek'èezhì Renewable Resource Board

Attachment 1 – Process and Timeline for the TASR WMMP annual public review and subsequent approvals

Month/Year	Public review of version 6 of the WMMP
January 2022	Letter issued to INF (including NSI and ENR) directing them to update the WMMP to version 6.0, including any changes that they would like to propose with supporting rationale, and submit it to ENR and the WLWB by January 20, 2023 .
January/February 2023	<p>INF submits version 6.0 of the WMMP to ENR and WLWB by January 20.</p> <p>Version 6.0 of the WMMP posted to the WLWB Online Review System for a 30-day public comment period early February. Version 6.0 of the WMMP should include (or provide links to the following attachments):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2021 Annual Water Licence report <p>WLWB sends out a notice of a 30-day public review to the WLWB distribution list for the TASR project.</p>
March 2023	<p>Comments submitted to the WLWB ORS by March 6.</p> <p>INF (and ENR/NSI) responds to comments on the ORS by March 20.</p>
April 2023	<p>INF submits version 6.1 of the WMMP to the WRRB by April 3, 2023 as a management proposal under section 12.5.1 of the Třchq Agreement. Version 6.1 of the WMMP should contain and updated revision history table indicating how comments from the public review period have been addressed.</p> <p>WRRB posts Version 6.1 of the WMMP on their website for public comment.</p>
May 2023	<p>The WRRB Board meeting is planned for May 2023.</p> <p>WRRB review and decision is circulated seven days following their Board meeting, including final recommendations on version 6.1 of the WMMP.</p>
May/June 2023	<p>INF (and ENR/NSI) take up to 42 days (as per WRRB rules of procedure) to respond to WRRB recommendations.</p> <p>INF (and ENR/NSI) make further changes to the WMMP, if required, and then submit version 6.2 to ENR and WLWB for approval (assume mid June 2023).</p>
July 2023	<p>ENR take up to 30 days to make a decision to approve, approve with further conditions, or reject version 6.2 of the WMMP (mid to late July 2023). WLWB will follow a similar timeline to make a decision to approve, approve with further conditions, or reject version 6.2 of the WMMP.</p> <p>Depending on the scope of changes to version 6.2 of the WMMP, required as a result of the WRRB review, the WLWB may determine that another public review period is required before a decision on approval is made.</p>