



AUGUST 13, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Rahman:

Annual Review of the Tłı̨chǫ All-Season Road Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP)

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 Tłı̨chǫ 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 Infrastructure (INF) submit an updated version of the WMMP (v. 5.0) to ENR and the WLWB by **September 09, 2021**. The updated WMMP will then be posted on the WLWB's Online Review System for public comment for a period of 30 days.

Both ENR and the WLWB noted specific conditions for approval of the previous version of the WMMP (v.4.2) that needed to be addressed prior to the fall 2021 annual public WMMP review. These conditions are outlined in the WLWB's [February 25th, 2021 decision letter](#), and in ENR's [March 21, 2021 approval letter](#). ENR notes that the condition requiring submission within 30 days of approval of an updated version of Appendix F that includes a description of the details on the study design for the use of a thermal imaging device in pre-blast surveys was not met. ENR's approval letter also included a list of INF commitments which were to be addressed prior to the fall 2021 annual public review. ENR expects INF to outline how these approval conditions and commitments have been addressed in its submission cover letter and in updates to version 5.0 of the WMMP. Given that the TASR is expected to be opened for public use while the annual WMMP review process is ongoing, ENR requires that INF also identify any proposed changes to the WMMP that will apply to the operations phase of the road. 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 such changes. Version 5.0 of the WMMP should include updates to the revision history table to clearly identify which sections of the WMMP have been modified from version 4.2 of the plan, and any new sections that have been added to the plan. .../2

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 5.1 of the WMMP to the WRRB as a management proposal under section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchǫ Agreement by **November 12, 2021**.

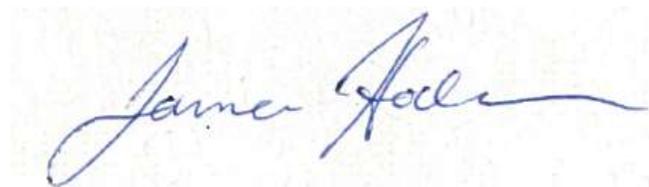
Following the WRRB's review process, and after having responded to the WRRB's recommendations, INF is expected to submit a final updated version of the WMMP (v. 5.2) to the Minister of ENR and the WLWB for approval.

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.

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 Dr. James Hodson, Manager, Habitat and Environmental Assessment, Wildlife and Fish Division, at (867) 767-9237, extension 53227 or james.hodson@gov.nt.ca if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Hodson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James Hodson
Manager, Environmental Assessment & Habitat
Environment and Natural Resources

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

Month/Year	Public review of version 5 of the WMMP
August 2021	Letter issued to INF (including NSI and ENR) directing them to update the WMMP to version 5.0, including any changes that they would like to propose with supporting rationale, and submit it to ENR and the WLWB by September 09 .
September 2021	<p>INF submits version 5.0 of the WMMP to ENR and WLWB by September 09.</p> <p>Version 5.0 of the WMMP posted to the WLWB Online Review System for a 30-day public comment period on September 20. Version 5.0 of the WMMP should include (or provide links to the following attachments):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2020 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>
October 2021	<p>Comments submitted to the WLWB ORS by October 15.</p> <p>INF (and ENR/NSI) respond to comments on the ORS by October 29.</p>
November 2021	<p>INF submits version 5.1 of the WMMP to the WRRB by November 12 as a management proposal under section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchǵ Agreement. Version 5.1 of the WMMP should contain an updated revision history table indicating how comments from the public review period have been addressed.</p> <p>WRRB posts Version 5.1 of the WMMP on their website for public comment.</p>
December 2021	<p>The WRRB Board meeting is planned for the first or second week of December.</p> <p>WRRB review and decision is circulated seven days following their Board meeting, including final recommendations on version 5.1 of the WMMP.</p>
January 2022	<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 5.2 to ENR and WLWB for approval (assume end of January 2022).</p>
February 2022	<p>ENR/WLWB take up to 30 days to make a decision to approve, approve with further conditions, or reject version 5.2 of the WMMP (end of February/early March 2022).</p> <p>Depending on the scope of changes to version 5.2 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>