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Work Plan

File Number	W2020L8-0001
Applicant	Government of Northwest Territories – Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF)
Project	Tłıchq All Season Road (TASR) – Water Licence Amendment Application – Water Use
Location	Tłıchq All Season Road
Activity	Miscellaneous – Road Maintenance and Operations
Date of Work Plan	April 11, 2023
Work Plan Version	Version 1

Purpose of the Work Plan

To outline the processes and timelines to be followed for this regulatory proceeding.

Background

On March 29, 2023, the Applicant submitted an Application to amend its type A Water Licence W2020L8-0001 (Licence) (the Application Package) for the Project to the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (Board). On March 31, 2023, the Application Package was deemed complete. The Licence previously allowed for 900 m³/day water withdrawal during construction activities until August 30, 2022, followed by a reduction to 299 m³/day until the expiry of the Licence (i.e., May 29, 2026). During the summer of 2022, the Applicant determined that more than 299 m³/day would be required for the application of calcium chloride for dust suppression purposes on the Tłıchq All Season Road (TASR) until the expiry of the Licence.

Scope of the Project

The scope of the Project is to increase the daily allowable water withdrawal from 299 m³ to 900 m³, which GNWT-INF requires for dust suppression purposes for 5 to 10 days between the months of June and August, as outlined in the Application Package.

Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the Board's regulatory proceeding:

- The Board will carry out the regulatory proceeding in a timely manner and in accordance with the Boards' [Rules of Procedure](#);

- The Board shall consider the impacts of the proposed Project on and the importance of conservation to the wellbeing and way of life of the Indigenous peoples of Canada (section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*);
- The Board will review the Application Package and develop the licence based on the evidence and rationale submitted by the Applicant and other Parties; and
- The Board will develop the licence in accordance with the Board’s mandate and applicable policies to ensure protection of the environment and, where possible, consistency in decision-making throughout the Mackenzie Valley.

Work Plan Objectives

The Work Plan objectives are:

- Compile a broad range of input through the review process;
- Ensure adequate information is gathered to complete the Board’s regulatory proceeding; and
- Facilitate a thorough, inclusive, and timely regulatory proceeding.

Opportunities for Community Engagement

- The Board requires the Applicant to engage with potentially affected parties – including communities and Indigenous organizations and governments – regarding the Application Package prior to submission;
- The Board will distribute the Application Package, a draft Work Plan, and a draft Licence for public review using the LWB Online Review System (ORS);
- The Board will place a notification(s) regarding the review process in the newspaper;
- The Board will schedule a public hearing and will place a notification regarding the hearing in the newspaper; and
- The Board will hold any other consultation or engagement activity that the Board considers appropriate.

Regulatory Proceeding Timelines

Subsection 47(1) of the *Waters Act* requires the Board to make a decision on a water licence application within a period of nine months after the day on which an application is deemed complete and the review process begins. Based on section 28 of the *Federal Interpretation Act*, this is equivalent to 275 calendar days. The Board’s day count stops whenever the Board requires the Applicant to provide information for the regulatory proceeding to continue (signified by the red shading in the table below). Once that information has been provided, the Board’s day count resumes (signified by the green shading in the table below). Significant milestones have also been bolded in the table below.

The Work Plan table below sets out the main process steps and indicates the responsible Party and the anticipated completion date for each item.

Work Plan

Task	Responsible Party	Date Due (Date Completed)
Application Package Submitted	Applicant	Wednesday, March 29, 2023
Application Package Complete and Distributed for Review with Draft Work Plan	Board staff	Friday, March 31, 2023
Deadline for Comments on Draft Work Plan	All Parties	Thursday, April 06, 2023
Deadline for Comments on Application Package and for Notices of Compensation Claims	Reviewers	Thursday, April 13, 2023
Deadline for Applicant's Responses to Comments	Applicant	Friday, April 14, 2023
Preliminary Screening Determination	Board	April, 2023
Pre-Hearing Conference	All Parties [WLWB Office/Zoom]	Monday, April 17, 2023
Deadline for Interventions, Public Hearing Presentations, and for Compensation Claims	Interveners and Compensation Claimants	Thursday, April 27, 2023
Deadline for Applicant's Response to Interventions and Public Hearing Presentation	Applicant	Monday, May 01, 2023
Public Hearing	All Parties	Thursday, May 11, 2023
Distribute Public Hearing Undertakings	Board Staff	Friday, May 12, 2023
Deadline for Public Hearing Undertakings	All Parties	Thursday, May 18, 2023
Draft Licence Distributed for Review	Board Staff	Monday, May 22, 2023
Deadline for Comments on Draft Licence and Closing Statements	Reviewers	Thursday, June 01, 2023
Deadline for Applicant's Comments on Draft Licence and Closing Statements	Applicant	Monday, June 05, 2023
Board Meeting	Board	June, 2023
Board Recommendation to the Minister	Board	June, 2023
Minister's Decision	Minister	Up to 90 days

Please note that the Work Plan has been created based on the information available and is subject to change at any time.