

**DRAFT Work Plan for the Water Licence Application:
Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF) – W2020L8-0001
Increased Water Use for the Tlicho All-season Road**

Work Plan Timeline

See page 2.

Purpose of the Work Plan

To outline the processes and timelines to be followed for the application for increased water use to support the Tlicho All-Season Road (TASR).

Background

The Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Infrastructure (the Applicant or GNWT-INF) submitted a complete application for a type A water licence (W2020L8-0001). The purpose of this Application is to increase the daily water use limit for the TASR, currently authorized through the Type B W2016L8-0001 Water Licence, from 299 cubic metres per day (m³/day) to 900 m³/day. In accordance with Schedule H of the *Waters Regulations*, the use of 300 or more m³/day triggers a Type A Water Licence. In its application, the GNWT-INF intends to use water withdrawal to support construction activities for the TASR such as: road compaction, dust suppression, winter road construction, and camp use by July 1, 2020.

Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the Work Plan of the WLWB throughout this water licence process:

- The process shall be carried out in a timely manner and shall have regard to the protection of the environment in consideration of the impacts of proposed undertaking and the importance of conservation to the well being and way of life of the aboriginal peoples of Canada (Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982);
- The Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (WLWB or the Board) will review the Application and consider potential licence conditions based on evidence and rationale submitted by the company and other parties;
- The Board will review the Application and consider potential conditions in order to meet the Board's mandate and applicable policies and to ensure consistency in decision-making throughout the Mackenzie Valley.

Work Plan Objectives

The Work Plan is to achieve the following objectives:

- Compile a broad range of input through the review process;
- Ensure adequate information is gathered to complete the water licence process; and,
- Facilitate a thorough, inclusive, and timely water licence process.

Opportunities for Engagement

- The Board requires the Proponent to engage with communities and aboriginal organizations regarding applications prior to its submission;
- The Board will distribute the application to all reviewers on the Board's 'TASR distribution list' – including aboriginal organizations, governments, and communities – for review using the LWB Online Review System;
- The Board will include a notification(s) regarding the review process in the newspaper;
- The Board will hold a public hearing and provide notice to the public of this, in advance, in the newspaper; and
- Any other consultation or engagement activity that the Board considers appropriate.

Task	Responsible Party	Due/Complete
Application submitted by Proponent	Proponent	Monday, June 15, 2020
Application distributed for review	WLWB	Wednesday, June 17, 2020
Comments due on proposed work plan	All Parties	Tuesday, June 23, 2020
Comments due on Application (identify issues for technical session)	Reviewers	Tuesday, July 07, 2020
Response to comments on application	Proponent	Tuesday, July 14, 2020
Pre-Hearing Conference	All Parties	Tuesday, July 21, 2020
Deadline for Interventions	Interveners	Tuesday, July 28, 2020
Deadline for Response to Interventions	Proponent	Wednesday, August 05, 2020
Deadline for Interveners Public Hearing presentations	Interveners	Thursday, August 06, 2020
Deadline for Proponent Public Hearing presentations	Proponent	Monday, August 10, 2020
Circulate agenda for Public Hearing	WLWB	Thursday, August 13, 2020
Public Hearing	All Parties	Thursday, August 20, 2020
Deadline for Public Hearing Undertakings	All Parties	Thursday, August 27, 2020
Draft Water Licence distributed for review	WLWB	Monday, August 31, 2020
Deadline for Reviewer comments on Draft Water Licence and Closing Statements	Interveners	Monday, September 14, 2020
Deadline for Proponent response to Draft Water Licence and Closing Statements	Proponent	Monday, September 21, 2020
Board Meeting	WLWB	Late September – Early October
WLWB Recommendation to the Minister	WLWB	Mid - October – Late October
Timeline for Decision from Minister	Minister	Within 45 Days of WLWB Recommendation. The Minister may extend time limit of Decision by up to 45 days

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