

Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

April 27, 2021

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

Sent via email

Dear Mr. Fequet:

Thank you for your letter dated April 13, 2021 concerning the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board's (WLWB) pending hearing for the Kwetl̓ ɫ ʔaà (Rayrock) Remediation Project and the request that Health Canada participate in this hearing. I am responding on behalf of Stephen Lucas, Deputy Minister of Health Canada.

Health Canada works to protect the health of Canadians from environmental risks. This is achieved through the efforts of various program areas within Health Canada, as well as working jointly with other government departments.

To date, Health Canada has not participated in the WLWB regulatory process for the Rayrock Remediation Project or other regulatory hearings conducted by the WLWB. However, I am pleased to confirm that Health Canada will participate. Health Canada will be represented by Asish Mohapatra, Health Risk Assessment and Toxicological Specialist, and Luigi Lorusso, Unit Head – Contaminated Sites Program.

Health Canada participates in environmental/impact assessment reviews of proposed major projects by providing expert information and knowledge within the department's mandate to the reviewing body. Please note that Health Canada does not make decisions related to regulatory approvals, licensing or permitting for contaminated sites or environment/impact assessment projects.

Under the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan, Health Canada is an Expert Support Department, meaning it provides guidance, training and advice on human health risk assessment to other federal departments, such as Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), who are responsible for contaminated sites under federal responsibility.

It is in this role that Health Canada has been engaged on this project, and I would like to bring to the WLWB's attention that Asish Mohapatra participates on the Rayrock Technical Committee in providing advice to CIRNAC.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Morin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Morin
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c.c.: Mary Taylor, Director General, Environmental Protection Operations,
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Denise MacGillivray, Director General, Regulatory Operations and Enforcement
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