



April 15, 2021

Mr. Ryan Fequet, Executive Director
Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (WLWB)
Via email: www.wlwb.ca

Dear Mr. Fequet:

Thank you for your letter dated April 13, 2021 concerning the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board's (WLWB) pending hearing for the Kwetłı̄zàà (Rayrock) Remediation Project and the request that ECCC participate in this hearing. I am responding on behalf of Dr. Christine Hogan, Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate Change Canada.

ECCC participates in impact assessment reviews, providing expert information and knowledge on subjects within its departmental mandate including climate change, air quality, water quality, biodiversity, environmental preparedness and emergencies. ECCC reviews the proponent's characterization of environmental effects and mitigation measures, and provides advice to decision makers on activities needed to mitigate these environmental effects.

ECCC's science and technical advice is grounded in the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA), the pollution prevention provisions of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA), and the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).

The department has provided such advice during the various stages of the reviews of this Project. To date, we have submitted comments about water quality (notably including radionuclide contamination) and Species at Risk.

I am pleased to confirm that ECCC will be participating in the WLWB hearing as an observer. At this point in time, we have no concerns beyond those found in our departmental submissions. Rest assured that ECCC is following the proceedings. We understand that the department will have the opportunity to ask questions following the Proponent's presentation during the hearing and will do so should an issue arise.

I understand that the department will also have an opportunity to comment on the draft WLWB water license, as well as the opportunity to review and to provide comments on the various management plans that will be developed following the WLWB hearing process.

Thank you for your invitation to participate in the WLWB Public Hearing.

Sincerely,

Mary Taylor
Director General
Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Environmental Protection Branch

c.c.: Asish Mohapatra, Regional Health Assessment and Toxicology Specialist, Health Canada