



March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Ryan Fequet, M.Sc., PMP.  
Executive Director  
Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board  
#1-4905 48<sup>th</sup> St. | Yellowknife, NT | X1A 3S3  
Via email at rfequet@wlwb.ca

Dzẹ nezi Mr. Fequet,

The Whatì waterfalls, traditionally known as Nàìjì, are located on the La Martre River (or Whatì Deè), approximately 20 Kilometers from the Community of Whatì and are accessible by road. It is anticipated that the opening of the Tłchq Highway (which took place in late November 2021) will result in a significant influx of tourists to the community of Whatì. Currently, there is minimal infrastructure to support the tourist experience at the Whatì Falls. Existing infrastructure needs repair and new infrastructure needs to be built in order to ensure a safe and pleasant user experience.

The Tłchq Government Department of Culture and Lands Protection (DCLP) has been studying the possibility of developing some areas near the Whatì Falls for tourism and recreational activities which would include the development of a day use area and potential campground. Some of the current infrastructure at Whatì Falls needs to be repaired or upgraded to make it safer. This work includes significant improvements to the access road and establishing fencing at the current lookout area.

DCLP is submitting this Land Use Permit Application to the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board in order for geotechnical work to begin as soon as possible. This geotechnical work is a necessary prerequisite for the 60% design study that will then enable the road design and alignment to be finalized, and after that construction can occur.

**This project is time-sensitive. Given the tight timeline DCLP is operating under to get this Geotech work done and the time-sensitive nature of the project (summer best for construction), we are requesting that the WLWB process and decide on the application as quickly as possible, considering the factors below.**

- This is a Tłchq Government project entirely on Tłchq private lands, developed by DCLP in collaboration with the Community Government of Whatì (the closest community).
- The project is relatively small and the road construction is largely along the alignment of an existing road.
- We have completed pre-submission engagement requirements, including with government departments, co-management bodies, and the North Slave Metis Alliance.
- DCLP has already reviewed the project proposal and is confident that environmental, cultural, wildlife habitat, socioeconomic, and other protections will be sufficient to prevent any significant impacts, simply by following standard industry practices and standard Board permit conditions.



- We are not aware of any timelines from Interim Measures Agreements (or any other specific consultation/review timeline requirements) that would apply to the proposed project.

Given all of this, we believe the review period and processing time for our permit application can be much shorter than typical timelines.

**In order to carry out this important work during this summer construction season, we respectfully request that the Board issue a permit by the middle of April.**

Please see the attached as part of this land use permit application package:

- Project Description
- Support Letters
- Land Use Permit Application
- Maps
- Engagement Plan Version 1.0 and Engagement Log
- Management Plans

If you have any questions, please contact [mark.poskitt@tlichoc.ca](mailto:mark.poskitt@tlichoc.ca) . Masi cho for your time and consideration.

In Tłıchǫ Unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault'.

Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault  
Director  
Department of Culture and Lands Protection  
Tłıchǫ Government

