



Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
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December 3, 2015

File: MV2015F0012 &
MV2015L8-0005

Ms. Heather Bourassa, Chairperson
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board
P.O. BOX 235
FORT GOOD HOPE NT X0E 0H0

Email: info@sahtulanduseplan.org

Dear Ms. Bourassa:

Howard's Pass Access Road (HPAR) Upgrade Environmental Assessment (EA-1516-01) and the Sahtu Land Use Plan

On July 3, 2015, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) received Land Use Permit and Water Licence Applications for the proposed HPAR land use activity (the Proposed Development). The Proposed Development was subsequently referred to environment assessment (EA) by Parks Canada before the MVLWB assessed whether or not the Applications contained all of the information necessary to deem them complete and initiate the review of the Proposed Development.

The MVLWB received a letter on November 13, 2015 from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) requesting that "the boards take the necessary actions to complete and file on the public record as soon as possible a conformity determination for this land use activity".

On November 25, 2015 the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Review Board (the Review Board) sent a letter to the Board requesting that, "the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board complete a conformity review of the project, or refer the development to the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board for a conformity review, and submit the results to the Review Board."

The MVLWB agrees with the GNWT and the Review Board that it is important that a determination be made to confirm that the Proposed Development is in conformity with the Sahtu Land Use Plan prior to proceeding with the EA.

Although the Proposed Development is undergoing an EA under the authority of the Review Board, the Review Board does not have the authority under the legislation to refer the project to the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board (SLUPB) for a conformity determination.

To this effect, the MVLWB, by way of this letter, under paragraph 47(1)(a) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA), is hereby requesting that the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board (SLUPB) determine whether the proposed activity is in accordance with the Sahtu Land Use Plan. The MVRMA (under subsection 47(3)) requires that a planning board shall transmit its decision to the First Nation, department, agency, body or person that made a referral or application. The MVLWB respectfully requests that the decision made by the SLUPB be transmitted to both the MVLWB and the Review Board, as the decision relates to the ongoing EA.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Rebecca Chouinard at (867) 766-7459 or rchouinard@mvlwb.com, Regulatory & Technical Director; or Tyree Mullaney at (867) 766-7464 or tyree@mvlwb.com, Regulatory Officer.

Sincerely,



Violet Camsell-Blondin
MVLWB A/Chair

Attachment: Annex A

Copied to:

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