

**IR Number:** *Number assigned by MVEIRB* \_\_\_\_\_

**Source:** *North Slave Métis Alliance*

**To:** *Developer*

**Subject:** *Interference with existing water users downstream of the South Gorge Bypass Spillway.*

### **Preamble**

*On page 10 of the Executive summary, section 3.2.4 it states that the bypass spillway gates will open automatically in case of outages at both new and existing plants.*

*Sudden changes to water quality (turbidity, taste, temperature), water level and water velocity can affect existing downstream water users. Campers may find the water level rises to inundate their campsites, and can wash away clothing or supplies left close to the shore. Boats that are not securely tied can be washed away, or if they are too securely tied can be swamped. It may become more dangerous or difficult to swim in the water. If the water becomes colder in a swimming hole, swimming will become less enjoyable. Fishing may be interrupted as changes in the water may cause fish to leave an area or stop feeding. The sudden increase in water volume and velocity can cause turbidity which will affect the taste of fish, and also may affect the palatability and nutritional characteristics of the water for drinking. Sedimentation or washout can affect fish eggs at certain times of the year. Canoeists may experience difficulty travelling upstream if water velocity increases, and they may not be able to travel as far or as fast as planned.*

### **Request**

- ∞ *How and when will the gates be opened when one or both of the plants are not experiencing an outage?*
- ∞ *Is it possible that the either (or both of) the automatic or other opening system for the spillway gates will affect water users downstream?*
- ∞ *How will the public, including traditional users, be informed and protected from negative impacts before there is any sudden change in water level, water quality (turbidity, temperature, etc.) or water velocity?*