

Mackenzie Valley Highway – Summary of Engagement with Federal Agencies and Co-management Boards

Project/File: Mackenzie Valley Highway Project / EA1213-02
Main Issue: Summary of GNWT engagement with federal agencies and co-management boards (November 2023 – February 2024)

The Government of the Northwest Territories engaged with the following Canadian Federal Agencies and co-management boards between November 2023 and February 2024. Discussion topics are listed in the following table with individual summaries attached.

Date	Agency/Organization	Topic
November 22, 2023	Transport Canada	Navigable Waters Along the Mackenzie Valley Highway
November 30, 2023	Transport Canada	Low Level Helicopter Flights
December 19, 2023	Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency	Developer's Assessment Report Overview Presentation
January 9, 2024	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Map Files Requested
January 10, 2024	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Culvert Locations
January 18, 2024	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Clarify roles and responsibilities regarding wildlife and Species at Risk
February 2, 2024	Sahtu Renewable Resources Board Tulita Renewable Resources Council	Wildlife Research Permit for Boreal Caribou Collaring in the Sahtu



Mackenzie Valley Highway, meeting with Transport Canada

Project/File: Mackenzie Valley Highway Project / EA1213-02
Date/Time: November 22, 2023
Main Issue: Interest in Possible Navigable Waters Along Mackenzie Valley Highway
Participants: Transport Canada (TC): Scott Kidd, Gregory Black
CanNor Northern Project Management Office: Shannon Allerston
Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF): Seth Bohnet, Kelly Bourassa
Kalo-Stantec: Erica Bonhomme

The GNWT-INF and Kalo-Stantec met with TC to discuss the Project's requirements pursuant to the Canadian Navigable Waters Protection Act. Kalo-Stantec provided an overview of the Project and answered questions regarding bridges, watercourse crossings and culverts.

Topics of discussion included:

- Bridges and associated permitting for existing bridges along the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road
- Use of the Navigable Water Self-Assessment Tool for watercourse crossings and culverts
- Minor Works requirements for water withdrawals for construction purposes using water trucks



Mackenzie Valley Highway, email from Transport Canada

Project/File: Mackenzie Valley Highway Project / EA1213-02
Date/Time: November 30, 2023
Main Issue: Low Level Helicopter Flights
Participants: Transport Canada (TC): Scott Kidd
Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF):
Seth Bohnet

TC emailed GNWT inquiring whether helicopters would be required to carry external loads over populated areas or major highways. GNWT advised that it is not anticipated that helicopters will need to carry external loads over populated areas or major highways.



Mackenzie Valley Highway, meeting with Federal Agencies

Project/File: Mackenzie Valley Highway Project / EA1213-02
Date/Time: December 19, 2023
Main Issue: Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) Overview Presentation to CanNor
Participants: Environment and Climate Change Canada: Eva Walker, Marie Fast, Natalie Grishaber, Robert Nissen, Meagan Tobin, Andrew Labaj, Melissa Pinto, Reg Ejeckam, Gabriel Bellavance
Northern Projects Management Office: Shannon Allerston, Krista Magee, Boyan Tracz
Health Canada: Lynette Esak, Julie C Anderson, Wendy Wilson
Transport Canada: Scott Kidd
Canadian Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada: Michael Staniewski, Michael Roesch, Jennifer Walsh
Natural Resources Canada: Peter Unger, Clarisse Fiset, Pierre-Olivier Émond, Eli Arkin
Fisheries and Oceans: Tatiana Leclerc-Beaulieu, Rowan Novinger, Alasdair Beattie, Anna-Maija Laflamme
Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF): Patricia Coyne, Anita Ogaa, Kelvin Igwe
K'alo-Stantec: Erica Bonhomme

An overview presentation of the DAR was given by GNWT-INF's environmental consultant, K'alo-Stantec, to orient reviewers. The presentation included an explanation of how the document is organized into five volumes, how engagement outcomes and Traditional Knowledge were incorporated into the report, and outlined notable findings of the assessment as well as GNWT-INF's commitments made in the DAR.

Topics of discussion included:

- Bridge maintenance, ability of the existing bridges to support the expected number of cars on the highway, and safety of single lane bridges
- Borrow materials, including location and adequacy of borrow sources, and considerations for noise and dust at borrow sources
- Operations and maintenance of the highway
- Culvert design in consideration of permafrost
- Location of the highway alignment
- Socio-economic/community wellness committee



Mackenzie Valley Highway, email from DFO

Project/File: Mackenzie Valley Highway Project / EA1213-02
Date/Time: January 9, 2024
Main Issue: Map Files Requested
Participants: Fisheries and Oceans (DFO): Tatiana Leclerc-Beaulieu, Anna-Maija Laflamme
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board): Catherine Fairbairn
Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF): Kelly Bourassa

DFO requested the Review Board provide an ArcGIS or Google Map file showing the right of way, placement of existing and planned culverts/bridges, presence or absence of fish, and placement of borrow/quarries.

At the request of the Review Board, GNWT provided shape files compatible with Google Earth.



Mackenzie Valley Highway, email from DFO

Project/File: Mackenzie Valley Highway Project / EA1213-02
Date/Time: January 10, 2024
Main Issue: Culvert Locations
Participants: Fisheries and Oceans (DFO): Tatiana Leclerc-Beaulieu, Anna-Maija Laflamme
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board): Catherine Fairbairn
Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF): Kelly Bourassa

DFO emailed the Review Board requesting a shapefile showing the location of the new culverts which the Review Board requested from the GNWT. GNWT advised that the current level of design does not include the locations of future culverts. GNWT will provide map file of culvert locations once design advances.



Mackenzie Valley Highway, meeting with Federal Agencies

Project/File: Mackenzie Valley Highway Project / EA1213-02
Date: January 18, 2024
Main Issue: Clarify roles and responsibilities regarding wildlife and Species At Risk (SAR)
Participants: Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC): Eva Walker, Orlagh O'Sullivan, Marie Fast, Natalie Grishaber
Canadian Wildlife Federation: Myra Robertson
Government of Northwest Territories, Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF): Kelly Bourassa
Government of Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Climate Change (GNWT-ECC): Nancy Njerere, James Hodson

GNWT met with ECCC to discuss roles and responsibilities in the assessment of boreal caribou and other SAR in the Developer's Assessment Report.

Discussion included GNWT-ECC scientific expertise and data which may be used in responding to wildlife and SAR-related questions throughout the Project.

GNWT and ECCC will continue to meet where further topic-specific discussions are required.



Mackenzie Valley Highway, meeting with SRRB and TRRC

Project/File: Mackenzie Valley Highway Project / EA1213-02
Date/Time: February 2, 2024
Main Issue: Wildlife Research Permit for Boreal Caribou Collaring in the Sahtu
Participants: Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB): Catrina Owen, Stephanie Yuill, Jonathan Yakelaya, Leon Andrew
Tulita Renewable Resources Council (TRRC): Frederick Andrew, Lindsay Norwegian, Stella Bayha-Yallee, Roderick Yallee, Frank Andrew, Jimmy Mendo, and Fred Clement [by phone].
Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF): Kelly Bourassa
Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Climate Change (GNWT-ECC): James Hodson, Heather Sayine-Crawford

The GNWT met with SRRB and TRRC to discuss the Wildlife Research Permit for Boreal Caribou collaring in the Sahtu Region as part of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project Environmental Assessment.

Topics of discussion included Caribou well-being and reporting results back to the communities, and a proposal to continue boreal caribou collaring in the Sahtu.