



Catherine Fairbairn
Senior Environmental Assessment Advisor
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
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DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

March 27, 2025

Dear Ms. Fairbairn:

Response to Notice of Proceeding regarding Pedzeh Ki First Nation Request for Ruling (PR 346) - Mackenzie Valley Highway Project Environmental Assessment (EA1213-02)

On March 24, 2025, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) issued a Notice of Proceeding regarding Pehdzeh Ki First Nation's (PKFN) Request for Ruling to have the Review Board accept their confidential Indigenous Knowledge (IK) in written form. The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has reviewed PKFN's Request for Ruling and acknowledges their concerns regarding the potential impacts of sharing sensitive Indigenous Knowledge (IK) related to the Ndeh and has no issue with the Request for Ruling.

As mentioned in the Request for Ruling, the GNWT has worked diligently with PKFN to establish a Non-Disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement to ensure that PKFN's invaluable IK can be integrated into the Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH) Project. The GNWT remains committed to working with Indigenous Governments and Indigenous organizations to address Project concerns.

Regarding PKFN's concerns on timelines, consultation, the alignment, and harvesting (PR342), the GNWT agrees with PKFN that Parties should have enough time to prepare and share information, and to review and respond to each other's information, before EA1213-02 enters the hearing stage. The GNWT continues to review the PKFN realignment report prepared by Maskwa Engineering Ltd./Delta Engineering Ltd. titled *The Mackenzie Valley Alternate Highway Route Alignment A Study on Physical Viability*. The GNWT will follow-up directly with PKFN to determine how the findings from this report can be used to inform the MVH Project moving forward.

Should you have any questions, or if you would like further information, please contact me at (867)-767-9082 ext. 31035, or by email at Seth_Bohnet@gov.nt.ca. Alternatively, you can reach out to Patricia Coyne, Manager MVH Environmental Affairs at (867)-767-9082 ext. 31033, or by email at Patricia_Coyne@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,

Seth Bohnet
Director, Strategic Infrastructure
Infrastructure

c. Distribution List

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