



Catherine Fairbairn
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Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
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DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

March 28, 2025

Dear Ms. Fairbairn:

Response to Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's 'Directives to provide timely responses and a concordance table in the DAR Addendum' (PR347) - Mackenzie Valley Highway Project Environmental Assessment (EA1213-02)

On March 26, 2025, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) received correspondence from the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) outlining concerns with the timeliness and tracking of GNWT's responses to Round 2 Information Requests (IR).

MVEIRB has issued the following formal Directives to the GNWT:

1. The GNWT will provide timely responses to remaining IRs and will meet deadlines set in the workplan or will write to the Review Board requesting an extension.
2. The GNWT will provide a concordance table as part of the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) addendum. This will be designed to help parties quickly and easily find the responses to questions they asked during Round 2 IRs.

The GNWT shares the MVEIRB's commitment to an environmental assessment process that is both fair and timely; and is fully appreciative of the need for clear communication and consideration of the EA Workplan. After reviewing the February 27, 2025 Notice of Proceeding, the GNWT communicated to the MVEIRB on February 28, 2025 that we would work towards submission of all remaining Round 2 IRs by April 11, 2025. The GNWT continues to work towards that date.

The GNWT is currently preparing responses to the outstanding IRs, as well as evaluating the recently received *Mackenzie Valley Alternate Highway Route Alignment Study* submitted to GNWT and MVEIRB by Pehdzéh Ki First Nation (PKFN) on March 4, 2025. The GNWT commits to follow-up with the MVEIRB before April 11, 2025, should the GNWT need to request an extension.

The GNWT also commits to providing a concordance table along with the DAR Addendum to alleviate concerns with cross-referencing IRs and responses.

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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

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