



EA1213-02

April 10, 2025

Chief Jamie Moses
Box 56, Wrigley, NT
XOE 1E0

Via email: chief@pkfn.ca

Mackenzie Valley Highway, Government of the Northwest Territories

Dear Chief Moses,

RE: Review Board Ruling to accept written confidential Indigenous Knowledge

Review Board Ruling

The Review Board has decided to accept the request by PKFN to file Indigenous Knowledge in written form under confidential cover, for the following reasons:

- The information described by PKFN will be useful for predicting and determining the significance of impacts of the Mackenzie Valley Highway project, particularly related to the routing of the project, and impacts on traditional land use and sensitive areas.
- Significant harm may result to PKFN if this information was made public, as demonstrated by past experiences PKFN described.
- The EA can proceed fairly by having a plain language summary (that does not include confidential information) on the public registry, and a process for parties to access the confidential information for the purpose of the environmental assessment in a manner that ensures confidentiality will be maintained .

Review Board staff will work with PKFN to identify an approach for accessing this information that is both fair and respects confidentiality.

Background

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) received Pehdzeh Ki First Nation (PKFN)'s [Request for Ruling](#)¹ on March 17, 2025, asking the Review Board to accept confidential Indigenous Knowledge in written form. The Review Board [asked](#) parties

¹ This request was made under Rule 63 of the Review Board's [Rules of Procedure](#) (2023). The Review Board will follow Rules 50 to 59 when making its ruling.



to provide any comments on this by March 31, 2025. [Déljné Got'Iné Government](#), [Gwich'in Tribal Council](#), and [the Government of the Northwest Territories](#) replied. None of these groups expressed concerns. The Gwich'in Tribal Council indicated it believes a plain language summary is sufficient for consideration by parties. The Review Board considered PKFN's request and parties' comments when making its Ruling.

All related submissions, the Review Board's ruling and its reasons for this will be placed on the [public registry](#) for this environmental assessment. Please send any questions to Catherine Fairbairn at 867-766-7054 or cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca.

Respectfully,

JoAnne Deneron

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JoAnne Deneron".

Chairperson

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