



March 21, 2022

STEVE LOUTITT
DEPUTY MINISTER
INFRASTRUCTURE

Dear Mr. Loutitt:

Approval of the Annual Review of the Tłı̨ch̨ All-Season Road Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP)

Thank you for the Department of Infrastructure's (INF) submission of Version 5.2 of the Tłı̨ch̨ All-Season Road (TASR) Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) on January 28, 2022. As per Measure 10-2, Part 03 of the Mackenzie Valley Review Board's *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision* for the Tłı̨ch̨ All-Season Road Project (EA-1617-01), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is required to conduct an annual public review of the TASR WMMP. ENR understands that Version 5.2 of the WMMP is the ultimate outcome of the annual review process initiated in the fall of 2021.

In September 2021, INF submitted version 5.0 of the TASR WMMP to the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (WLWB). A 30-day public review period was undertaken, with submissions made to the WLWB's Online Review System (ORS) by Environment and Climate Change Canada, the North Slave Métis Alliance, and the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB). In consultation with ENR staff, INF developed responses to comments received, revised the WMMP to address the comments and, on November 12, 2021, submitted Version 5.1 of the TASR WMMP to the WRRB as a management proposal under Section 12.5.1 of the Tłı̨ch̨ Agreement. In a letter to INF on December 09, 2021, the WRRB indicated its approval of Version 5.1 of the TASR WMMP as submitted. On January 28, 2022, INF submitted Version 5.2 of the TASR WMMP to ENR and the WLWB. INF updated Version 5.2 with minor administrative changes. The WLWB approved Version 5.2 of the TASR WMMP on February 09, 2022.

ENR staff have reviewed Version 5.2 of the TASR WMMP in the context of the comments submitted to the ORS and responses provided in the *Table 3 - WMMP Conformance Table* and outstanding commitments identified in ENR's annual public review. Under this review ENR is required to ensure that the updated WMMP complies with the legislated criteria in subsection 95 (2) of the *Wildlife Act* as identified in the WMMP Process and Content Guidelines while also encouraging INF to ensure that the views of other parties are duly considered.

I am satisfied that INF, in consultation with ENR and North Star Infrastructure, has satisfactorily responded to reviewer comments and recommendations made during the first annual public review of the WMMP.

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I hereby approve Version 5.2 of the WMMP.

As the construction of the TASR was completed in November 2021, ENR reminds INF that the comprehensive WMMP report providing a summary and analysis of the wildlife mitigation and monitoring programs undertaken during the pre-construction and construction phase will be required to be submitted by November 30, 2022.

Please contact Dr. James Hodson, Manager, Habitat and Environmental Assessment, Wildlife and Fish Division, at (867) 767-9237, extension 53227 or james.hodson@gov.nt.ca if you have any questions.



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