



February 19, 2024

MR. STEVE LOUITT
DEPUTY MINISTER
INFRASTRUCTURE

VIA EMAIL

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

Thank you for the Department of Infrastructure's (INF) submission of Version 6.2 of the Tłı̨chǫ All-Season Road (TASR) Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) on June 12, 2023. As per Measure 10-2, Part 3 of the Mackenzie Valley Review Board's *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision* for the Tłı̨chǫ All-Season Road (TASR) project (EA-1617-01), the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) is required to conduct an annual public review of the TASR WMMP. ECC understands that Version 6.2 of the WMMP is the ultimate outcome of the annual review process initiated in late 2022.

In January 2023, INF submitted version 6.0 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 by the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) and the WLWB. INF developed responses to comments received, revised the WMMP to address comments received, and submitted Version 6.1 of the TASR WMMP to the WRRB as a management proposal under Section 12.5.1 of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement. In a letter to INF on May 26, 2023, the WRRB indicated its approval of Version 6.1 of the TASR WMMP submitted on April 13, 2023. On June 12, 2023, INF submitted Version 6.2 of the TASR WMMP to ECC and the WLWB, triggering the 30-day period for an approval decision. On October 16, 2023, the WLWB provided their approval of Version 6.2 of the TASR WMMP to INF.

ECC staff have reviewed Version 6.2 of the TASR WMMP in the context of the comments submitted to the ORS and responses provided in the *Table 6.0 – Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (Version 6.1) – Conformance Table* and outstanding commitments identified in ECC's annual public review initiation letter of December 16, 2022. ECC's primary concern in this review was to ensure that legislated criteria for WMMP content identified in subsection 95 (2) of the *Wildlife Act* and elaborated upon in the WMMP Process and Content Guidelines continue to be met, while also encouraging INF to ensure that the views of other parties are duly considered.

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

I hereby approve Version 6.2 of the WMMP as the plan under which INF will operate.

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

Sincerely,



Erin Kelly, Ph.D.
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change

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