September 28, 2013

Eddie Dillon
Chair, Northwest Territories Water Board
PO Box 2531
Inuvik, NT, X0E 0T0

Re: ITH Water license application and Inclusion on Distribution List

Dear Eddie,

The Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC) works cooperatively with the Inuvialuit and Fisheries and Oceans Canada on issues related to fish and marine mammals in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. As such, we have a vested interest in projects such as the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway (ITH) project, which have potential to affect fish habitat and subsequently key Inuvialuit fish stocks through changes to water flow and quality.

We have had a chance to review the Management Plans we have received to date including:
- Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Plan
- Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan
- Waste management Plan
- Explosives Management Plan
- Spill Contingency Management Plan

However, we have not seen the Water Management Plan. In our view, we do not feel that the NWTWB is prepared for public hearings given that the proponent has not identified the specific water bodies from which they expect to extract water and the volume of water to be pumped from each. They state they will follow the 10% guideline as set by DFO. They are also lacking background or baseline water quality measurements.

The implementation plan is also poor. The plans suggest the contractors will be made aware of the requirements. This in my opinion will not work. The contractors should be required to review the plans and then provide written procedures on how they will achieve the requirements as described in these plans. There should also be a requirement for weekly reporting of their activities including monitoring results so that when the regulators request information they can determine the contractor’s diligence and success.
We anticipate that you will include our concerns in your upcoming Water Licensing Proceeding and accept our attached application for intervener status. We understand that the deadline for this has passed; however as we were not included on the NWTWB distribution list for this file an exception should be provided. We further request that you include the FJMC on your distribution list for all future correspondence on the ITH project. Future correspondence on this issue should be forwarded to Kristin Hynes, FJMC Fisheries Resource Specialist, at our Inuvik office: (867) 777-2828, fjmc-rb@jointsec.nt.ca.

Sincerely,

Brian Zytaruk
Canada Member, Fisheries Joint Management Committee

Cc: Vic Gillman – Chair, FJMC
    Frank Pokiak – Chair, IGC
    Steve Baryluk and Jen Lam – Resource Management Coordinators, IGC
APPLICATION FOR INTERVENER STATUS

Rules 45 and 79

Name: Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC)

Contact Information:

a) address: PO Box 2120, Inuvik, NT, X0E 0T0
b) phone number: (867) 777-2828

c) fax number: (867) 777-2610
d) e-mail: fjmc-rb@jointsec.nt.ca

Explain briefly your reason for wishing to intervene:
The FJMC works cooperatively with the Inuvialuit and Fisheries and Oceans Canada on fisheries issues in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. We have vested interest in projects such as the ITH, which could affect fish habitat through changes to water flow and quality.

Will you be representing yourself or will someone else be representing you?
We will represent ourselves: we have submitted our written concerns and our staff will be present as an observer during your public hearings.

Do you have any particular expertise in the subject matter to be addressed in this proceeding?
The FJMC has expertise on fish and fish habitat, the ITH project (e.g., the Tuk-Inuvik Working Group), and are knowledgeable towards the importance of the Husky Lakes area to the Inuvialuit.

Signature 2013-09-28

Date