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November 15, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Direction régionale de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue et Nord-du-Québec
Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques
180, boulevard Rideau, 1^{er} étage
Rouyn-Noranda (Québec) J9X 1N9

Dear Sir/Madam,

Reference: Answers to questions regarding the request for exemption for the repair and widening of a 5 km section of a road and the replacement of 13 culverts

Your ref : KRG20-2710
Our ref : 3215-05-009

The Kativik Regional Government (KRG) wishes to proceed with the widening of a 5 km section of a 12 km road exiting the village of Kuujjuaraapik. At the end of this 5 km section, a road giving access to a new landfill site will be built soon. This widening requires the replacement of 13 culverts located along the section in question, as well as the addition of a new culvert.

AUTHORIZATION PROCESS

The purpose of this letter is to answer the questions sent on October 5 by Ms. Mélissa Gagnon. The answers come from our client Amar Djedid, Civil Infrastructure Project Manager for the Kativik Regional Government. The requested report was produced by the consulting firm, Stantec.

QC.1

In order to qualify the environmental impacts of the project, the proponent must specify whether a characterization of the natural environments that will be affected by the widening and rehabilitation work has been carried out and, if so, provide this characterization. If not, the proponent must undertake to carry out this characterization, which must include the wetlands affected by the widening and the waterways crossed by the road.

The ecological study report entitled "Étude écologique d'un projet de réfection et d'élargissement d'un tronçon de route de 5 km à Kuujjuaraapik" is attached to this document. The study documents the main environmental components present on the project site, i.e. terrestrial plant communities, wetlands, streams and ditches, invasive alien species (IAS), species designated as threatened, vulnerable or likely to be so designated and, based on observations only, wildlife. In addition, a characterization of 13 culverts and their fish habitat potential was completed.

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QC.2

The proponent must report on the consultations and steps taken to inform the users of the access road of the populations of the Northern Village of Kuujjuarapik and the Cree First Nation of Whapmagoostui. Since the project is being carried out near Cree territory, the proponent must consult and inform the users and the population of Whapmagoostui about the project, its schedule and its impacts and report on the concerns or comments raised by them.

This access road is part of a joint project between the Cree and Inuit governments. An agreement has been signed between the two communities and the expansion of this road is part of the agreement. The Cree government is aware of this expansion. In fact, the widening of this road will be done because the overload on this 5.2 km road will be doubled (Cree and Inuit will use it). See section 10.1 of the Agreement

QC.3

The proponent must specify the measures it intends to put in place during the work to maintain traffic on the access road and guarantee access to the landfill site.

The earliest the new landfill will be open is October 2024. In the meantime, both communities will continue to use their existing landfill sites. The expansion work will be completed during the 2023 construction season.

QC.4

The proponent must specify here and how it intends to treat and dispose of residual materials generated by the project, including old culverts.

10 of the 13 culverts to be replaced are in good condition. The Northern Village plans to reuse them for other municipal work. These culverts cannot be used for this project because they are not long enough for a 2-lane road.

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Attention

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We hope that this will meet your expectations. Should you require further information, please contact the undersigned.

Regards,

Stantec Consulting Ltd.



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Attachment: *Étude écologique d'un projet de réfection et d'élargissement d'un tronçon de route de 5 km à Kuujjuarapik*