



JAN 25 2016

Ms. Tawanis Testart
Project Manager, Prairie and Northern Region
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
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VIA EMAIL

Dear Ms. Testart

GNWT comments on the Draft Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Amisk Hydroelectric project

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) provides the following comments on the Draft Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* for the Amisk Hydroelectric Project. We look forward to our discussions planned for February 9, 2016.

Should you, or any of the parties to this environmental assessment, have questions about the GNWT's comments on the draft guidelines, please contact Lorraine Seale, Manager, Project Assessment Branch, at lorraine_seale@gov.nt.ca or [<contact information removed>](#) or Melissa Pink, Project Assessment Analyst, at melissa_pink@gov.nt.ca or [<contact information removed>](#)

Sincerely,

[<original signed by>](#)

Lorraine Seale
A/Director
Land Use and Sustainability

Attachment



Comment ID #	EIS Guidelines Reference	Comment	Reviewer	Link to Section 5 effect	Agency Response
1	General Comment on EIS Guidelines	<p>a) Inclusive public consultation and the overall duty to consult with downstream aboriginal groups.</p> <p>b) Potential cumulative impacts to water and fish downstream of the project, particularly on the transboundary Peace/Slave River basin.</p> <p>Note, on March 18, 2015 the Governments of Alberta and the Northwest Territories signed a Mackenzie River Basin Bilateral Water Management Agreement. The Bilateral Agreement was attached as Schedule E to the <i>Mackenzie River Basin Transboundary Waters Master Agreement of 1997</i>. The parties are to ensure notification of "Developments and Activities that might affect the Ecological Integrity of the Aquatic Ecosystem of the other Party". The GNWT believes the inclusion of transboundary items, including cumulative effects to the aquatic ecosystem, is appropriate due to the potential for impacts to the Peace/Slave River basin.</p>	GNWT	a) NA b) 5(1)(a)(i) and 5(1)(a)(iv)	
2	Part 2- Section 5.1	The GNWT recommends Aboriginal groups in the NWT, particularly downstream of the Peace River along the Slave River, be consulted with as well. The names of these Aboriginal groups should be included in this section of the EIS Guidelines.	GNWT	NA	
3	Part 2- Section 6.1.4	Recommend amending the following statement to include the Slave River which is a transboundary waterway: "hydrology of the Peace River watershed, <i>and downstream waters such as the Slave River</i> , including:"	GNWT	5(1)(b)(ii)	
4	Part 2- Section 6.1.5	Recommend amending the following statement to include downstream waters such as the Slave River which is a transboundary waterway. "instream flow needs and habitat preferences for resident fish species in the Peace River, <i>and downstream waters such as the Slave River</i> ."	GNWT	5(1)(b)(ii)	
5	Part 2 - Section 6.2.2	Recommend amending the following statement to include downstream waters such as the Slave River which is a transboundary waterway. "Changes to water quality in the Peace River or any associated tributaries <i>or downstream waters such as the Slave River</i> . "	GNWT	5(1)(b)(ii)	

6	Part 2 - Section 6.3.1	Recommend amending the following statement to include downstream waters such as the Slave River which is a transboundary waterway. "the potential risk of methylmercury production and accumulation in fish habitat and fish <i>in the Peace River, and downstream waters such as the Slave River.</i> "	GNWT	5(1)(b)(ii)	
7	Part 2 - Section 6.3.5	Recommend amending the following statement to include Provincial/Territorial transboundary impact. "Interprovincial <i>and Provincial/Territorial</i> transboundary impacts"	GNWT	5(1)(b)(ii)	
8	Part 2 - Section 6.6.3	Recommend amending the following statements to include the Peace River and its downstream waterways when assessing cumulative effects from past, present and future developments (e.g. Bennett Dam and Site C). "Peace River, <i>and its downstream waters such as the Slave River</i> , including its hydrology and ice formation processes"	GNWT	5(1)(b)(ii)	