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Amisk Hydroelectric Project
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
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Subject: Métis Nation British Columbia's review and comment on the Determination of the Requirement for an Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Amisk Hydroelectric Project

Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC) would like to thank the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) for inviting comments. MNBC would like to comment on the potential impacts of the Project on the interests of Métis people in BC.

Introduction

MNBC currently represents over 11,000 Powley compliant Citizens (1000+ more/year) in British Columbia, with a large number residing in the Peace River region. The Métis have had an established community along the Peace River for more than 200 years and still use the land and resources for traditional purposes.

Utilizing the Métis Nation BC (MNBC) Traditional Harvesting Database and preliminary Métis Traditional Knowledge (MTK) research confirms that Métis Nation BC citizens, from adjacent Chartered Communities and nearby smaller communities, are exercising their Aboriginal right to harvest (hunt, fish, trap, gather plants) within the vicinity of the project.

The construction and operation of the proposed Amisk Hydroelectric project could put local Métis Aboriginal rights and traditional land-uses at risk. Métis harvesters who rely on the direct and surrounding area for sustenance, social and ceremonial purposes could see negative impacts from the construction and operation of the proposed project. Because there is current traditional harvesting (hunting, fishing, and plant harvesting for foods and medicines) occurring along the Peace River in British Columbia, there is Métis traditional knowledge and land-use information activities that could be negatively impacted.

Métis citizens of British Columbia desire sustainable use of their natural resources which includes: managing natural resources to meet present needs without compromising the needs of future generations; providing stewardship of natural resources based on an ethic of respect for the land; balancing economic, productive, spiritual, ecological and traditional values of natural resources to meet the economic, social and cultural needs of the Métis peoples and other aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities; conserving biological diversity, soil, water, fish, wildlife, scenic diversity, and other natural resources; and restoring

The Métis Nation British Columbia, first incorporated under the Society's Act on October 23, 1996, is recognized by the provincial and federal government and the Métis National Council as the official governing organization in the province of British Columbia, representing over 8,000 provincially registered Métis citizens and a population of nearly 70,000 self-identified Métis people.



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damaged ecologies. All of these may be significantly impacted by the proposed project. MNBC's interests in an environmental assessment are to protect the sustenance and cultural needs of Métis citizens and ensure adequate consultation has been undertaken. Further, that Métis Rights and Traditional Land Uses are taken into consideration, that where possible the impacts to these rights and uses are minimized and where not possible, mitigation measures are employed.

MNBC will work cooperatively to ensure that its Citizen's Aboriginal rights are respected and appropriately addressed. MNBC will work diligently and in good faith to protect all the natural resources that Métis people have, and continue to rely on, as a way of life and cultural connection. MNBC's vision is to build a proud, self-governing, sustainable Nation in recognition of the inherent Rights of our Métis Citizens.

Respectfully,

<original signed by>

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