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Canada      Canada

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May 1, 2024

Jennifer Fitzgerald  
Project Manager, Prairie and Northern Region  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada / Government of Canada  
[Jennifer.Fitzgerald@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Fitzgerald@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

Dear Ms. Fitzgerald:

**Re: Invitation to Comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment Report and Draft Potential Federal Conditions for the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project**

As a department with jurisdictional responsibility with respect to the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project (the Project), Transport Canada (TC) reviewed the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Report and draft potential conditions for the proposed Project and has one comment to provide, as follows.

In Section 9.3 (Issues to be Addressed During the Regulatory Approval Phase), Page 245, TC recommends the following edits:

Should the Project proceed, federal authorities with regulatory requirements **may** ~~would~~ continue consultation with Indigenous groups after the environmental assessment decision is issued. Specifically, relevant federal authorities **may** ~~would~~ consult with Indigenous groups prior to making decisions related to *Fisheries Act* authorizations and *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* approval(s), as appropriate, if authorizations or approvals are required. Comments from Indigenous groups received during the environmental assessment will be shared directly with federal authorities to inform their decision-making. As applicable, the decisions by federal authorities would take into account the

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outcomes of ongoing consultation with Indigenous groups and the consultation record resulting from the environmental assessment.

The rationale for this request is that it is not a certainty that our department will conduct continued/additional consultations during the regulatory phase. In the regulatory phase, TC would review the results of all consultations undertaken during the environmental assessment process. TC may conduct further consultation if it's determined that the environmental assessment process didn't address all issues that fall within TC's mandate, such as project impacts to navigation.

TC has no comments or suggested edits with respect to the draft potential conditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft EA report and draft potential conditions. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jackie Barker, Regional Environmental Advisor, Environmental Programs by e-mail at [jackie.barker@tc.gc.ca](mailto:jackie.barker@tc.gc.ca) or by phone at (204)-979-1739.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Margaret Zellis-Skiba  
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