

**ATTACHMENT:****Federal Authority Advice Record****Response due by October 15, 2020**

Great Sandhills Railway Switching Operation at North West Terminal Project

Agency File: 005770

Registry Number: 80998

Department/Agency	Indigenous Services Canada
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Alternate Departmental Contact	Evan Shaw, Regional Environment Manager

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1. Is it probable that your department or agency may be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project to enable it to proceed? **No**

If yes, specify the Act of Parliament and that power, duty or function.

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2. Is your department or agency in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge that may be relevant to the conduct of an impact assessment of the Project? **Yes**

Specify as appropriate.

Indigenous Services Canada has information on and knowledge of Indigenous matters on Federal lands. Indigenous Services Canada has a mandate to support Indigenous people (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) in their efforts to improve social well-being and economic prosperity; to develop healthier, more sustainable communities; and to participate more fully in Canada's political, social and economic development.

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3. Has your department or agency considered the Project; exercised a power or performed a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project; or taken any course of action that would allow the Project to proceed in whole or in part? **No**

Specify as appropriate.

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4. Has your department or agency had previous contact or involvement with the proponent or other party in relation to the Project? (for example, enquiry about methodology, guidance, or data; introduction to the project) **No**

Provide an overview of the information or advice exchanged.

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5. Does your department or agency have additional information or knowledge not specified, above?

**No**

Specify as appropriate.

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6. From the perspective of the mandate and area(s) of expertise of your department or agency, what are the issues that should be addressed in the impact assessment of the Project, should the Agency determine that an impact assessment is required?

For each issue discussed, provide a concise, plain-language summary that is appropriate for inclusion in the Summary of Issues.

The location of this proposed project is at the North West Terminal approximately one km east of the Town of Unity, SK and the land is owned by North West Terminal, located in Treaty 6 territory. As such, there is a potential for Indigenous Rights in the area to be impacted. The closest First Nation communities are Poundmaker IR 114 and Sweetgrass IR 113 located approximately 25 km from the proposed project. The fact that the land under consideration is a total of 80 hectares and is adjacent to land used for heavy industry does limit potential adverse impacts. Consultation on this project should take these factors into account as traditional harvesting and hunting practices may be impacted by the project.

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The Agency has had early engagement with local Indigenous groups, and received comments from Mosquito, Grizzly Bear's Head, Lean Man First Nation, and Little Pine First Nation who wish to be consulted during the process. We encourage the proponent to reach out to local Indigenous groups, to strengthen relationships and partnerships. These efforts should continue throughout the regulatory process, including the post-decision phase. The proponent should invite all potentially impacted Indigenous groups to visit the project site including all areas of possible infrastructure. The proponent should provide a venue for all potentially impacted Indigenous groups to raise concerns and share Indigenous knowledge related to this project. Any concerns raised in this venue should be addressed in a meaningful and timely manner.

ISC does not foresee any health impacts from the Great Sandhills Railway Switching Operation at North West Terminal Project, due to the distal geographical locations of the surrounding First Nation communities. Furthermore, First Nation communities have been consulted, and no concern of health impacts have been indicated to the Department.

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Indigenous Services Canada

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Name of Departmental / Agency Responder

A/ Sr. Environment Officer

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Title of Responder

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October 8, 2020

Date