

November 19, 2020

ATTACHMENT: Federal Authority Advice Record

Response due by December 9, 2020

Value Chain Solutions - Heartland Complex Expansion Project

Agency File: 81148

Department/Agency	Indigenous Services Canada/ First Nations & Inuit Health Branch (ISC-FNIHB)
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1. Is it probable that your department or agency may be required to exercise a power, perform a duty, or function related to the Project to enable it to proceed?

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

No. ISC/FNIHB is not responsible for approving or issuing licences, permits or authorizations for the assessments of large proposed projects.

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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?

ISC/FNIHB has specialized knowledge pertaining First Nations peoples. Areas of expertise include but are not limited to: the provision of health services, community health and wellness programs, and drinking water on First Nations reserves and other social determinants of health.

In addition, 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.

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

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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. ISC/FNIHB has not had previous contact or involvement with the proponent or other party in relation to the project.

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

No

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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?

While some wildlife may be impacted by the project, the location of this proposed project is on privately owned land and is zoned for heavy industrial use by Strathcona County and adjacent to other heavy industrial sites. As such, there is limited potential for terrestrial Indigenous harvesting rights in the area to be impacted. However, the project's proximity to the North Saskatchewan River could mean that fish harvesting rights may be impacted in case of an accidental release of deleterious substance. Steps to ensure the protection of Indigenous harvesting rights should be addressed in the impact assessment process.

The proponent's has indicated that they are committed to timely continuous, open, and meaningful engagement with local Indigenous groups throughout the lifespan of this project. Efforts to strengthen relationships and partnerships with local Indigenous groups should continue throughout the regulatory process, including the post-decision phase. The proponent should go beyond mailing out information packages to ensure that a venue for all potentially impacted Indigenous groups to raise concerns and share Indigenous knowledge related to this project is provided. Any concerns raised in this venue should be addressed in a meaningful and timely manner.

The proponent has indicated a willingness to engage Indigenous groups in economic participation, employment and apprenticeship programs. The proponent should ensure follow through on these socio-economic impacts of the project on local Indigenous groups, including a gender bias analysis.

ISC-FNIHB does not foresee any health impacts from the Project, due to the distal geographical locations of the surrounding First Nation communities.

Jennifer Mercer

Name of Departmental / Agency Responder

Director, Environmental Public Health Division, FNIHB

Title of Responder

December 10, 2020

Date