

November 20, 2020

Shelly Boss
Project Manager, Prairie and Northern Region
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Suite 1145, 9700 Jasper Avenue
EDMONTON AB T5J 4C3

Dear Shelly Boss:

Re: Designation Request Response for the Great Sandhills Railway Switching Operation at North West Terminal Revised Design

Thank you for your letter dated November 12, 2020, requesting a response for the request to designate the revised design for the Great Sandhills Railway Switching Operation at North West Terminal (the project), under the *Impact Assessment Act*.

The Government of Saskatchewan is confirming the comments submitted October 21, 2020 are applicable to the revised project design. Please note the proponent is unlikely to require an Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit, as the revised track design does not cross the semi-permanent wetland on site.

As previously stated, the province wishes to emphasize that the project has minimal potential to cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or impacts to the rights of the Indigenous peoples of Canada. The project is expected to create positive social and economic effects for the region, and will improve the performance and fluidity of the commodity supply chain, supporting national interests. The federal government has recognized the importance of this project, indicated by approved funding through the National Trade Corridor Fund.



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The proponent has taken steps to modify the proposed track layout to ensure the revised design does not exceed the thresholds listed in the Physical Activities Regulations. Given the scope of the revised project, the existing support for the project, and limited risk for adverse effects, the province does not believe an impact assessment is necessary. Any potential adverse effects will be adequately managed through existing provincial legislative or regulatory requirements. The project is a provincially regulated railway construction project that poses little impact and has received broad support from local stakeholders, municipal governments and the Government of Saskatchewan.

We urge you to carefully consider this information when determining whether to designate the project and thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Brady Pollock
Executive Director, Environmental Assessment and Stewardship
Ministry of Environment

Enclosure

cc: Brianne England, Manager, Applications, Environmental Assessment and Stewardship