

Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Prairie & Northern Region
150-123 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4W2



ECCC File: 4194-10-4/7556
Agency File: 005718

November 20, 2020

Shelly Boss
Project Manager
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
1145-9700 Jasper Ave Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4C3

Dear Shelly Boss:

Re: Designation Request pursuant to the *Impact Assessment Act* for the Great Sandhills Railway Switching Operation at North West Terminal Project

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) received notification on November 4, 2020 that Great Sandhills Railway Ltd. (the Proponent) informed the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) of their intention to terminate the above noted Project on October 26, 2020. On November 9, 2020 the federal Impact Assessment (IA) process for the above noted Project was terminated at the request of the Proponent.

ECCC provided advice on the original Great Sandhills Railway Switching Operation at North West Terminal Project (now terminated) to the Agency on October 15, 2020 in the form of a Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR). ECCC's advice was based on the information provided in the initial project description (submitted on September 10, 2020) and on ECCC's mandate in the context of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), the *Migratory Birds Convention Act 1994* (MCBA), the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act 1999* (CEPA) and the pollution prevention provisions, of the *Fisheries Act*.

On November 12, 2020, ECCC received notification that the Agency received a designation request under s9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* for the above noted Project. The notification also indicated that on October 9, 2020 the Proponent revised the track design, hereafter referred to as Great Sandhills Railway Switching Operation at North West Terminal Project – Revised Design (the Project). The Agency requested ECCC confirm whether the department's October 15, 2020 comments on the now terminated project are still applicable to the revised-design Project (track design dated October 9, 2020) and if they should be considered as part of the designation request process for the Project. A project map of the alternate track route is the only additional information available regarding the Project at this time.

Based on the information received in the Agency's November 12, 2020 correspondence and **assuming that no other Project details as provided in the initial project description (submitted on September 10, 2020) have changed**, the advice provided in ECCC's October 15, 2020 response would apply to the Project. However, **if any of the Project details have changed**, ECCC's advice may not apply to the



Project and ECCC would have to review all revised Project information to determine if our advice is applicable and if we would have additional comments.

Please contact Cari-Lyn Epp at 306-491-2732 or Cari-Lyn.Epp@canada.ca if you need more information.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Margaret Fairbairn
A/ Regional Director
Environmental Protection Operations Directorate

cc: Jody Small, Head Environmental Assessment South, Prairie and Northern Region, EPOD, ECCC
Cari-Lyn Epp, Senior Environmental Assessment Officer, Prairie and Northern Region, EPOD, ECCC