



# Tataskweyak Cree Nation

<contact information removed>

September 29, 2022

**BY EMAIL** <email address removed>

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
160 Elgin St, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3

**Attention: Colter Kelly**

Dear Colter Kelly,

***RE: Potential Regional Assessment of a Western Energy Corridor***

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I am writing in response to your email request, dated September 8, 2022, for information to inform the response of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (“Minister”) to Western Energy Corridor Inc’s (“Proponent”) request for a regional assessment for its proposed Western Energy Corridor (“Proposed Corridor”).

Tataskweyak Cree Nation (“TCN”) appreciates the Proponent’s desire to conduct a regional assessment to, among other things, better understand the potential impacts of the Project on the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples. However, we are concerned that the route for the Proposed Corridor was chosen without any consultation with our community, especially since the Proposed Corridor would run through a substantial portion of TCN’s lands, including the northern portion of our Resource Management Area (“RMA”).

Our 1992 agreement with Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro, and Canada, created the Resource Management Area Board (“RMAB”) and recognized TCN’s authority to be involved in deciding how lands within our RMA will be used. Accordingly, the Minister must not approve the request for a regional assessment unless and until the Proponent has consulted with our community and our RMAB about its proposed route through our lands.

As it currently stands, TCN is opposed to the Proposed Corridor and the Proponent’s request for the regional assessment.

If the Minister chooses to approve the request for the regional assessment, without prior further engagement with us, which we strongly oppose, we expect that TCN and our RMAB will be deeply consulted at every step of the process, including but not limited to the creation of terms of reference, and that appropriate resources will be provided to support meaningful consultation.

While we have managed to provide this response by your October 1, 2022, deadline, we kindly ask that you provide us with more time to respond to such requests in the future. As your email

requesting comments was sent on September 8, 2022, your October 1, 2022, deadline gave us only 23 days to respond. What's more, October 1, 2022, is a Saturday. Expecting First Nations to provide informed comments in less than a month (and on the weekend) on complex project proposals like this one is never a realistic request, and it does not uphold the honour of the Crown. Such truncated timelines do not allow us to consult internally with our members, experts, and advisors, which is essential for us to provide informed comments and meaningfully engage in consultation.

Lastly, we remind you of our previous correspondence on this matter dated June 11, 2021, wherein we requested that all future correspondence on this matter be copied to our lawyers. Going forward, please ensure all correspondence on this matter is copied to Matt Boulton at <sup><email address removed></sup>.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to respond to the Proponent's latest regional assessment request. We look forward to receiving an update regarding the Minister's decision.

Ekosi,

<Original signed by>

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Chief Doreen Spence, Tataskweyak Cree Nation

CC: Lafond and Mack Law Group