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February 5, 2024

Cynthia Ritchie
Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure
1520-215 Garry Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3P3
Cynthia.Ritchie@gov.mb.ca

Sent via e-mail

SUBJECT: Technical Review of Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's Information Request Round 3 Responses for the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project – Additional Clarification Questions

Dear Cynthia Ritchie,

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency), with input from federal authorities, Indigenous groups, and the public, conducted a technical review of the responses to the Round 3 Information Requests (IRs) submitted by Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) on October 31, 2023, and the Clarification Question responses submitted by MTI on January 26, 2024 for the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project (the Project).

Upon review of the information, the Agency determined that there are areas where information is still required to assist the Agency's understanding of the potential adverse environmental effects that the Project may cause, and inform the Agency's preparation of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Report pursuant to CEAA 2012. It will also support continued engagement and consultation with the potentially affected Indigenous groups and assist the Crown to fulfill its duty to consult. Attached are Additional Clarification Questions based on MTI's responses to the Round 3 IRs and initial Clarification Questions, to address the remaining information requirements.

All submissions with respect to the technical review of MTI's Round 3 IR responses will be made publicly available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Reference #80148). MTI is encouraged to review all the comments submitted as they include detailed information and advice to support MTI in responding to the Clarification Questions.



When responding to the Clarification Questions, the Agency requests that MTI:

- consider the context and rationale for the required information for every question;
- present thorough discussions of any areas of uncertainty, applying a precautionary approach, given that some studies and plans may not be complete at this time;
- where uncertainty remains, provide clearly defined, detailed follow-up program measures, including proposed further mitigation measures; and
- present complete or summarized information and discussion within the responses, rather than limited responses and references to applicable reports.

The Government of Canada is integrating consultation with Indigenous groups into the EA process for the Project, to the extent possible, to fulfill its duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate. As noted in the Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines, the Crown will rely on information collected for the purposes of the EA to fulfill its duty to consult and inform its assessment of potential impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty rights.

Should MTI have any questions regarding the technical review of the responses to Round 3 IRs, please contact me at Sean.Carriere@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or 416-436-7357.

Sincerely,

Sean Carriere
Regional Director, Prairie and Northern Region

c.c. : Jaime Smith, Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure
Scott Johnstone, Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure
Ian Martin, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Vivienne Wilson, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada