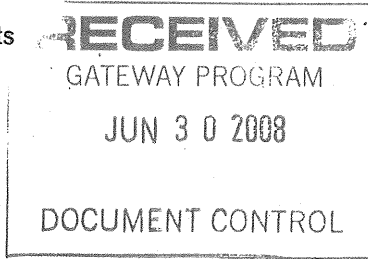




Transport Canada / Transports Canada

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ON TABLE
Refers to Item F-06
Regular Meeting
Date 09/20/08

Your file / Votre référence
44250 20/21305A

Our file / Notre référence
RDIMS #4173880

GATEWAY PROGRAM		
REPLY REQ'D	Y	N
GLF		
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MRS		
PIZ		
FILE: SFPR		

JUN 20 2008

Mr. Malcolm Smith
British Columbia Ministry of Transportation
Metrotower I
2400-4710 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 4M2

Paul Finkel
British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office
836 Yates Street, 2nd Floor
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

RE : SOUTH FRASER PERIMETER ROAD ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This letter is being provided in response to BC Ministry of Transportation's (MOT) letter of June 4, 2008, which outlines the work that has taken place by MOT to address the concerns raised by Environment Canada (EC) in its November 2007 letter.

Appreciating that Environment Canada had substantial concerns regarding the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, Transport Canada (TC) led a series of technical meetings involving senior managers and scientific experts from TC, EC and the BC MOT beginning in December 2007. As described in MOT's letter, these discussions allowed scientists to better understand each other's views and led to the completion of additional technical studies to further assess the potential risks to Burns Bog and ensure appropriate mitigation measures were identified.

TC acknowledges the additional work the BC MOT has produced and that the documents referred to MOT's letter have been received. These documents take into consideration the input received from federal reviewers and include:

- Revised Alignment Map (April 2008)
- Burns Bog Hydrology Planning Tool (April 2008)
- Draft Burns Bog Hydrology Workplan (April 2008)
- Modelling of Particulate Matter Deposition in Burns Bog from SFPR Emissions (May 2008)
- Calculation of the Hydrochemical Effect of Sequential Additions of Granitic Dust to Type 1 and Type 2 Water at Burns Bog, British Columbia (June 2008)
- Draft Burns Bog Air Quality Management Plan (June 2008)
- Objectives for Hydrology Mitigation for the SFPR Alignment Around Burns Bog (June 2008)

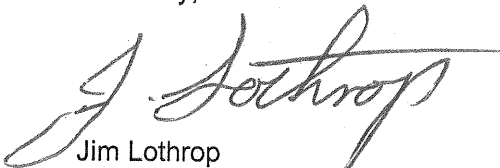
Since MOT's letter was received, TC also acknowledges that the final Cumulative Effects Assessment (June 2008) has been received and that the follow-up program has been provided for inclusion in the federal Screening Report. Commitments associated with the above-listed documents, including the implementation of mitigation measures and the submission of final documents, have been incorporated into the EA documentation for the proposed project.

TC also notes that these documents, as well as the associated EA documentation, highlight a number of commitments that the BC MOT intends to fulfill during the early stages of detail design. These commitments include: further consultation with reviewing agencies regarding the hydrology mitigation design; the completion of the Hydrology Work Plan, Air Quality Management Plan, and Sandhill Crane Monitoring Program; and, the collection of baseline dust fall information around Burns Bog.

TC is of the understanding that the above-listed documents and commitments for further work provide further certainty with respect to the potential adverse environmental effects of the project, which together with additional mitigation, monitoring and follow-up measures that have been identified (including a further shift in the south western alignment) substantially address the concerns EC raised in its letter to TC in November 2007.

If you have any questions as we move into the EA decision phase of the process, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Cathy Hainsworth.

Sincerely,



Jim Lothrop
A/Senior Director, Highways and Borders
Transport Canada

Cc: Michael Engelsjord, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Linda Sullivan, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency