

July 19, 2022

Chelsea Fedrau
Project Manager, Prairie and Northern Region
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
1145-9700 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 4C3

Subject: Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's request for a four year time limit extension for the Project 6- All-Season Road Linking Manto Sipi Cree Nation, Bunibonibee Cree Nation, and God's Lake First Nation Project

Dear Chelsea Fedrau,

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) is requesting that the Impact Assessment Agency (the Agency) provide an extension to the August 28th, 2022 time limit that facilitates the provision of required information and studies for the ongoing environmental assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA 2012) for Project 6 (the Project) in accordance with subsection 181(2.1) of the Impact Assessment Act (the IAA). This letter and the attached work plan outlines the rationale supporting Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's request for an additional four years to complete the environmental assessment process.

In the Agency's letter regarding the three year time limit on projects assessed under CEAA 2012 until August 2022 (dated November 10, 2021), the Agency requested MTI to outline the reasons for requesting an extension of the time limit, changes to the environment and/or Project itself and a list of engagement activities facilitating the Project. The Agency also requested that MTI submit a work plan detailing progress made to date and how the additional time requested would be used and to provide details on whether and how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted advancement of the assessment.

The work plan addresses the Agency's request for information by outlining reasons for the extension request and includes tables and a figure summarizing the key steps of the environmental assessment processes. These tables describes EIS development, regulatory communication, and consultation and engagement processes that have been completed and the progress of other tasks yet to occur. The work plan provides the information requested by the Agency to determine whether to grant an extension request, including:

- the Agency's conformity review of the EIS that was completed in August 2018;
- the public comment period on the EIS Summary that was completed in June 2019;
- the ongoing technical review of the EIS by the Agency and federal authorities; and
- associated consultation and engagement by the Agency with Indigenous Groups, which is ongoing.

Project 6 meets the requirements for being granted an extension in that is well advanced in terms of its progression through the CEAA, 2012 process: the project description and EIS were completed, reviewed by the Agency, and met the test associated with the conformity review.



Transportation and Infrastructure

Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project
1520-215 Garry Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 3P3

Extensive engagement with local Indigenous communities and other stakeholders was conducted and is expected to continue over the next several years until and after Federal approvals and Manitoba Environment Act licence are granted. The Province of Manitoba has a firm plan to complete required steps and is seeking a four year extension to permit the conclusion of Crown Consultation efforts, detailed design, completing the interrogatory response process, and development of other plans and document needed in support of federal and provincial approval requirements.

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure is requesting four years (1,460 days) of additional time to complete the environmental assessment process. This will permit MTI to complete Project design and information requests (one and potentially two rounds). Completion of the environmental assessment process may further identify the need for additional data collection, modelling, engagement or consultation efforts beyond what is currently planned. The four years is also needed to complete environmental management plans and other documentation required by regulators in advance of a federal decision or provincial licencing of the Project.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments related to the letter and attached work plan.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Blair McMahon
Director of Environmental Services,
Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure