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November 23, 2021

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Request for Federal Expert Advice

- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Transport Canada
- Health Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Women and Gender Equality Canada
- Parks Canada
- Canada Energy Regulator

Dear Colleagues:

Subject: Designation Request for Proposed PADCOM Potash Solution Mining Project under the *Impact Assessment Act*

On November 16, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) received a request to designate the proposed PODCAM Potash Solution Mining Project (the Project) under subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) (enclosed).

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform your department of the designation request, and to seek your input regarding potential adverse effects within federal jurisdiction and any federal power, duty or function in relation to the Project.

The Proposed Project

Potash and Agri Development Corporation of Manitoba (PADCOM) Ltd. is proposing the construction and operation of the Project for the extraction and processing of potash. As proposed, the Project would be located in the Hamlet of Harrowby, about 16 kilometres west of Russell, Manitoba and would include a potash processing facility with centrifuge, dryer, intake well of potash brine and downhole injection brine well. The Project is designed to produce up to 250 000 tonnes per year of potash with an expected life of over 100 years. The Project as

proposed is not a designated project as described in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The impact assessment process under IAA only applies to designated projects.

Designation Request

Under subsection 9(1) of IAA the Minister may, by order, designate a physical activity that is not prescribed in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The Minister may do this, if, in the Minister's opinion, the physical activity may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects (resulting from a federal decision), or public concerns related to those effects warrant the designation. In accordance with subsection 9(4) of IAA, it is expected that the Minister will respond, with reasons, to the request February 14, 2022.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) will review information about the Project; any concerns expressed from the public and Indigenous groups; and expert advice from federal authorities and input from provincial ministries in order to inform the Minister on whether the Project should be designated. If designated, to proceed with the PADCOM Ltd. would be required to submit an Initial Project Description, thereby commencing the planning phase of IAA. In that case, the planning phase would include the Agency determining whether a federal impact assessment is required.

Additional information regarding the process for designation requests can be found at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html>.

Seeking Federal Authority Advice

Information on the Project can be found in the Proposal submitted under Manitoba's *The Environment Act*, available on Manitoba Conservation and Climate's public registry at the following link:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/6126/index.html>

The Agency is requesting that you complete and provide the attached form by **December 13, 2021** to pnr-rpn@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

In the coming days, a Registry page for the Project will be available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site. Please note that information received will be uploaded to this site.

Important Note: All records produced, collected or received in relation to the designation request process – unless prohibited under the *Access to Information Act* or *Privacy Act* – will be considered public and may be released. Should you wish to provide any comments or documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that you believe should be protected from release to the public, please contact the Agency before submitting the information.

Information marked as confidential will not be accepted without prior contact made with the Agency.

If you have any questions regarding the designation process or the response sheet, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or email at 587-357-6484 or shelly.boss@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

<sent electronically>

Shelly Boss
Project Manager, Prairie and Northern Region

Enclosure: Request for designation from What the Frack Manitoba (2 documents)