



Environmental Assessment Division  
Safe Environments Programme,  
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January 28, 2008

Ms Leslie Payette  
Manager of Environmental Administration  
Nunavut Impact Review Board  
P.O. Box 1360  
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0

Sent by e-mail to [lpayette@nirb.ca](mailto:lpayette@nirb.ca)

**Subject: Health Canada's Comments on the Acceptability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project**

Dear Ms Payette,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the documents relating to the above-mentioned project. Health Canada's (HC's) comments all relate to the technical topic of human health.

HC has begun our review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) dated December 2007. Regarding the conformity of this DEIS with the guidelines for the environmental assessment, HC generally agrees with the Board on the acceptability of the submission.

However, HC would like to take this opportunity to highlight for the Board, a deficiency in the DEIS. The DEIS is lacking an assessment of the potential human health effects associated with potential contamination of foods harvested in the regional study area, including berries and other vegetation, caribou and other terrestrial wildlife, birds, fish and marine mammals (see sections in volume F-2 - pages 8/4, 20/4, 33/4 and 39/4). The statement that effects of contamination of country food sources will be negligible was not supported by evidence. Further evidence should be provided, and a quantitative human health risk assessment of the potential contamination of country foods be considered, if warranted.

The effects assessments for wildlife, bird and fish (volumes D-3 and C-4) make little reference to bioaccumulation of contaminants, which is required by the guidelines section 4.7.3.5 g). The linkage between bioaccumulation of contaminants in all sources of country food in the regional study area and potential human health implications should be considered and discussed.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the environmental assessment process for this project. Should you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (613) 948-2875 or by email at [Carolyn Dunn@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Carolyn_Dunn@hc-sc.gc.ca).

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Carolyn Dunn

cc: Nellie Roest, HC – National Capital Region