



Health Canada Santé Canada

Environmental Assessment Division
Safe Environments Programme,
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Ottawa, ON, K1A 0K9

March 20, 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

Subject: Health Canada's Information Requests for the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road project.

Dear Ms Payette,

As requested in your letter of February 19, 2008, Health Canada is submitting information requests related to our review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of the above-mentioned project. Health Canada's (HC's) questions all relate to our technical expertise in human health.

HC has identified a gap in the draft environmental impact statement related to potential project-related contamination of foods harvested and consumed by people in the study area.

An assessment of country food issues was not identified in the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project (BIPR). At a minimum, the human health impacts related to the potential contamination of country foods gathered from the area of this project should be considered.

The draft EIS indicated that hunting, trapping and fishing occurs in the area of the proposed BIPR. Therefore, the following information requests are required in order for the proponent to determine possible impacts related to of potential country food contamination from the perspective of human health:

1. Identify country foods (e.g. edible vegetation such as berries, the tissues (e.g. meat and liver tissues) of fish and wild game, etc.) gathered from the project area and consumed by local residents or by persons hunting or fishing in this area on an occasional basis;
2. Identify potential contaminants taking into consideration all project activities;

3. Identify contaminants of potential concern (COPCs) based on the feasibility of pathways of potential contaminants into country foods harvested from the project area;
4. Identify potential human receptors who may consume country foods harvested within the study area.
5. Based on information above, the proponent should determine if further assessment of human health risks from country foods is needed or whether periodic monitoring of levels of COPCs is needed in the country foods under study.
6. If it is determined that no further assessment or monitoring is necessary, a rationale should be provided to support these statements.

Detailed risk assessment information concerning food issues is provided in Volume 3, Chapter 8 of the Health Canada publication entitled "Canadian Handbook on Health Impact Assessments". All of the volumes of this document is available on our website, at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/eval/index_e.html. The information presented in this chapter of the handbook may be of assistance in providing the risk assessment information requested for the BIPR Project.

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

Sincerely,

Carolyn Dunn

cc: Nellie Roest, HC – National Capital Region