



July 09 2003

Stephanie Briscoe
Executive Director
NTRB – Cambridge Bay

Re: Screening of Bathurst Inlet Road & Port Project

Thank you for the information provided regarding the ongoing development and progress of the BIRAP initiative and for the opportunity for our Department to provide feedback towards the next stage of this project.

When we look at the various screening criteria options, there is really only one that stands out as the necessary requirement for this project and the process towards a determination of whether it should proceed and if so, under what guidelines. That process is the proponents EIS proposal requires review under a Part 5 or Part 6 consideration as per the NLCA; section 12.4.4 (b).

The issue of time sensitivity towards the ongoing needs of the project also should remain a consideration and should be addressed with an encouragement to move ahead towards the required review and the decision once all comments are received from the distribution list and from the agencies directly involved with the BIRAP initiative.

It would be our impression that the issues addressed in Minister Nault's April 10 letter regarding the International jurisdiction of Arctic Waters, the Transborder impacts on the Bathurst Caribou herd and the impacts towards other areas/Territories brought about by potential Transportation corridor route changes will be addressed and assessed with full opportunity for input consideration and potential guideline developmental towards these concerns as the review process is undertaken.

It would seem to this reviewer that Canada's International claim to the whole Arctic Waters issue is further strengthened through increased Canadian presence and marine activity in this area and through the monitoring and assistance by Canadian Coast Guard, which would be required for all ships carrying goods to or from the Port site; whether they be Canadian registered or other.

The issue of Caribou migration, calving grounds, and the ongoing integrity of maintaining the full viability of the Bathurst Caribou herd is certainly an issue of importance to all Northern people and also one that can be addressed through this type of review. Various NWT Monitoring Agencies including the MVLWRB and the MacKenzie Valley Resource Management Act continuously address impacts of large individual projects (Diavik, Snap Lake,) on this Bathurst Caribou herd. They make their decisions

based on input from various sources through their review process with consideration as well from Traditional Knowledge sources. There is no reason to doubt that the Review process (5 or 6) as being proposed could not address this matter to a same satisfactory determination.

Finally the issue of potential impacts relating to re-supply routes. We feel there is significant potential gain through this project for the socio economic effects on the Kitikmeot Region. With appropriate caution towards environmental impacts as is a consideration with all project decisions by NIRB, there is potential that this initiative could positively promote and provide opportunities including training and employment for a generation of Kitikmeot workers. If the fate of this project is to be potentially "decisioned" because of negative economic impacts in other areas, due Transportation Route Changes, then this part of Nunavut will never be able to get out of the "Dependency" mode that has seen opportunities go elsewhere; while resources from this part of the North were being accessed and/or harvested.

I would encourage all who have participated in this initiative to date to respond to this Screening Criteria as presently requested and then for the process to move ahead in a progressive, determined and time sensitive manner.

Regards:



Doug Crossley
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