



SEP 05 2018

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BY EMAIL

Sahtu Land Use Planning Board
Approved Amendment to the Sahtu Land Use Plan

I am writing in response to the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board's (the Board's) August 15, 2018 Notice of Amendment Approval. The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) would like to clarify its position on the proposed amendment, as stated in the GNWT's submission dated July 19, 2017 and to state our expectations with regards to next steps.

Statements of fact

In early 2017 the GNWT undertook an interdepartmental review of the Board's January 9, 2017 amendment application. The GNWT's position, as submitted on February 17, 2017 was as follows:

"Overall, the GNWT supports the Board's approach to the Amendment of proposing Special Management Zone in all land parcels outside of [Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve (NANPR)] and replacing Conformity Requirement #14 for Conformity Requirement #20 (CR20) in Zone 41. However, the GNWT has identified some challenges with [Conformity Requirement (CR)20]. Approval of the Amendment is contingent on the following concerns with CR20 being addressed: (1) the Conformity Requirement should not be the sole responsibility of regulators; (2) the proposed language creates uncertainty to the regulatory process; (3) CR20 does not include mountain goats as a species to consider despite their observed presence within Zone 41 in areas outside the boundaries of NANPR...The GNWT is committed to working with its planning partners on specific language in CR20 and to conclude the amendment process in an efficient and timely manner. The GNWT strongly recommends a Board-led meeting or teleconference with approving parties at the conclusion of the public review process and in advance of an Amendment being submitted for final approval."

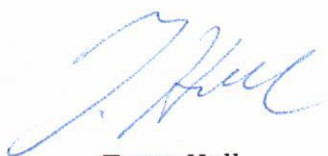
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On January 23, 2018 the Board released *The First Five Years: A look Back to Move Forward* prepared by the Board as a component of the Board's mandate under s. 50 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. The document was prepared to communicate the approach of the Board as it intended to advance land use planning in the Sahtu Settlement Area, and in particular to communicate the Board's recommendation on the Five Year Review. One of the Board's recommendations was that "the ongoing [zone 41] amendment process should be rolled into the 5-Year Review amendment process" (pg. 10). On July 19, 2018 the GNWT submitted written comments in which we supported the completion of the zone 41 amendment process as part of the review.

As such, the GNWT did not anticipate the Board's August 15th, Notice of Amendment Approval. Given the lack of dialogue to date between approving parties on the outstanding issues with CR20, the GNWT is now reaching out to Canada and the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated (SSI) to discuss opportunities for dialogue within the process set out in subsections 43(1)-(4) of the *MVRMA*.

The GNWT remains committed to an efficient and effective conclusion to the amendment and we look forward to working with the Board, SSI and Canada towards this end. If you have any questions please contact Darha Phillipot, Manager Land Use Planning at Darha.Phillpot@gov.nt.ca or (867) 767-9183.

Sincerely,



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Director
Land Use and Sustainability

c. Mark Hopkins
Director, INAC-Natural Resources
and Environmental Branch

Orlena Modeste
Executive Director
The Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated