



Prairie and Northern Region Région des Prairies et du Nord
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September 21, 2020

To:

Canadian Transport Agency john.woodward@otc-cta.gc.ca

Department for Women and Gender Equality catherine.adams@cfc-swc.gc.ca

Employment and Social Development Canada eric.cote@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca; eric.lalonde@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

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Indigenous Services Canada hilary.hunter@canada.ca

Natural Resources Canada maximilien.genest@canada.ca

Transport Canada PNREA-RPNEE@tc.gc.ca; adam.downing@tc.gc.ca

Subject: Federal Authority Advice Record for the Great Sandhills Railway Switching Operation at North West Terminal Project

Dear Federal Review Team:

On September 21, 2020, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) accepted the Initial Project Description for the Switching Operation at North West Terminal Project (the Project) from Great Sandhills Railway Ltd. (the proponent) as meeting the requirements of the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations* under the *Impact Assessment Act* (the Act). As of today the 180-day planning phase of the impact assessment has commenced. The Initial Project Description is available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site at <http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80998?culture=en-CA> .



The Agency has announced the start of a 30-day comment period (<http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/136035?culture=en-CA>) inviting the public, Indigenous groups, and other jurisdictions to provide feedback related to the Project and inform the Summary of Issues. Once completed, the Agency will provide the Summary of Issues to the proponent.

In accordance with subsection 13(1) of the Act, the Agency requests your department's or agency's¹ input to identify its responsibilities and expertise related to the Project and to inform the Agency's preparation of the Summary of Issues. Attached to this letter is the Federal Authority Advice Record form that the Agency requires your department to complete and return by no later than end of day **October 15, 2020**. Your department is encouraged to provide as much detail as practicable in describing the potential issues that may be of relevance or concern in relation to the Project. You are also required to provide a concise synopsis of each issue for inclusion in the Summary of Issues.

Concurrent with the comment period, the Agency will convene a Federal Review Team comprised of representatives from the relevant federal authorities. The Agency will develop, in consultation with federal authorities, a Project-specific work plan that sets out the detailed tasks, deliverables and timelines, consistent with the Act's legislated time limits, for each phase of the impact assessment. The work plan may be updated as the assessment of the Project progresses.

For your future reference, after the proponent receives the Summary of Issues, it is required to submit a Detailed Project Description that includes an explanation of how it intends to address the issues raised. The Agency may contact your department for information or advice at that time for the purpose of determining if the Detailed Project Description is complete. Following acceptance of the Detailed Project Description, the Agency may seek the opinion of your department to inform the Agency's decision on whether an impact assessment of the Project is required.

Please note that all records produced, collected, or received in relation to the impact assessment of the Project – unless prohibited under the *Access to Information Act* – will be considered public and posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site (Reference #80998).

¹ All subsequent references to department mean department or agency.

If you have any questions regarding the impact assessment process or the response form, please do not hesitate to contact me at 587-357-6484 or IAAC.NorthWest.AEIC@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Shelly Boss
Project Manager, Prairie and Northern Region

Attachment: Federal Authority Advice Record

ATTACHMENT:

Federal Authority Advice Record

Response due by October 15, 2020

Great Sandhills Railway Switching Operation at North West Terminal Project

Agency File: 005770

Registry Number: 80998

Department/Agency	
Lead IA Contact	
Full Address	
Email	
Telephone	
Alternate Departmental Contact	

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1. Is it probable that your department or agency may be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project to enable it to proceed?

If yes, specify the Act of Parliament and that power, duty or function.

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2. Is your department or agency in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge that may be relevant to the conduct of an impact assessment of the Project?

Specify as appropriate.

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3. Has your department or agency considered the Project; exercised a power or performed a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project; or taken any course of action that would allow the Project to proceed in whole or in part?

Specify as appropriate.

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4. Has your department or agency had previous contact or involvement with the proponent or other party in relation to the Project? (for example, enquiry about methodology, guidance, or data; introduction to the project)

Provide an overview of the information or advice exchanged.

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5. Does your department or agency have additional information or knowledge not specified, above?

Specify as appropriate.

6. From the perspective of the mandate and area(s) of expertise of your department or agency, what are the issues that should be addressed in the impact assessment of the Project, should the Agency determine that an impact assessment is required?

For each issue discussed, provide a concise, plain-language summary that is appropriate for inclusion in the Summary of Issues.

Name of Departmental / Agency Responder

Title of Responder

Date