



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

AUG 08 2017

Xakiji Lee Crowchild
Tsuut'ina Nation
Office of the Chief
9911 Chilla Blvd.
Tsuut'ina AB T2W 6H6

Dear Chief Crowchild:

Thank you for your letters dated July 19, 2017, regarding the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project and Federal Court judgment in respect of the Project.

The Federal Court set aside the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's decision and directed me to personally decide whether to refer the environmental assessment of the Project to a review panel. I determined that the Project would not be referred to a review panel and that the federal assessment of the Project would continue to be conducted by the Agency.

I appreciate your concerns regarding the potential impacts of the Project on your Aboriginal and Treaty rights expressed in your July 19 letters (including your May 30, 2016 letter to the Agency) and the concerns expressed at the June 13, 2017 meeting with the Agency. I sincerely considered your concerns in my determination on whether to refer the Project to a review panel and it is my view that your concerns about the Project will effectively be addressed through an Agency-led assessment.

I understand that Tsuut'ina Nation has a number of specific issues that must be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. In response to these issues regarding the potential effects of this Project and transparency of the environmental assessment review process, I directed the Agency to invite Tsuut'ina Nation, as well as other Indigenous groups, to participate as members of a technical working group. As a member of the technical working group, Tsuut'ina Nation would be able to contribute your traditional and local knowledge and work directly with federal expert departments to review the information and address issues, review potential mitigation measures and influence the design of monitoring and follow-up requirements. Tsuut'ina Nation would also have the opportunity to review the Agency's Environmental Assessment Report and potential conditions while they are being drafted.

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I believe that your direct participation as a member of the technical working group will provide Tsuut'ina Nation with an opportunity to express your views and meaningfully participate in the process. An Agency representative will contact you in the near future and offer you an invitation to be a member of this technical working group.

The federal government is committed to a renewed nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership. I recognize that consultation with Indigenous Peoples is the honourable way for us to build relationships and work towards reconciliation which will in part be achieved through us working together on the environmental assessment of this Project.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.

cc: Violet Meguinis, Tsuut'ina Nation a/Consultation Director
Nadine Crowchild, Executive Assistant to Chief Crowchild
Terry Braun, Tsuut'ina Legal Counsel
Virginia Mathers, Mandell Pinder LLP
Mai-Linh Huynh, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency