

From: Ryan Abel <email address removed>
Sent: June 23, 2016 1:59 PM
To: EA Review / Examen EE (CEAA)
Cc: <personal information removed>
Subject: Request for extension to review and provide comments on the EA and regulatory processes associated with CEAA 2012
Importance: High

Good day,

On behalf of the Fort McKay First Nation, I would like to request an extension until August 15, 2016 to review and provide comments on what the federal EA review and regulatory process associated with the CEAA should look like, as we understand based on the recent announcement by Minister McKenna, that she will be establishing an expert panel to review federal environmental assessment processes associated with the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*.

According to this announcement, this expert panel “*will engage broadly with Canadians, Indigenous peoples and key stakeholders and produce a report for the Minister.*”

We are aware that as an initial step, Indigenous peoples and Canadians have been invited to provide comments on the panel’s terms of reference until July 20, 2016. However, due to the recent wildfires in the Fort McMurray area, and the fact that residents have only recently been able to begin returning home, including the residents of Fort McKay, our ability to provide a review by July 20, 2016 may not be possible, as our offices are just beginning the process of resuming normal work conditions, including addressing the backlog of work already in place.

Depending on the outcome of this review, there are significant potential consequences to the Fort McKay First Nation (already arguably one of the most impacted First Nations in the World by the industrial development in the Athabasca Oil Sands), we see it as essential that the Fort McKay First Nation have the ability to have meaningful input throughout the life of this review process.

We look forward to hearing from you in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ryan Abel
Lead – Environment & Regulatory, In Situ
Fort McKay Sustainability Department
Fort McKay First Nation

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