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Ms. Jody Shimkus
Project Assessment Director
Environmental Assessment Office
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9V1

January 18, 2008

RE: Status of Federal Involvement in the Coordinated Environmental Assessment Process for the South Fraser Perimeter Road Project

Dear Ms. Shimkus,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress that the federal authorities and BC Ministry of Transportation (MoT) have recently made on moving the environmental assessment (EA) process for the South Fraser Perimeter Road project forward.

As you are aware, Environment Canada (EC) provided the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) with a follow-up letter of advice in November 2007. This letter was provided in response to additional project enhancements proposed by the BC MOT in September and as technical advice to Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada as the responsible authorities under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

In its November letter, EC identified a number of outstanding concerns that it would like to see addressed before the EA process comes to a conclusion. The BC MoT received these comments in November and advised Transport Canada (TC) that it supported many of the recommendations in the letter, but had concerns regarding the significant differences in opinion presented by EC and the BC MOT regarding the potential risks to Burns Bog as a result of aerial deposition of road dust from operation of the proposed project. Notwithstanding these differences of opinion between technical specialists, both EC and the BC MOT indicated a willingness to work together to reconcile these concerns.

As such, TC as a responsible authority has since been leading a series of technical meetings involving senior managers and scientific experts from EC and the BC MoT. TC has now met with EC and the BC MOT on three separate occasions since December 2007, with the most recent meeting being held on January 9, 2008. These meetings have allowed scientists from both the BC MoT and EC to better understand each other's views and have helped move towards a common approach to assessing potential risks to Burns Bog as result of particulate deposition. With regard to the wildlife and hydrology concerns raised by EC, technical meetings have been scheduled to discuss these issues in the coming weeks.

It is my understanding that the BC MOT intends to await the outcome of the current technical discussions before providing a final response to EC's November correspondence. Once this response has been received, it will be provided to you for your files.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (604) 666-8784.

Sincerely,

Linda Sullivan
Senior Program Officer
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Pacific Region

cc. Cathy Hainsworth, Transport Canada
Mike Englesjord, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Kristie Trainor, Environment Canada