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July 17, 2020

Chief Shirley Ducharme and Council
O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation
P.O. Box 139
South Indian Lake, MB R0B 1N0

Dear Chief Ducharme and Council:

RE: Crown-Indigenous Consultation on Churchill River Diversion Project Final Licence

Thank you for your participation to date in Crown-Indigenous consultations with the Government of Manitoba (Manitoba) regarding Manitoba Hydro's application for a Final Licence for the Churchill River Diversion Project.

We appreciate your efforts to assist Manitoba in its understanding of your community's views, interests and concerns regarding Final Licensing for this Project. Manitoba Conservation and Climate considers that it has provided a fair and reasonable approach to consultation, and a reasonable opportunity has been made for O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation to fully participate in the Crown-Indigenous consultation process for this Project since 2009. Attached is a record of communication with your community.

Also attached for your review is a summary of the concerns that your community has shared with Manitoba during the consultation process and other processes to date, as Manitoba understands them and Manitoba's consultation Steering Committee's responses to those concerns. We are requesting your written comments to the summary of concerns and the Steering Committee's responses before **August 17, 2020**.

The comments together with any further information you may be providing by August 17, 2020, along with the summary of concerns and Manitoba's responses will be considered by the decision maker; the Minister of Conservation and Climate with respect to the Final Licence. If you need additional time due to COVID-19, please let me know, so we can make any necessary arrangements.

The Steering Committee is currently considering all information before it, including what Manitoba has learned through the consultation process before finalizing the consultation report and submitting to the Minister. Manitoba anticipates to make its decision on the licence in the Fall of 2020. After the Minister has made a decision, Manitoba will communicate that decision to you, including advising how information with respect of the exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty rights were considered by Manitoba in the decision making process, and how Manitoba worked to substantially address any potential issues and concerns.

We look forward to your written comments. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact me at Christina.McDonald@gov.mb.ca or (204) 391-1782.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. McDonald".

Christina McDonald, Ph.D
Chair
Steering Committee

Attachments