



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

Brianne England  
Manager – Applications  
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch  
Ministry of Environment  
Government of Saskatchewan  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3211 Albert Street  
Regina, SK  
S4S 5W6

Sent via e-mail: [brianne.english@gov.sk.ca](mailto:brianne.english@gov.sk.ca)

**Re: Provincial Authority and Advice Record for the Great Sandhills Railway Switching Operation at North West Terminal Project – Input to Summary of Issues**

Dear Brianne England:

**Please respond by October 21, 2020 using the attached form.**

On September 21, 2020, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) accepted the Initial Project Description for the Great Sandhills Railway 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 <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80998?culture=en-CA>.

The Agency has commenced a 30-day comment period (<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/136038?&culture=en-CA>), inviting the public, Indigenous groups and other jurisdictions to provide feedback related to the Project and inform the Summary of Issues<sup>1</sup>. All comments will inform the Summary of Issues with respect to the Project that will be provided to the proponent as per subsection 14(1) of the Act.

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<sup>1</sup> Summary of Issues is a list of issues raised in the planning phase prepared by the Agency. This document provides the proponent with an understanding of issues and allows participants to see how their comments and concerns have been characterized.



### **Request for comments – Due October 21, 2020**

In accordance with section 12 of the Act, the Agency is requesting the input of the Ministry of Environment on the Project and potential issues that should be addressed in a federal impact assessment, should the Agency determine that one is required. Attached is **Provincial Authority Advice Record #1: Authority and Summary of Issues** that the Agency is requesting you complete by October 21, 2020. You may also choose to respond in a different format. Please note, the Agency will consider all comments received in preparing the Summary of Issues. The Ministry of Environment 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. The Agency encourages you to also provide a concise synopsis of each issue for inclusion in the Summary of Issues.

All comments should be submitted via the *Submit a Comment* feature available on the Project's Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page (Reference #80998 at <http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80998?culture=en-CA>). Letters and forms can be uploaded using this feature. If you have any difficulties submitting this way, please contact the Agency using the information provided below for assistance.

**Important note:** 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 will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site (Reference #80998). Should you wish to provide any comments or documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that you believe should be protected from release to the public, please contact the Agency before submitting the information. Information marked as confidential will not be accepted without prior contact made with the Agency.

### **Next steps**

Following the provision of the Summary of Issues to the proponent, the proponent will submit a Detailed Project Description in accordance with Schedule 2 of the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations*, including how it intends to address the Summary of Issues as per subsection 15(1) of the Act. This notice could be in the form of an annex to the Detailed Project Description wherein the proponent would provide a response to the Summary of Issues provided by the Agency. Following acceptance of the Detailed Project Description, if an impact assessment is required for the Project, the Agency will draft the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, and the various plans including the Cooperation Plan for review and comment.

The Agency would engage with the Ministry of Environment on the development of the Cooperation Plan. The Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and plans, which includes the Permitting Plan, the Public Participation Plan, an Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, and the Cooperation Plan, would be finalized

and issued to the proponent on or before day 180 of the planning phase, concluding the planning phase of the Act.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 587-357-6484 or email at [IAAC.NorthWest.AEIC@canada.ca](mailto:IAAC.NorthWest.AEIC@canada.ca). If desired, the Agency is also available to meet and discuss the Act.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Shelly Boss  
Project Manager, Prairie and Northern Region

Attachment:

Provincial Authority Advice Record Form #1: Authority and Summary of Issues

**Provincial Authority Advice Record Form #1: Authority and Summary of Issues**

**Response requested by: October 21, 2020**

**Great Sandhills Railway Switching Operation at North West Terminal Project**

CIAR No.: 80998

All comments should be submitted via the **Submit a Comment** feature available on the Project's Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page (Reference #80998 at <http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80998?culture=en-CA>). Letters and forms can be uploaded using this feature. If you have any difficulties submitting this way, please contact the Agency using the information provided below for assistance.

Ministry/Agency:			
Contact Name:		Telephone:	
Address:		Fax:	
Email:			

**Please complete this form.**

1. Would your ministry/agency participate in the federal impact assessment process for this Project? If so, provide the information of the main point of contact.

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2. Will your jurisdiction be undertaking a review and analysis of the Project? Would your jurisdiction participate in a cooperative review of the project information?

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3. Does your ministry have any advice on matters that should be included in the Summary of Issues and addressed by the proponent in the Detailed Project Description?

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

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4. Does your ministry have any advice on matters to consider for inclusion in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, should an impact assessment be required?

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5. Do you have any comments about the Project in relation to effects within federal jurisdiction, and/or the factors defined in section 22 of IAA<sup>2</sup>, species at risk or impacts to Indigenous peoples?
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6. Do you have comments related to issues such as health, environment, economic or social conditions that you wish to note for the Agency's consideration (both positive and negative)? Additional topics for consideration include gender-based analysis; alternative means to carry out the Project and / or alternatives to the Project; cumulative effects; and sustainability.
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7. Please identify the contact information for your jurisdiction for the public relevant to the potential impact assessment. Could be a generic email box or specific to your jurisdiction's role in the project (e.g. permits, authorizations, guidance or funding within your jurisdiction's mandate).
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8. Based on the Initial Project Description, please confirm what project components and activities you would consider relevant in relation to permits, authorizations or guidance within your jurisdiction's mandate.
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9. Will your jurisdiction be issuing a permit, authorization or be involved in the aforementioned Project in a regulatory manner? If so, indicate below.
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10. For any permits or authorizations to be issued, please provide a short description of each with specific information on the location or component of the Project to which the permit or authorization would be applicable.
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11. Will there be opportunities for engagement with the public or Indigenous groups as part of the regulatory or review process by your jurisdiction? If so, when is this likely to occur (e.g., during the impact assessment process, during a specific phase of the impact assessment process such as the impact statement phase, or post-impact assessment, etc.).
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<sup>2</sup> A link to IAA text can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/corporate/acts-regulations/legislation-regulations.html>

12. Will your jurisdiction be providing any participant funding?

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Name of responder

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Date

*If you have any difficulties, you may contact the Agency via email at [IAAC.NorthWest.AEIC@canada.ca](mailto:IAAC.NorthWest.AEIC@canada.ca)*