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November 23, 2021

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Request for Provincial Input

- Jennifer Winsor, Manitoba Conservation and Climate, Jennifer.Winsor@gov.mb.ca

Subject: Designation Request for the Proposed PADCOM Potash Solution Mining Project under the *Impact Assessment Act*

Dear Colleague:

On November 16, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) received a request to designate the proposed PODCAM Potash Solution Mining Project (the Project) under subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), on which you were copied.

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform your ministry of the designation request and to seek your input regarding provincial regulatory processes in relation to the Project, and any associated assessment of effects and public and Indigenous consultation.

The Proposed Project

Potash and Agri Development Corporation of Manitoba (PADCOM) Ltd. is proposing the construction and operation of the Project for the extraction and processing of potash. As proposed, the Project would be located in the Hamlet of Harrowby, about 16 kilometres west of Russell, Manitoba and would include a potash processing facility with centrifuge, dryer, intake well of potash brine and downhole injection brine well. The Project is designed to produce up to 250 000 tonnes per year of potash with an expected life of over 100 years. The Project as proposed is not a designated project as described in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The impact assessment process under IAA only applies to designated projects.

Designation Request

Under subsection 9(1) of IAA the Minister may, by order, designate a physical activity that is not prescribed in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The Minister may do this, if, in the Minister's opinion, the physical activity may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects (resulting



from a federal decision), or public concerns related to those effects warrant the designation. In accordance with subsection 9(4) of IAA, it is expected that the Minister will respond, with reasons, to the request February 14, 2022.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) will review information about the Project; any concerns expressed from the public and Indigenous groups; and expert advice from federal authorities and input from provincial ministries in order to inform the Minister on whether the Project should be designated. If designated, to proceed with the Project, PADCOM Ltd. would be required to submit an Initial Project Description, thereby commencing the planning phase of IAA. In that case, the planning phase would include the Agency determining whether a federal impact assessment is required.

Additional information regarding the process for designation requests can be found at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html>.

Seeking Provincial Input

The Agency is requesting that you complete and provide the attached form by **December 13, 2021** to pnr-rpn@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

In the coming days, a Registry page will be available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site. Please note that information received will be uploaded to this site.

Important Note: All records produced, collected or received in relation to the designation request process – unless prohibited under the *Access to Information Act* or *Privacy Act* – will be considered public and may be released. 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.

If you have any questions regarding the designation process or the response sheet, please do not hesitate to contact me at 587-357-6484 or shelly.boss@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Sincerely,

<sent electronically>

Shelly Boss
Project Manager, Prairie and Northern Region