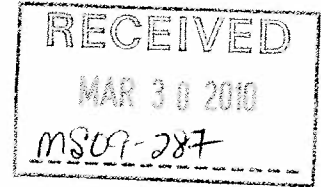




Highways and Public Works
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6



March 30, 2010

Carcross/Tagish First Nation
Box 130
Carcross, YT Y0B 1B0

Dear Bill Barrett Jr.

I am writing to respond to the issues you raised in your letter to the Yukon Water Board regarding Haunka Creek and proposed work on the Atlin Road.

Whitefish spawn in Haunka Creek. At our meeting with your First Nation on February 5, 2010 you identified that whitefish spawn at Haunka Creek and perhaps others along the road in October. A 2005 fisheries report by Yukon Environment on all the stream crossings of the Atlin Road identifies Haunka Creek as having high fisheries values.


The bridge replacement work at Haunka Creek has been designed with the fish in mind. The new bridge meets the criteria of Fisheries and Oceans as a clear span bridge and does not entail in water activities. The temporary bridge is longer than the existing crossing so it will not interfere with Haunka Creek. The plan is to have all activities at Haunka Creek complete before a fall spawning run. Our drawings and plans are still viewable on the YESAB On-line Registry (YOR 2009-0179).

The Atlin Stream Crossing Assessment prepared by Yukon Environment identifies three other potential sites (km 16-17) between Haunka Creek and Snafu Creek where fish might occur. All three are identified as "no fish habitat exists". These drain a marshy area with no fish habitat values. A small creek at km 12 has several obstructions to fish passage and is also not considered fish habitat.

Highways and Public Works is aware of the importance of the fisheries in Little Atlin Lake. For example, HPW has enhanced fish habitat at Little Atlin Creek by re-establishing habitat connectivity. The current project is designed to avoid adverse effects on fish and fish habitat.

Thank you for raising your concerns. If you have other questions or concerns, please give me a call at your convenience.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Walker', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rob Walker
Manager, Environmental Affairs
Highways and Public Works
(867) 633-7929

cc. Yukon Water Board