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Reference: 128293

JUL 30 2010

Sue Farlinger
Regional Director General
Pacific Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
401 Burrard St
Vancouver BC V6C 3S4

Dear Ms. ^{Sue}Farlinger:

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) staff participating in the Fraser River Sediment Management Program requested that the BC Ministry of Environment clarify the Ministry's position regarding involvement with the program. I hope that the following response is of assistance.

As you are already aware, Emergency Management BC (EMBC), in its lead role for the Fraser River Sediment Management Program, has organized an advisory structure currently composed of a technical committee and a management (i.e. decision makers') committee.

Staff from the Water Stewardship Division will continue to participate as the key Ministry of Environment contacts on both committees. In circumstances where impacts to fish and wildlife are to be discussed by the technical advisors to the decision makers (i.e. technical committee), the EMBC chair of the technical committee will contact both the WSD committee member and Scott Barrett at the Environmental Stewardship Division (ESD) for an invitation to committee meetings on an as-needed basis. DFO is welcome to contact Mr. Barrett at any time to discuss issues of mutual importance. He can be reached at 604-582-5397 and by email Scott.Barrett@gov.bc.ca.

While ESD provides important technical advice, it should be noted that decisions regarding the issuance of authorizations under the *Water Act* falls under the responsibility of a statutory decision maker (in this case the Regional Water Manager) whose mandate for consideration of issues encompasses both the protection of the environment and the protection of public safety.

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Please contact me should you have any further questions or wish to discuss.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Konkin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doug Konkin
Deputy Minister

pc: Honourable Barry Penner, Minister of Environment
Jason Hwang, Area Chief, BC Interior, Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Julia Berardinucci, Regional Manager, Water Stewardship Division
Jennifer McGuire, Regional Manager, Environmental Stewardship Division
Scott Barrett, Ecosystem Section Head, Ministry of Environment
Dwayne Meredith, Manager, Emergency Management BC