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June 14, 2005

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Environmental Assessment Office		

File: S-5560-08-02

Don DeMill  
11422-92A Avenue  
Delta, BC  
V4C 3M5

Dear Mr. DeMill:

**Re: South Fraser Perimeter Road**

Thank you for your letter to the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) regarding the proposed South Fraser Perimeter Road (SFPR) which was forwarded to me for response, as well as for your participation in our public consultation process in southwest Delta. In your letter you raised concerns regarding potential impacts to Burns Bog and the proposed alignment of SFPR between the Alex Fraser Bridge and Port Kells.

I would like to begin by stating that the Ministry of Transportation (MoT) is committed to minimizing the environmental impacts of the proposed new road where possible, and to exploring ways to mitigate and/or compensate for unavoidable impacts. The project is subject to environmental assessment under both the federal and provincial environmental assessment legislation and is currently in the pre-application stage of a harmonized review under the Canada-B.C. Environmental Assessment Agreement (2004). This will provide the opportunity for government agencies and interested parties to review and provide input on the project and the studies undertaken. As a demonstration of our commitment to this process, MoT entered the environmental assessment pre-application process early (February 2003) and will work with the EAO Working Group established for this project throughout the project development stage.

As you are aware, there are three conceptual alignment options for the South Fraser Perimeter Road between DeltaPort Way and 80<sup>th</sup> Street. We are currently conducting environmental assessment studies, including vegetation, wildlife and surface and groundwater. Our study team includes a number of technical experts who were involved in the Burns Bog Ecosystem Review. In addition, we have met with the Burns Bog Management Planning Committee (BBMPC). Building on the work of our technical experts, we are exploring potential mitigation measures with the BBMPC including identification of options to potentially address impacts of past development (e.g., to enhance the existing groundwater and surface water regime within the SFPR corridor).

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**Ministry of  
Transportation**

Gateway Program

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In the area between the Alex Fraser Bridge and Port Kells, I understand your concerns regarding the impact of a new road right-of-way in addition to existing utility corridors and other transportation rights-of-way. We are currently reviewing the utilities and rights-of-way located in the vicinity of the proposed road, and where feasible, to consolidate the footprint. I would also like to reiterate that the SFPR project team is conducting an assessment of environmental and archaeological features along the corridor to ensure that impacts are avoided where possible and that the most appropriate mitigation is undertaken where impacts cannot reasonably be avoided.

The Terms of Reference for all studies being undertaken as part of the environmental review of the project are available on the EAO website at

[http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/epic/output/html/depoly/epic\\_project\\_home\\_196.html](http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/epic/output/html/depoly/epic_project_home_196.html).

If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact us and we will provide you with a hard copy. Reports for all studies will be available on the EAO website once the studies are complete.

Thank you again for your interest in the project. If you have any additional questions or concerns, Debra Lamash, our Community Relations Coordinator, would be pleased to assist. She can be reached at 604-456-2454 or [Debra.Lamash@gatewayprogram.bc.ca](mailto:Debra.Lamash@gatewayprogram.bc.ca).

Yours truly,



Don Wharf  
Project Director, South Fraser Perimeter Road  
Gateway Program

Cc: Jan Hagen, BC Environmental Assessment Office  
Robin Taylor, Environmental Advisor, Gateway Program  
Debra Lamash, Community Relations Coordinator, Gateway Program