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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT
For the Georgetown South Corridor Service Expansion and the
Express Transportation Link
EA Terms of Reference

UPON RECEIPT, PLEASE COMPLETE
BOXES/BLANK LINES AND RETURN BY FAX
TO:

Date Received

Ministry of the Environment
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch
Attn: Hayley Berlin
Project Officer
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1L5

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Proponent: GO Transit

EA Terms of Reference Title: Terms of Reference for Georgetown South Service Expansion and Airport Transportation Link Between Lester B. Pearson Airport and Union Station

EA File No.: EA-02-06-03

Agency: Health Canada

Reviewer: Kitty Ma

Tel. No.: 416-954-2206

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Please check the appropriate box:

We will be able to provide comments to the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch by: **November 27, 2006** (Comments received after this date may not be considered in the approval process)

We are satisfied the proposed Terms of Reference will address our mandate, but wish to be involved in the preparation of the EA (with reference to the proponent's proposed schedule and/or components of the EA Workplan, please indicate below when you wish to be contacted)

We have no comments and do not require any further involvement with this proposal, until triggered under CEAA. Once it is in the federal system, HC will provide comments upon request by an RA. (see attached letter).



Safe Environments Programme, HECS Branch
180 Queen Street West, 10th Floor
Toronto, ON M5V 3L7

November 22, 2006

Hayley Berlin
Project Officer
Ministry of the Environment
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch
2 St. Clair Ave. West, Floor 12A
Toronto, Ontario M4V 1L5

Subject: Terms of Reference for Georgetown South Service Expansion and Airport Transportation Link Between Lester B. Pearson Airport and Union Station

Thank you for your letter dated October 27, 2006 providing Health Canada with the opportunity to participate in the above-mentioned project.

In view of the available information, it has been determined that Health Canada would not require an environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) and is therefore not a Responsible Authority (RA) in accordance with the Act. Should CEAA be triggered by another federal agency, Health Canada determines that it could act as a Federal Authority (FA) under section 12(3) of CEAA, if requested to do so by the RA.

Health Canada is only involved in federal or multi-jurisdictional environmental assessments where CEAA is triggered. Therefore, Health Canada will not comment on the Terms of Reference at the present time, until requested by a RA.

However, regardless of whether CEAA is triggered, Health Canada would like to encourage that any environmental assessment to be conducted include a health impact assessment component. Upon review of the draft Terms of Reference, Health Canada would like to recommend the followings to be included in the environmental assessment as part of the health impact assessment component:

- discuss the potential to increase human exposure to contaminants from changes to water quality, air quality, and soil quality taking into consideration of all project activities;
- discuss the potential to increase human exposure to noise during construction, operation and maintenance periods of the project;
- discuss the cumulative health effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other existing, approved and proposed projects or reasonably-foreseeable activities in the region;
- as appropriate, identify anticipated follow-up work, including regional cooperative studies. Identify how such work will be implemented and coordinated with ongoing air, soil and water quality initiatives;
- provide a summary of emergency response plan and discuss mitigation plans that will be implemented to ensure workforce and public safety during pre-construction, construction, operation and reclamation of the Project;
- describe how local residents will be contacted during an emergency and what type of information will be communicated to them;

Canada

- describe existing agreements with area municipalities or industry groups such as, safety co-operatives, emergency response associations and municipal emergency response agencies;
- identify and discuss potential health and safety impacts due to higher regional traffic volumes and the increased risk of accidental leaks and spills.
- provide details of consultation with Aboriginal groups to determine the effects on traditional use of the Local Study Area(s). Document any stakeholder concerns regarding the impact of the Project on the historical significance of the Study Area(s) and its current use by traditional users. Identify the existing and historical land users, including oil sands development, tourism, forestry, fishing, hunting, traditional plant harvesting, cultural use and outdoor recreation with specific regard given to the Aboriginal peoples. Determine the impact of development on these uses and identify possible mitigation strategies.

Health Canada promotes a holistic definition of human health.¹ We are prepared to contribute as a FA, if requested to do so by a RA, and have specialist or expert scientific health information and knowledge in a number of areas, which could possibly be of assistance in the environmental assessment being conducted. Examples of the areas of expertise available include:

- impacts of noise on human health,
- air, water and soil quality guidelines/standards;
- drinking water and sewage management;
- toxicology (multimedia - air, water, soil, food);
- community health (First Nations);
- environmental and occupational toxicology; and
- health risk assessment and risk management

This list should not be considered an exhaustive one, but rather a sample of Health Canada's areas of expertise. The responsibility for health also lies with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and therefore, it is assumed that the appropriate provincial authorities will be involved in addressing any related issues and concerns for this project. Health Canada is primarily responsible for the health of First Nations and has an interest in the health and well being of all Canadians and it is in this spirit that we may be of assistance.

Should you have any further questions, or would like Health Canada to review specific parts of the Environmental Assessment report for this project, please feel free to contact me at (416) 954-2206.

Yours sincerely,



Kitty Ma
Regional Environment Assessment Coordinator
Health Canada

cc: Eric Advokaat, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Kaarina Stiff, Transport Canada

¹ The World Health Organization defines human health as "state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" (World Health Organization, 1984). Therefore, when assessing human health, all aspects of well-being need to be considered, including physical, social, emotional, spiritual and environmental impacts on health. Human health is influenced by a range of factors, such as the physical environment (including environmental contaminants), heredity, lifestyle (smoking, drinking, diet and exercise), occupation, the social and economic environment the person lives in, or combinations of these factors. Exposure to environmental contaminants is one among many factors that contribute to the state of our health (Health Canada, 1997).