

**Information Requests
submitted by the MVEIRB
to
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development,**

Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Nahanni National Park Reserve,

Environment Canada.

INFORMATION REQUEST

Date: September 6, 2000

To: Marie Adams
Environment and Conservation
DI AND

From: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board)

Contact: Gordon Stewart, Environmental Assessment Officer
(867) 873-9193 phone
(867) 920-4761 fax
eao2@mveirb.nt.ca

Subject: Cumulative effects and the state of the water resources of the South Nahanni River watershed.

Objective: To provide the Review Board a greater understanding of the state and integrity of the water resources of the South Nahanni River watershed.

Date Required: Close of business day on Friday, September 29, 2000.

Reference: Related to one of the reasons for referring the development to EA.

Preamble: A concern was raised that incremental developments occurring in the area surrounding the Nahanni National Park Reserve (NNPR) and within or impacting on the South Nahanni River watershed could lead to cumulative effects on water resources.

Request: Please provide:

- (a) An indication of the existing state of the environment and integrity of the water resources of the South Nahanni River watershed;
- (b) An indication of where water quality monitoring stations are and the extent of baseline water quality data available, for the area;
- (c) Analysis and conclusions, with supporting rationale, of the potential for cumulative effects on water resources to occur from this proposed development; and,
- (d) A detailed explanation of how licence and permit terms and conditions that would normally be applied to regulatory authorizations for seismic programs (i.e., in this case, DI AND issued the original Land Use Permit) could mitigate for direct, indirect and cumulative effects to water resources.

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Environment and Conservation
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Contact: Gordon Stewart, Environmental Assessment Officer
(867) 873-9193 phone
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Subject: Deh Cho Land Claim Process and implications

Objective: To provide the Review Board a greater understanding of the status and meaning of agreements and processes of the Deh Cho land claim process and any implications this process has, or may have, to developments in the area.

Date Required: Close of business day on Friday, September 29, 2000.

Reference: Related to one of the reasons for referring the development to EA.

Preamble: A concern was raised of possible effects this development may have in relation to two possible expansion proposals for the Nahanni National Park Reserve (NNPR): one proposed by Heritage Canada into three adjacent areas, and the other proposed by Deh Cho First Nations and Naha Deho First Nation for an expansion into the South Nahanni River watershed.

Request: Please provide:

- (a) An indication of the status of *The Deh Cho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement*, *The Deh Cho First Nations Framework Agreement* and any other agreements, and how these agreements affect, or may affect, this development;
- (b) An indication of any protection measures (e.g., land freezes) currently in place, or proposed to be in place, to protect areas of interest to parties, and how these measures affect, or may affect, this development; and
- (c) An indication that if expansion of NNPR is going to occur, one way or the other, what the implications to this development proposal are.

INFORMATION REQUEST

Date: September 6, 2000

To: Kelly Withers
Habitat Biologist
DFO

From: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board)

Contact: Gordon Stewart, Environmental Assessment Officer
(867) 873-9193 phone
(867) 920-4761 fax
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Subject: Cumulative effects and the state of the water resources of the South Nahanni River watershed.

Objective: To provide the Review Board a greater understanding of the state and integrity of the water resources of the South Nahanni River watershed.

Date Required: Close of business day on Friday, September 29, 2000.

Reference: Related to one of the reasons for referring the development to EA.

Preamble: A concern was raised that incremental developments occurring in the area surrounding the Nahanni National Park Reserve (NNPR) and within or impacting on the South Nahanni River watershed could lead to cumulative effects on water resources. The Review Board notes that fish and fish habitat are closely linked to the state of the environment and integrity of the water resources of this area.

Request: Please provide:

- (a) An indication of the existing state of the environment and integrity of the water resources of the South Nahanni River watershed;
- (b) Analysis and conclusions, with supporting rationale, of the potential for cumulative effects on water resources to occur from this proposed development; and,
- (c) A detailed explanation of how the letter of advice provided to the developer by DFO could mitigate for direct, indirect and cumulative effects on water resources.

INFORMATION REQUEST

Date: September 6, 2000

To: Paula Pacholek
DOE

From: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board)

Contact: Gordon Stewart, Environmental Assessment Officer
(867) 873-9193 phone
(867) 920-4761 fax
eao2@mveirb.nt.ca

Subject: Cumulative effects and the state of the water resources of the South Nahanni River watershed.

Objective: To provide the Review Board a greater understanding of the state and integrity of the water resources of the South Nahanni River watershed.

Date Required: Close of business day on Friday, September 29, 2000.

Reference: Related to one of the reasons for referring the development to EA.

Preamble: A concern was raised that incremental developments occurring in the area surrounding the Nahanni National Park Reserve (NNPR) and within or impacting on the South Nahanni River watershed could lead to cumulative effects on water resources.

Request: Please provide:

- (a) An indication of the existing state of the environment and integrity of the water resources of the South Nahanni River watershed;
- (b) An indication of where water quality monitoring stations are and the extent of baseline water quality data available, for the area; and
- (c) Analysis and conclusions, with supporting rationale, of the potential for cumulative effects on water resources to occur from this proposed development.

INFORMATION REQUEST

Date: September 6, 2000

To: Paula Pacholek
DOE

From: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board)

Contact: Gordon Stewart, Environmental Assessment Officer
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Subject: Incremental developments affecting ecological integrity in the area around, and within, Nahanni National Park Reserve (NNPR).

Objective: To provide the Review Board a greater understanding of any linkages between incremental developments, including hunting, has to the ecological integrity of the area, and any effects to species utilizing the area.

Date Required: Close of business day on Friday, September 29, 2000.

Reference: Related to two of the reasons for referring the development to EA.

Preamble: Concerns were raised that incremental developments could affect the ecological integrity in the area around, and within the NNPR.

Request: Please provide:

- (a) An indication of the existing ecological integrity of the area;
- (b) An explanation of how incremental developments, such as this seismic development and increased hunting in the area may affect ecological integrity; and
- (c) I identify any mitigation measures appropriate for reducing or eliminating risks to ecological integrity.

INFORMATION REQUEST

Date: September 6, 2000

To: Barry Troke,
Nahanni National Park Reserve

From: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board)

Contact: Gordon Stewart, Environmental Assessment Officer
(867) 873-9193 phone
(867) 920-4761 fax
eao2@mveirb.nt.ca

Subject: Details and clarification of Heritage Canada's position with respect to expansion of the existing Nahanni National Park Reserve (NNPR).

Objective: To assist the Review Board in fully understanding the position of Heritage Canada on the various proposals for expansion of the NNPR; and, to provide a sense of the "likelihood" of any one of these expansion proposals becoming a reality.

Date Required: Close of business day on Friday, September 29, 2000.

Reference: Cited as one of the reasons for referring the development to EA.

Preamble: The 1987 NNPR Management Plan identified three areas of possible future expansion to the existing Park Reserve. With the start of land claim negotiations in the Deh Cho Region, the Deh Cho First Nations and Naha Deho First Nation of Nahanni Butte have identified the South Nahanni River watershed as the preferred area of future NNPR expansion. The proposed seismic operation does not impinge upon any of the three areas identified in the management plan, but does impinge upon part of the watershed.

Request: Please provide:

- (a) Details and clarification of Heritage Canada's position on the possible expansion of the NNPR; and
- (b) An indication of the likelihood of any of these expansion proposals becoming a reality, and what the implications to past and current activities immediately outside the NNPR would be.

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Nahanni National Park Reserve

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Subject: Ecological integrity

Objective: To provide the Review Board a greater understanding of the linkages and role that "buffer zones" surrounding a park have in maintaining ecological integrity within the park.

Date Required: Close of business day on Friday, September 29, 2000.

Reference: Linked to two of the reasons for referring the development to EA.

Preamble: First Nations in the Deh Cho Region, and others, have raised concerns that developments occurring in the South Nahanni River watershed could affect the ecological integrity of the existing NNPR or of a potentially larger protected area. NNPR also identified an increase in non-aboriginal hunting in the area to be a concern.

Request: Please provide:

- (a) Information on the role that "buffer zones" surrounding NNPR or a potentially larger protected area have in maintaining the ecological integrity of the existing NNPR or larger protected area.
- (b) Indicate the size and extent of the buffer zone necessary to protect NNPR and maintain ecological integrity. Please provide a map with accurate representation and coordinates of the NNPR buffer zone and proposed expansion areas with resulting buffer zones.
- (c) Provide details with supporting evidence and rationale on NNPR concern with an increase in non-aboriginal hunting pressure resulting from this development going ahead, and the effects of this on ecological integrity.