



Northwest Territories Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development



JUL 19 2001

Mr. Louie Azzolini
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO BOX 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Azzolini:

Further Information on Patterson Sawmill Ltd. Proposal

Thank you for your inquiry seeking clarification of our July 6, 2001 submission to the Board pursuant to an information request on the Patterson Sawmill Ltd. Forest Harvesting Proposal in the Pine Point area.

It is our understanding that you are concerned about the **apparent discrepancy between the two reports attached as Appendices I and II of the submission to the Board**, and which were previously provided to the Board on December 20, 2000.

The two reports deal with the estimated available volumes of white spruce timber in the proposed harvest area. The first (Appendix I) is a review of the timber supply, consisting of a report of the findings of a field survey of the area. The survey was initiated following the application to confirm information on the capacity of the forest resource to supply the merchantable volumes of timber for the proposal. The survey found that there were sufficient merchantable volumes to meet the demands of the proposal.

The second report, referred to in our response to the information request as the peer review, was completed after the first. It reviewed the numerical analysis of the survey results and analyzed the results on a landscape basis in the area of the proposal. **The peer review, while arriving at a lower estimate of volumes per hectare of forest, did not disagree significantly with the merchantable volume analysis for the area.** However, the peer review did point out that harvesting of the merchantable volumes should be restricted to ensure that environmental integrity is maintained.

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The Department found that the two reports agreed that there was sufficient timber to support a one year harvest as outlined in the proposal presently under review. The Department concurred with the peer review that future harvesting plans, after completion of this project in the area, would be subject to further analysis of the available timber supply and to the usual preliminary screening process for environmental impacts.

I trust that this offers sufficient clarification of our remarks in our July 6, 2001 submission to the Board.

Sincerely,



R. P. Bailey
Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations