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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

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TO: Cherry Sian / Todd Burlingame FROM: Rachel Cropeau

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- URGENT
- FOR REVIEW
- PLEASE COMMENT
- PLEASE REPLY
- PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

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 MACKENZIE VALLEY  
 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
 REVIEW BOARD

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Yellowknives Dene First Nation  
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June 30, 2003

Mrs. Melody Mcleod  
Chair  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board  
Box 2130  
7th Floor - 4910 50th Avenue  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6  
Fax: (867) 873-6610

RE: MINERAL EXPLORATION AT DRYBONES BAY  
LAND USE APPLICATION SNOWFIELD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
MV2003C0023

Dear Ms. Mcleod,

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) urges the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) to refer the Snowfield Resources Corporation's (Snowfield) land use application to environmental assessment. The proposed development area is of significant spiritual and cultural importance to the Akaitcho Treaty 8 First Nations. Our membership has also expressed on-going vocal concern regarding development in the area as demonstrated by a recent public meeting held on April 2, 2003. There are also unknown cumulative impacts associated with development proposals in the area that are currently in environmental assessment; and, by the proponents own admission, the *"Drybones Bay area is about to become the centre of intensive exploration by a number of companies including Snowfield Development Corp., New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd and Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc."* [Emphasis added].

For clarity the YKDFN understand Snowfield proposes to undertake the following development activities:

- The GTen 1 Property is located approximately 4 km North of the Drybones Bay Kimberlite Pipe and covers approximately 465 acres and contains three known geophysical targets.

- The GTen 2 Property is located approximately 2.5 km Northeast of the Drybones Bay Kimberlite Pipe and covers approximately 465 acres and also contains three known geophysical targets.
- The GTen 3 Property is located approximately 2.5 km East-Northeast of the Drybones Bay Kimberlite Pipe and covers approximately 465 acres containing four known geophysical targets.
- The GTen 5 Property is located approximately 6.5 km East-Northeast of the Drybones Bay Kimberlite Pipe and covers 774.75 acres containing three known geophysical targets.
- The Gten 16 Property was staked based on detailed aeromagnetic features and favourable topography. The target is located parallel to the same structural trend that cuts the Drybones Bay kimberlite to the East.
- The Fate Property covers an area of approximately 2480 acres and is located some 48km east-southeast of Yellowknife and 16 km northeast of the Drybones Bay diamondiferous kimberlite.
- The Hurcomb Property is located 10 km southeast of the Drybones Bay diamondiferous kimberlite pipe. The Hurcomb claim covers an area of 2,582.5 acres.
- A portion of the "New Claim Area" of particular interest to Snowfield is known as the Mud Lake area and is located about 4kms southeast of the Drybones pipe.

In total the proposed land use permit covers about 7,232 acres, or about 29.26632 sq kilometres. The figure below taken from Snowfield's website provides shows the location of the proposed developments, and some detail regarding intended drilling targets.

The YKDFN hopes that in the future, proponents will provide similar information that will help locally affected communities effectively participate in the review of development applications.

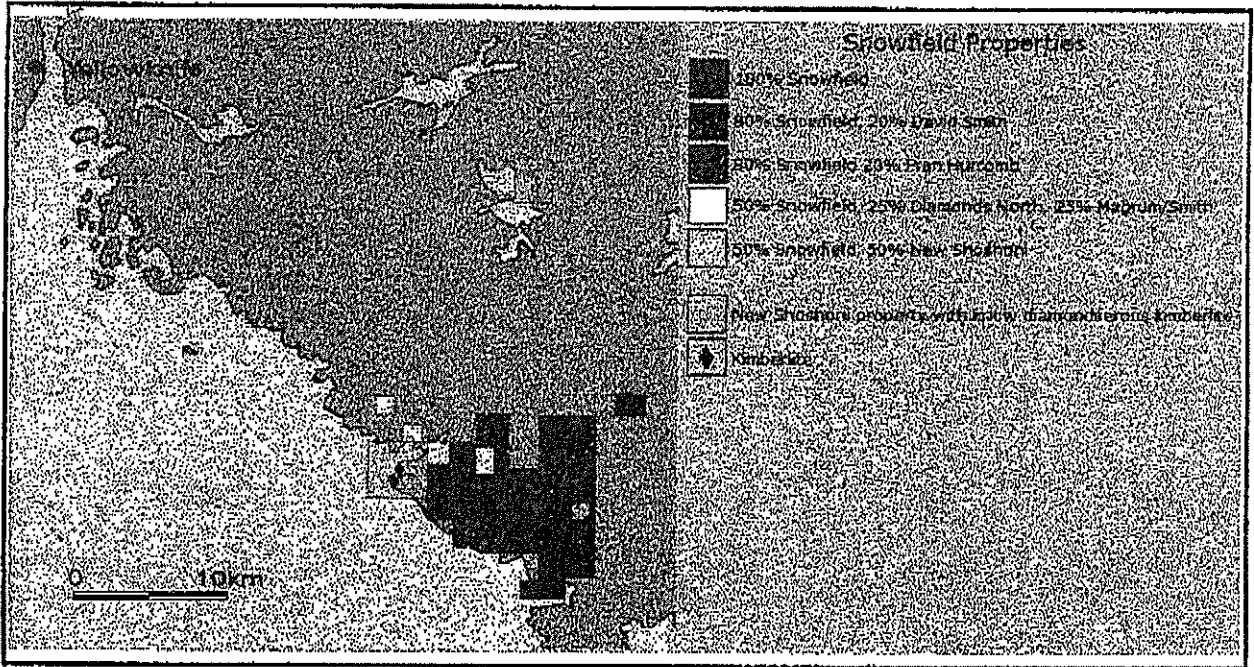


Figure 1 <http://www.snowfield-diamonds.com/main/frames.html>

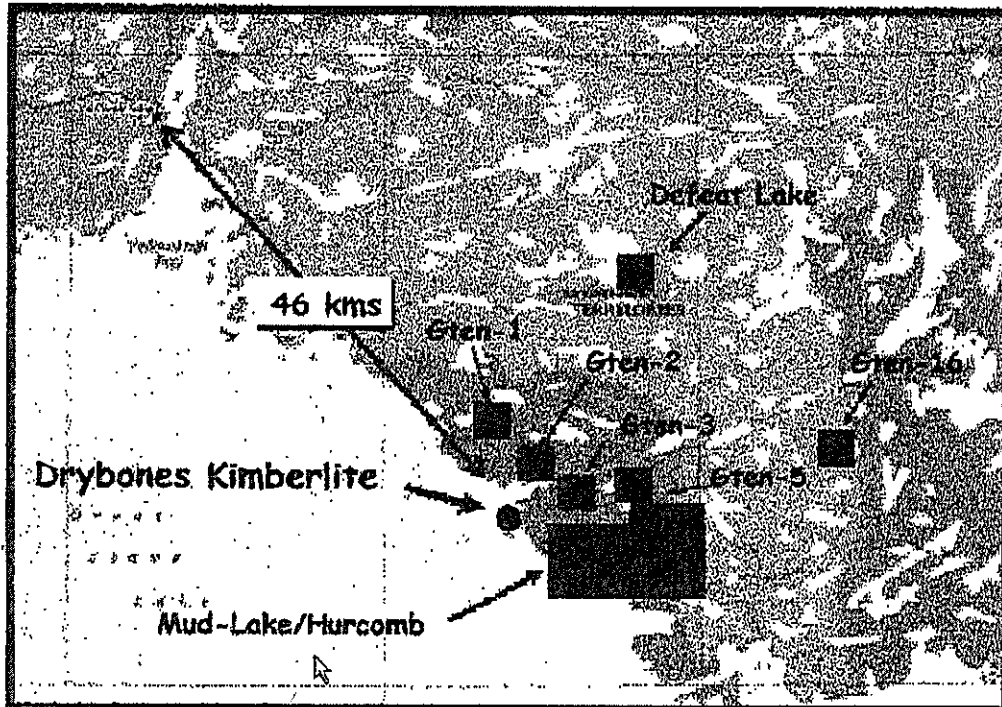


Figure 2: [http://www.snowfield-diamonds.com/main/snow-1-November\\_files/frame.htm](http://www.snowfield-diamonds.com/main/snow-1-November_files/frame.htm)

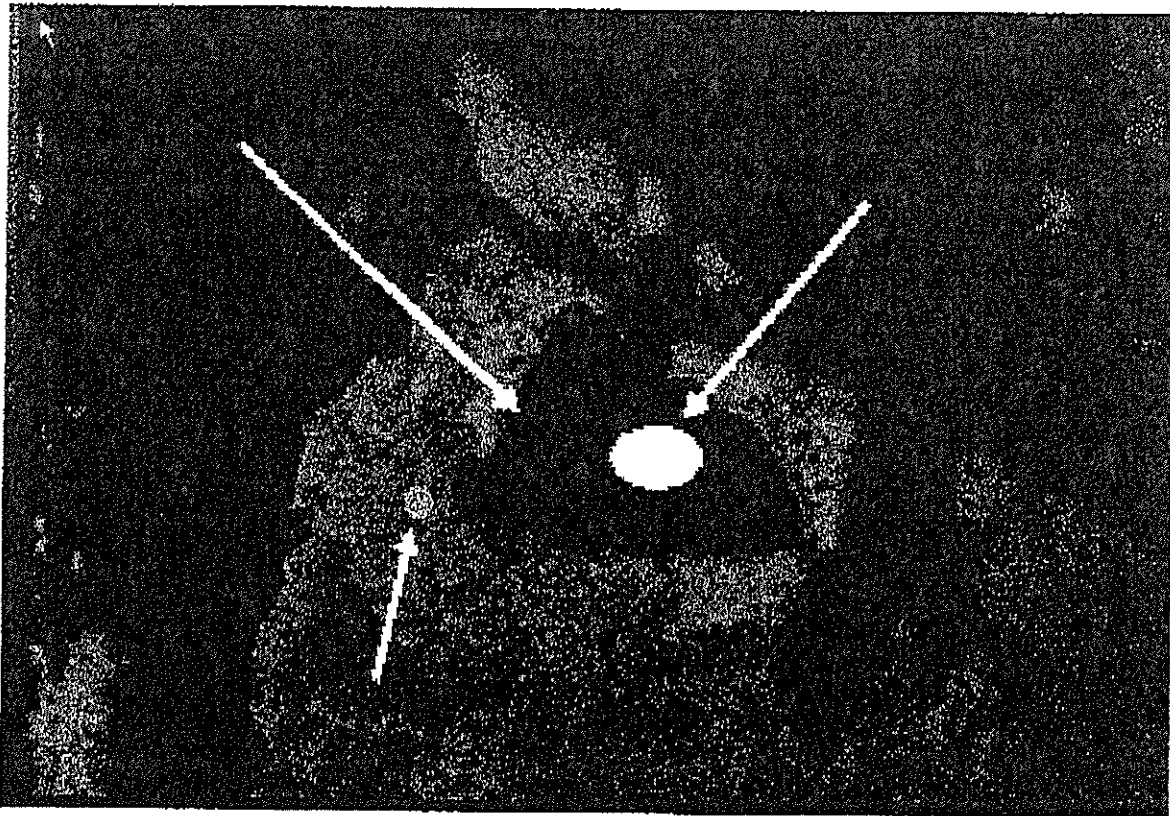


Figure 3: [http://www.snowfield-diamonds.com/main/snow-1-November\\_files/frame.htm](http://www.snowfield-diamonds.com/main/snow-1-November_files/frame.htm)

The YKDFN submit as evidence the following individuals, families and extended families use and occupy the Drybones Bay and or Wool Bay/areas. It is highly likely that others from the community of Lutsel K'e use the areas as well.

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Alexi Potfighter   | 2. Alex Lacorne    |
| 3. Joe Charlo         | 4. Modest Sangris  |
| 5. Alexie Crapeau     | 6. James Sangris   |
| 7. Joseph Fishbone    | 8. Philip Crapeau  |
| 9. Isadore K. Sangris | 10. Philip Goulet  |
| 11. Joe Martin        | 12. Edward Lacorne |
| 13. Isadore Tsetta    | 14. Antoine Liske  |
| 15. Morris Sangris    |                    |

Based on our research we know the shoreline of Great Slave Lake and particularly the Wool and Drybones Bay areas are vitally important to the YKDFN. The Bays provide important source of plants, animals, flora and fauna that is used for nutritional purposes. The YKDFN also harvest birds and pick berries there. In addition, the Bays and their surrounding environs are popular camping areas providing important social functions such as picnicking and community / family gathering. Some YKDFN members identified the areas as valuable sources of firewood. There are active traplines near or at the Bays.

The areas have many burial sites, most of which are unrecorded, that need to be identified and protected before any development occurs in the area.

The research conducted by the YKDFN and corroborated at the April 2 and 3, 2003 public meeting by YKDNF membership's identification of significant values attributed to the Wool Bay and Drybones Bay areas. Specifically, that they are:

1. Culturally vital (many residents grew up and spent summers in the areas, and continue to actively use the areas).
2. Spiritually significant (site identified by YKDFN)
3. Numerous grave sites at the bays and along the shoreline
4. Actively used for hunting
5. Actively used for Fishing
6. Historic village at Wool Bay
7. Actively used for trapping (Leo A. Betsina for example)
8. Actively used for Berry picking
9. Site of Bald eagles (raptors)
10. Actively used camping and campground areas
11. Actively used goose hunting areas
12. Actively used duck hunting areas
13. The bays are ecological unique because they are the largest bays on the shoreline and provide a unique microclimate and unique ecosystems.
14. The unique habitat makes it excellent for wildlife
15. Very sheltered bays are regularly used during lake travel
16. Drybones Bay is a main artery of current and traditional trails
17. The trail to Patrick Charlo's starts at Drybones Bay (Patrick Charlo)
18. Good places for picking medicinal plants
19. Main boat moorage on windy days, (security, shelter and safety)
20. Wool Bay and Dry Bones bay are the birth place of many current residents of Dettah and Ndilo
21. Significant impact on Treaty rights and alienation of current access to the land.

Respecting the demonstrated importance of the Drybones and Wool Bay areas to the YKDFN, the evidence of public concern from the April 2 and 3, 2003 public meeting, and the likelihood of significant adverse impacts on the environment, the YKDFN urges the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board to refer the Snowfield development to EA.

The YKDFN are taking proactive steps to facilitate the environmental assessments in the area. The YKDFN recently informed the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) that it was undertaking a mid-July field program involving, at a minimum representatives from Dettah, Ndilo, the Prince of Wales Heritage centre, the GNWT Department of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board consultants.

A proposed 11 day field program begins on July 14 with travel to the Drybones Bay camp. Each morning there will be a debrief session where participants outline their daily reconnaissance objectives for the day. Land and Environment staff accompanying the group will help by geo-referencing site specific factors such as grave sites and recording the information for later compilation. A data recapture session is planned each evening to ensure as complete as possible information gathering and sharing among the participants. At the conclusion of the ninth day the group will relocate to Wool Bay for two days of data gathering before returning to Dettah. Throughout the field program suggestions regarding appropriate management and mitigation will be recorded. For example, culturally and spiritually appropriate disturbance distances from grave sites.

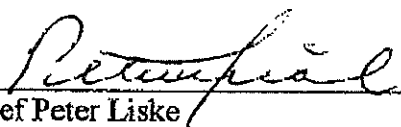
The YKDFN will consolidate the raw information from the field work and the individual community, consultant and government contributors and share that information with the Review Board for its cumulative effects assessment.


The proposed local study area for the cumulative effects assessment and field program is matched to existing claim blocks and the Regional study area is as yet undetermined.

Ms. McLeod, as you can see, the YKDFN is not simply sitting back asking for referrals to environmental assessments with disregard for the proponents, government, or the boards. The YKDFN is taking proactive steps to address and find collective solutions to our concerns.

Respecting the efforts of the YKDFN, the importance of the Drybones and Wool Bay areas to the YKDFN membership, evidence of public concern and the likelihood of significant adverse impacts on the environment, the YKDFN urges the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board to refer the proposed Snowfield development to EA.

Sincerely,

  
Chief Peter Liske  
Dettah

  
Chief Darrell Beaulieu  
Ndilo

c.c. Todd Burlingame, Chair: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Yellowknife, NT.

Yellowknives Dene First Nations Legal Counsel, Edmonton, Alberta



Yellowknives Dene First Nation  
Box 2514, Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2P8

Dettah Ph.: (867) 873-4307  
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June 30, 2003.

Todd Burlingame

Chair: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Box 938, 200 Scotia Centre, (5102-50th Avenue),  
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2N7  
Fax: (867) 766-7074

Dear Mr. Burlingame:

The YKDFN support the efforts of the Review Board to undertake a sub-regional cumulative effects assessment. The YKDFN also believes that like any environmental assessment there should be a fair opportunity to comment on the draft scope of assessment and proposed scope of factors to be considered. That way, the assessment process remains fair, the quality of the assessment is improved, and possible issues or problems with the assessment are addressed at the outset, not at the public hearings. Therefore, the YKDFN recommends that the Review Board issue draft terms of reference for a sub-regional cumulative effects assessment and provide a reasonable amount of time for review and comment before finalizing them and initiating the cumulative effects assessment work.

As you are aware, the YKDFN is sincerely concerned with the impact of development at the Drybones Bay and Wool Bay areas. The chiefs and councils of Dettah and N'dilo met on several occasions, and have convened meetings with the other Chiefs of the Akaitcho Treaty 8 to discuss a collective long term vision for the area. As you also know, we are in negotiations with Canada regarding our Treaty, and are considering a range of land management options for the area ranging from full protection using land withdrawals and/or protected areas status, to managed development. These are significant decisions that require careful and thoughtful consideration. Therefore, the YKDFN Council decided to support the efforts of the Land and Environment Committee to fully document important socio-cultural and environmental factors, and to meaningfully participate in the cumulative environmental assessment as well as the environmental assessments. The results of our collective efforts will help us in our respective decision making; the Review Board in the environmental assessments; the YKDFN in establishing its long term vision for the Drybones and Wool Bay areas.

Misunderstandings between the Review Board and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) regarding the Wool and Drybones Bay environmental assessments and the cumulative effects assessment have occurred. The Review Board in its need to maintain its quasi-judicial independence may have misunderstood the YKDFN's intentions and regarding the Review Board's proposed cumulative effects assessment. The YKDFN wants to pool its financial and human resources with the Review Board and actively participate in the data collection component of the cumulative effects assessment. In fact, the YKDFN is prepared



to contribute funding, use of equipment, provide food, travel, and accommodation for the Drybones and Wool Bay area cumulative effects infield component of the work.

The YKDFN suggests the cumulative effects assessment include a mid-July field program involving at least representatives from Dettah, Ndilo, the Prince of Wales Heritage centre, the GNWT Department of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board consultants. The YKDFN Land and Environment Committee met with RWED representatives regarding the proposed field work, and is preparing for the logistical needs such as transport, accommodation, food and field work scheduling. These logistical matters will be finalized the week of July 7-12.

A proposed 11 day field program begins on July 14 with travel to the Drybones Bay camp. Each morning there will be a debrief session where participants outline their daily reconnaissance objectives for the day. Land and Environment staff accompanying the group will help by geo-referencing site specific factors such as grave sites and recording the information for later compilation. A data recapture session is planned each evening to ensure as complete as possible information gathering and sharing among the participants. At the conclusion of the ninth day the group will relocate to Wool Bay for two days of data gathering before returning to Dettah. Throughout the field program suggestions regarding appropriate management and mitigation will be recorded. For example, culturally and spiritually appropriate disturbance distances from grave sites. The YKDFN will consolidate the raw information from the field work and the individual community, consultant and government contributors and share that information with the Review Board for its cumulative effects assessment.

The proposed local study area for the cumulative effects assessment and field program is matched to existing claim blocks and is summarized in the following table. The Regional study area is as yet undetermined.

Day one	F16629
	F16657
	F16658
	F16660
	GTEN (1)
	GTEN (2)
Day two	F16605
	EX02
	Wire 68107
	F81789
	F81791
Day three	F80815
	F80816

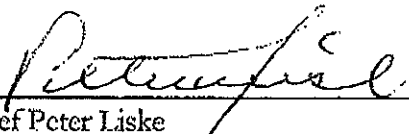
	F80829
	F16642
Day four	F80811
	F80812
	F80813
	F80814
	GTEN 8
Day five	F80817
	F16594
	F16608
	F16609
	F16625
	F16629
	F16606

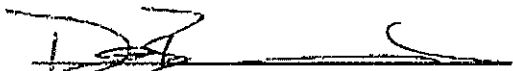
	F33015
Day six	F29229
	FAYA 16648
	F29230
	F16611
	F80927
	F75695
Day seven	F33613
	F16604
	F33611
	F75692
	F75693
	F75694
	F30406
Day eight	F75696
	F75697

	F75698
	F75699
	F75700
	F75691
Day nine	Travel to Wool Bay
Day Ten	Wool Bay sites TBA
Day eleven	Wool Bay sites TBA
Day twelve	Return to Detnah

Given our short summers and participant work and vacation schedules we are moving this project forward as quickly as possible and appreciate your prompt response regarding the YKDFN initiatives. Please contact Rachel Ann Crapeau regarding the proposed field program at 669-9002.

Sincerely,

  
 Chief Peter Liske  
 Detnah

  
 Chief Darrell Beaulieu  
 Ndilo

c.c. Vern Christensen, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
 Yellowknife, NT Fax: (867) 766-7074

Yellowknives Dene First Nations Legal Counsel, Edmonton, Alberta  
 Fax: (780) 424-5852

Mr. Charlie Snowshoe, Ms. Bertha Rabesca, Mr. John Stevens, Mr. Danny Bayha,  
 Mr. Gordon Wray, Mr. Frank Pope

Mr. Bob Overvold, Regional Director General, Indian and Northern Affairs  
 Executive Office Directorate, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories