



Fisheries  
and Oceans

Pêches  
et Océans

Fish Habitat Management  
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Yellowknife, Northwest  
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Your file *Votre référence*

Our file *Notre référence*

SC02081

November 18, 2003

MVEIRB  
Box 938, 5102-50<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Yellowknife, NWT  
X1A 2N7

Attention: Martin Haefele

**RE: Paramount Cameron Hills Extension EA- MVEIRB Information Request  
1.1.27- DFO Response**

Dear Mr. Haefele

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fish Habitat Management – Western Arctic Area (DFO) has received the above mentioned information request. On behalf of DFO I am pleased to provide the following response. To put the response in context, I have included the original preamble and request.

**Preamble:**

The DAR lists prior commitments made on behalf of Paramount Resources Ltd. to the MVLWB with respect to the operations at Cameron Hills (Table 2.4-2). This Table also describes the current status of the commitments made by Paramount Resources Ltd., according to the developer, during the previous Environmental Assessment. Past performance, with respect to recommendations made throughout the Environmental Assessment. Past performance, with respect to recommendations made throughout the Environmental Assessment process, may be indicative of willingness to comply with future recommendations.

**Request:**

The MVEIRB asks INAC (South Mackenzie District), DFO, Environment Canada, and GNWT-RWED to provide the following information, according to your area of jurisdiction:

- a) Have all commitments made by the developer been adhered to , as indicated in the summary (Table 2.4-2)
- b) If not, Please indicate which commitments raise your concern and why?

**Canada** SC02081

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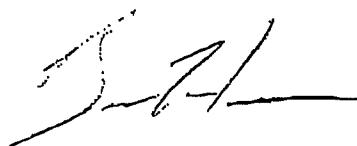
**DFO Response:**

DFO personnel have been on site a number of times, primarily to assess erosion problems on the pipeline RoW, as it relates to fish habitat. The INAC Resource Management Officers would be the most appropriate sources to determine how well Paramount has adhered to general land use permit and water licence commitments.

I would like to mention the following points:

1. On page 25 of the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR)/well site commitments, it is not clear whether Paramount is using mushroom shoes. This should be clarified.
2. In regards to water sources, Paramount is now following the *DFO Protocol for Water Withdrawal for Oil and Gas Activities in the NWT*. This protocol was not in place when the Cameron Hills Drilling Project EA was undertaken. This relates to two commitments on page 31 of the DAR.
  - i) A maximum 5% of available water volume under ice using a one metre ice thickness is allowed per water source lake per winter season.
  - ii) DFO now requires intake screens to have a mesh size of 2.54 mm (1/10") rather than 5 mm to prevent the potential entrainment of fish as per DFO's *Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guidelines*.
3. As Paramount indicates, significant efforts were undertaken to correct erosion problems that occurred on various areas of the pipeline RoW, including the slope leading to the vehicle crossing of the Cameron River. The results have been positive, and if the lessons learned are applied the risk of erosion caused by future pipeline installation should be minimized.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (867) 669-4931 or Pete Cott at (867) 777-7520.



Bruce Hanna  
Habitat Biologist  
Fish Habitat Management  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans- Western Arctic Area

Cc: Pete Cott, Area Habitat Biologist-DFO