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PR

EA 03-006

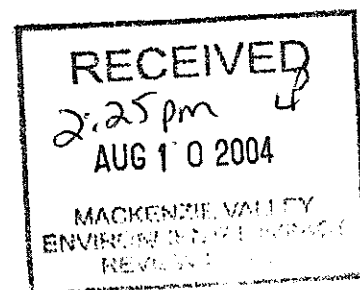


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July 25, 2004

Todd Burlingame
Chair
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB)
Box 938, 200 Scotia Centre, (5102-50th Avenue),
Yellowknife, NT. X1A 2N7
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Attention: Mr. Burlingame

RE: Snowfield Development Corporation Report of Environmental Assessment (EA)

The YKDFN is seriously concerned about the MVEIRB's lack of transparency, failure to consult, and breaches of fairness that have occurred with respect to the Snowfield Development Corporation (Snowfield), post EA Report decision-making.

The YKDFN believed that the MVEIRB "considered it important that all parties be made aware of when the Minister requests that consultation occur between his Department and the MVEIRB as well as the concern(s) that led to the Minister making a consultation request"...as "this approach will ensure the consultation process is transparent and seen to be fair and objective." (December 21, 2001 – letter to INAC).

The MVEIRB is acting contrary to its own words and its commitment to transparency, fairness, and consideration of all Parties in EAs. In summary, the MVEIRB:

- Withheld information from the YKDFN about the final EA decision-making process.
- Withheld information from the YKDFN about its communication with responsible ministers, the federal Minister, and/or any other party in-between issuing its EA Report and entering into consultation with INAC.
- Failed to notify the Aboriginal parties about its consultation meeting with INAC.

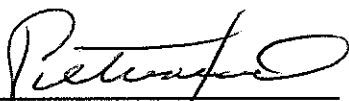
The MVEIRB is a tribunal and in its capacities and responsibilities acted unfairly and unjustly when it decided to engage in closed-door consultations with INAC.

The MVEIRB has responsibilities to the government of Canada and Aboriginal peoples; therefore, the Yellowknives Dene expects to be:

- Informed of all communication and correspondence occurring between the MVEIRB and all other parties and interveners.
- Invited to participate, and at the very least observe, any meetings between the government parties and proponents.
- Invited to participate, and at the very least observe, meetings between MVEIRB, including its employees, and any federal and/or territorial government employee.

Your prompt reply is requested.

Sincerely,


Chief Peter Liske – Dettah


Chief Darrell Beaulieu - Ndilo

Copy:

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Chief Negotiator
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