

## CBC North Radio News – May 31, 2004

### Deh Cho Prepare to Fight for Land

CBC Radio, Monday, May 31, 2004, 6:30/7:30 a.m.

CBC: People in the Deh Cho are preparing to fight to protect Edehzie, also known as the Horn Plateau. The area was given interim protection two years ago while the Deh Cho First Nations negotiated their land and self government agreement, but an application for a land use permit to do resource development and exploration was submitted before the protection was in place. The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board is not considering that application. Herb Norwegian is the grand chief of the Deh Cho First Nations. He says he'll let that review process run its course.

NORWEGIAN: Of course if they get their land permit approved then it becomes pretty difficult for them because then we would just kick it up a notch or other things that we can do, but at this point we want to play by the rules.

CBC: Norwegian says the Deh Cho is notorious for defending its territory. Other people have opposed the application including the chiefs of Fort Providence and Wrigley. The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board will meet next week to discuss the land use application.

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CBC Radio, Monday, May 31, 2004, 8:30 a.m.

CBC: People in the Deh Cho thought that the Edehzie or the Horn Plateau was safe from development. Two years ago it was given interim land protection so the Deh Cho could negotiate its land and self-government agreement, but an Alberta woman has applied to explore for minerals, oil and gas in the traditional hunting area. Mary Rose Blackduck has more.

BLACKDUCK: The application for a land use permit to explore Edehzie, or the Horn Plateau, was made before the interim protection was put in place. Now the individual wants to put her application to use. Berna Landry is the chief of Fort Providence. She's upset that fuel and equipment are already stored within that area. Landry wrote to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board to oppose the exploration permits.

LANDRY: Where there's a lot of game, good water, lots of fish, a lot of berries, it is just a beautiful place up there.

BLACKDUCK: People that live close to Edehzie want to protect the area. There's a lot of history and legends that they feel passionate about. Wrigley is

one of those communities. Clem Lennie has been the chief of that community for years.

**LENNIE:** We currently have a five-year agreement to withdraw those lands at the same time as development and exploration is still happening in the area. So I guess that's the confusing part for us.

**BLACKDUCK:** The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board will meet next week to talk about the land use application. Herb Norwegian, grand chief of the Deh Cho First Nation says he's willing to let the process play out, but if the permit is approved Norwegian says the Deh Cho will assert its authority. Mary Rose Blackduck, CBC News, Yellowknife.