



December 10, 2008

Trish Merrithew-Mercredi
Regional Director General
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
P.O. Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

Dear Ms. Merrithew-Mercredi,

Re: Evidence from Recent Environmental Assessments that may assist in the proposed *Upper Thelon Land and Resource Management Plan* process

As you know, the Mackenzie Valley Review Board provided the federal Minister and responsible ministers with *Reports of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision (Reports of Environmental Assessment)* for each of the following four files on September 11, 2008.

EA 0708-002 Uravan Minerals Inc's South Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration Project
EA 0708-003 Uravan Minerals Inc's North Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration Project
EA 0708-004 Bayswater Uranium Corporation's El Lake Mineral Exploration Project
EA 0708-005 Bayswater Uranium Corporation's Crab Lake Mineral Exploration Project

The Review Board looks forward to the ministers' decisions on these files.

In the *Reports of Environmental Assessment* for EA0708-002 through -004, the Review Board stated the following:

"The Review Board encourages Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and stakeholders to develop and implement the proposed Upper Thelon Land and Resource Management Plan and its associated consultations and studies as soon as possible, to find out whether any further industrial development will be acceptable, given the area's cultural value."

In addition, in its *Report of Environmental Assessment* for EA0708-005, the Review Board provided a suggestion related to the need for more cultural/traditional knowledge studies in support of effective future land use management decisions throughout the Thelon geologic basin (Suggestion #3 on page 39). The Review Board provided this suggestion in the spirit of the invitation it had received from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in a letter of December 7, 2007. That letter introduced the desire of your department to enter consultations and start studies toward the *Upper Thelon Land and Resource Management Plan*. In it, the Review Board was invited to participate in future



discussions to finalize the scope of the environmental and cultural/traditional knowledge studies associated with the land use planning exercise.

In the interest of aiding the proposed *Upper Thelon Land and Resource Management Plan*, the Review Board includes here as Attachment #1 a series of excerpts from the public record of these four environmental assessments. These excerpts were provided by parties to the environmental assessments and may be applicable to the determination of the scope and focus of studies in support of the land use planning exercise.

The Review Board has not altered the submissions in any way – they are included verbatim with a notice of where they are located on the Review Board’s online public registry.

In addition to these four environmental assessments, the Review Board suggests the public records of the following environmental assessments may merit further consideration during the land use planning process:

1. EA0506-003: UR Energy’s Uranium Exploration, Thelon Basin; and
2. EA0607-003: UR Energy’s Screech Lake Uranium Exploration Program.

The Review Board trusts that your organization and other parties that will be involved in the land use planning process will find value in this information as you move forward.

Sincerely,



Richard Edjericon
Chairperson

Attachment (1)