



January 4 2010

Tawanis Testart
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 938
Suite 200, 5102 50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

VIA FAX: 8673703143

Re: Taltson Hydro Expansion Project – EA0708-007 (2007)

Dear MVEIRB:

I write with the greatest possible support for Lutsel k'e Dene First Nation's concerns with this project. Chief Steven Nitah's letter to you of December 11, 2009 spells out Lutsel k'e's concerns in detail. I see no need to reiterate their statement as they are the experts on the area concerned and they are the people who will be sustained by it, and sustain it, long after many of us are gone. We public citizens *must* listen to the Lutsel k'e Dene, and we must respect their interests in and commitment to the sacred places at the heart of their territory.

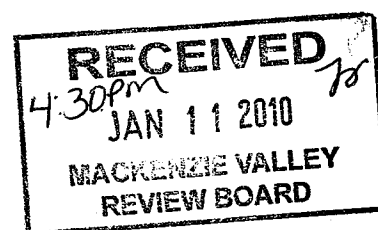
I emphasize that their statements are supported by substantial empirical evidence. I suspect it is this evidence that the Board requires for its deliberations. I am not in a position to provide you with a detailed bibliography of the relevant, peer-reviewed evidence that supports Chief Nitah's statements by today's deadline. I am sure, however, that the Lutsel k'e staff has provided you with reference to much of it, and that others, including my colleague Dr. Brenda Parlee, have as well. Please advise me if you do not have a detailed bibliography of work relevant to the Dene interests in the area potentially affected by this project if approved.

I can say that I played a part in documenting for the public and regulatory record the concerns that Lutsel k'e have for Desnethche / Thaidene Nene lands and waters. I know them well (for an outsider) and I worked long and hard to contribute to building an empirical database that demonstrated the veracity and equity of the Lutsel k'e Dene concerns and requests regarding any development of this area.

Please address their concerns. Do not let this proposal proceed without a higher-level environmental review of its component parts and cumulative impacts.
Please contact me if I can be of any assistance in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Ellen Bielawski, Ph.D.
Dean



Cc: Chief Steven Nitah, Lutsel k'e Dene First Nation
Dr. Brenda Parlee
Lutsel k'e Land and Environment Committee