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Apple Valley, MN 55124  
January 29, 2010

Richard Edjericon Chairperson  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
200 Scotia Centre  
Box 938, 5102-50<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Edjericon:

In the last thirty-five years I have likely spent more time on Nonacho Lake and the upper Taltson River than any living person. I have circumnavigated Nonacho Lake by canoe, paddled the Taltson from its headwaters, paddled the entire length of the Thekulthili River, paddled the Snowdrift River twice, walked portages between Sparrow Bay and the Snowdrift River, between Noman Lake and the Snowdrift River and wintered on Nonacho Lake. I was a member of the Fort Resolution Historical Research Committee for six years and have done extensive ethnographic and natural research in this geographical area. In pre-Columbian times Nonacho Lake was at the very heart of the Chipewyan Dene's homeland. Geologically, biologically and culturally this area is very special.

I am opposed to the power line around the east arm of Great Slave Lake whatever the route. I am opposed to the winter road to Nonacho Lake. I am opposed to the reconstruction of the Nonacho Lake dam.

This area is one of the most pristine, uninterrupted tracts of wilderness in the world. It is a treasure that should be preserved and held in trust. The existing dam on Nonacho Lake, which flooded over one thousand miles of shoreline and altered the natural drainage patterns of the Taltson watershed, would never have been permitted under today's environmental standards. The mere fact that it already exists should not justify rebuilding and upgrading it. Quite the contrary, the noble thing to do is to dismantle the existing dam and allow the lake to return to its natural levels.

At the recent hearings in Dettah the Deze Energy Corp. stressed that the project would have minimal impact and only short-term environmental consequences. This level of preparation would be satisfactory in most of the world. But the Nonacho area is unique in the world and unique in the Territories. The power line, winter haul road, and Nonacho dam construction will destroy its uniqueness and much of its intrinsic value. Once gone it is lost forever.

North of Yellowknife and west of Yellowknife you can witness the scars of winter haul roads and abandoned mines. But east of Fort Resolution from the Slave River to the tundra is unblemished wilderness. Even just one power line will change that. But I think we all know that once this one road is built, once this one power line is laid more

development will follow. By its own mission the Review Board has a responsibility to future generations to do what is right. This proposal is much bigger than upgrading a couple dams and putting in a power line. Your standard must be higher. It is a question of global and timeless significance.

I realize honest men and women have invested many hours studying this area but the proposal is fundamentally shortsighted and needs to be stopped.

Sincerely,

Rob Kesselring