

Tawanis Testart

From: Elsie Casaway [ecasaway@hotmail.com]
Sent: January 9, 2010 10:14 AM
To: Tawanis Testart
Cc: lkdfn_lands@yahoo.com; stevennitah@yahoo.ca; rock_angles_10@hotmail.com; bcatholique@ssdec.nt.ca; charliecatholique@hotmail.com; c_desjarlais@hotmail.com; addie_jonasson@yahoo.ca; kendrick@cc.umanitoba.ca; a_laboucan@yahoo.ca; Angie; norwood.christy@gmail.com; parleeb@hotmail.com; apreston@wjh.harvard.edu; chilili@direcway.com; verbenas22@yahoo.com; jc_catholique@yahoo.ca; MaryRose Casaway; Aileen Drybones; aliske2009@live.com; Florence Catholique; Hanna Catholique; Jonas Toni; kaiya.casaway@live.ca; Sandra; snookie.harriett.catholique@cbc.ca; stelladesjarlais@yahoo.com; trux2001@yahoo.com; Ursula; vernacatholique@hotmail.com
Subject: Talston Hydro Expansion to Akaitcho Territory
Attachments: Final Copy Support Lutsel Ke Jan 2010.doc

Dear Sir,

Please find attached and inserted below, my feedback on the Talston Hydro Expansion to Akaitcho Territory. In short, I am against the Talston Hydro Expansion to Akaitcho Territory.

Sincerely,
Elsie Casaway
Member of the Lutsel Ke Dene Band

ttestart@reviewboard.ca.

RE: Talston Hydro Expansion to Akaitcho Territory

Jan 9, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand that The Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd. is proposing the expansion of the existing Twin Gorges power generation facility on the Taltson River in the Northwest Territories (the Project). I also, understand that modifications to the Nonacho Lake Dam Control and the South Valley Spillway (and a new power plant at the Twin Gorges) are intended for the existing Ekati, Diavik, Snap Lake and the proposed Gahcho Kué diamond mines and would be supplied via a 690 km transmission line routing northeast from the power facility around the East Arm of Great Slave Lake and terminating with lines branching to these northern industrial customers. Let me be clear, this expansion project will have numerous and dire impacts on our little community. I understand that, as a major infrastructure project that over time, this will open up the East Arm of Great Slave Lake to full development with major power lines running through it.

Even as I write this letter notifying you, Caribou habitat is being impacted everywhere in the Territory these days. In fact, the numbers of the Ahiak (overwintering in the transmission line pathway) are down by 60% as reported this December 2009 from tabulation of four years of survey results by GNWT caribou biologists. Additionally, the hydro expansion will significantly affect lake trout spawning habitat in Nonacho Lake with anticipated meter drawdown on water levels six months out of the year starting in September every year. This must stop!

This is to notify you that, as a 60 year old member of the Lutsel Ke Dene Band, I appose this transmission line route because of the irreparable cultural and spiritual damages it will cause to Desneth'Che (Lockhart River) and Tsankue Theda (The Old Lady Falls). My family and I, along with my ancestors have lived and survived on this land since time immemorial and our lives depended on this area and continue to do so.

I grew up at Desneth'Che as a young child. I remember many families living in Desneth' Che, including my immediate family, who were sustaining a living off the land. Today, we still have our old log cabin standing there as a reminder of the wonderful, innocent

days. I remember our little cabin filled with wild meat and fish. The abundance of fresh meat and fish came from the land and the waters surrounding Desneth' Che. Our Ancestors have used this land for survival and enjoyment since time immemorial. Today, we continue to use this land every year for our hunting and fishing and for our annual spiritual gathering. Damage to the land, as it surely would with mega development structures; our way of life will never be the same. The people, the land, the animals and fish will never be the same. It is not acceptable for transmission lines across the river. It must not happen.

It is imperative that you understand fully, and I repeat, as many have said before me "that this area has long been known and identified as the most culturally significant area of the highest caliber to the people of Lutsel Ke. It is spiritually sacred land and has been for time immemorial. The Desneth'Che must not be touched or disturbed in any way".

I understand that an alternate routing has been identified in the Deze Corporation's developers report but has not been looked at seriously. I also understand that the potential customers (NWT diamond mines) have not been secured in the Deze Energy Corporation business model and this project has gone to an environmental assessment process nonetheless. This method of grabbing land, without the consent of the people who live there, cannot continue in this day and age. Native land rights have been sufficiently trampled by the Canadian Government and other interest groups in Canada in the past. Is this the legacy that you want to continue? My late-father and other Elders all have said that transmission lines across Desneth'Che are not culturally acceptable to us.

Tampering with the land in any way around Desneth'Che is what Lutsel Ke has been against for more than forty years. In fact, Chief after Chief and Council after Council has met challenge after challenge, with the decision: **"No development on or over the Lockhart River---We will not touch Desneth'Che."**

Again, as the next generation of people from the area, I submit to you, that transmission lines through the Desneth'Che area (the Lockhart River) are not acceptable and an alternate routing must be found! The sacredness of Desneth'Che and Tsankui Theda (Old-Lady-of-the-Falls) must remain untouched for the generations to come.

Sincerely,

Elsie Casaway and Family

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