

July 25 2013

Mr. Hugh Wilson  
Vice President - Environment and Community Affairs  
Tyhee NWT Corp.  
401-675 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC V6B 1N2

Dear Mr. Wilson,

Re: EA0809-003: Yellowknife Gold Project

The Review Board received your letter of July 23, 2013 and considered Tyhee NWT Corp.'s (Tyhee) request for a six month adjournment of Environmental Assessment proceeding EA0808-003 (EA). We note the Review Board's correspondence of December 18, 2012 (attached) which itemized the delays in the Tyhee EA process. Over a year ago, Review Board staff requested an indication of the dates when outstanding information requests (IRs) and an updated project description would be filed. Despite a number of commitments by Tyhee, these IR responses and the updated project description have not yet been submitted. All these delays are the direct responsibility of Tyhee.

Your adjournment request did not provide any indication as to when this evidence, which is necessary for this proceeding to continue, will be filed. Your July 23<sup>rd</sup> letter nevertheless indicates that Tyhee "remains committed to meeting our obligations in a timely manner". The current version of the EA for this proposed project has been ongoing since 2008-09.

Given these circumstances, the Review Board was not willing to grant a six month adjournment. The Board will grant Tyhee until August 21, 2013 to file satisfactory answers to all outstanding IRs as well as an updated project description by close of business on that day. Should Tyhee fail to file the required information, the Review Board will suspend EA0809-003 until Tyhee can show cause why the proceeding should be reinitiated.

The Review Board is concerned about the timeliness of its process. Both the extended time frame and lack of progress in this proceeding appear to be the direct result of Tyhee's delays. We look forward to continuing this EA once we have your submissions.

Yours truly,



Vern Christensen  
Executive Director MVEIRB

Att.

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Our File: EA0809-003

Via email

Mr. Hugh Wilson  
Vice President – Environment and Community Affairs  
Tyhee NWT Corp.  
401-675 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC  
V6B 1N2

Dear Mr. Wilson,

Re: EA0809-003: Yellowknife Gold Project – Timing for Information Request Responses

To encourage the timely continuation of the environmental assessment process for the Yellowknife Gold Project, the Mackenzie Valley Review Board would like to follow-up on correspondence regarding when Tyhee NWT Corp. (Tyhee) plans to submit responses to the information requests. These were issued by the Review Board and parties on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The Review Board notes that several delays have already caused some significant interruptions in this environmental assessment process, which began on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008. These include the following:

- On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 the Review Board had sent you a final Terms of Reference and Workplan. The Terms of Reference defined the scope and information requirements for the Developer's Assessment Report, and the Workplan identified a target completion date of January, 2011 for the environmental assessment. Tyhee did not submit its Developer's Assessment Report until May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011, almost two years after it received the Terms of Reference.
- In an effort to provide an efficient way through the process, the Review Board chose to forego its standard conformity check, in favour of issuing several information requests in August, 2011 to clarify important questions relating to the Yellowknife Gold Project. Seven months after the information requests were issued, Tyhee's responses were almost complete. Tyhee provided additional updated information on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.
- Many parties requested an extension to the submission of their information requests, which were initially due on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012. A three-week extension was provided. This was a result of significant changes to, and discrepancies in, the proposed Project Description, combined with the fact that several of the information request responses from the developer were deemed inadequate, especially with respect to water (a Key Line of Inquiry).



- On July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Review Board staff contacted Tyhee to request an estimated date for the submission of information request responses, including the requirement for an updated project description. The updated information would be used to inform Parties about the progress of the assessment moving forward.
- Tyhee responded on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 suggesting that the Review Board could expect an updated Project Description no later than the end of August, 2012 and responses to information requests between September and October, 2012.
- As of today, Tyhee has not provided an update Project Description and the information request responses are still outstanding. Tyhee has had 172 days to respond to information requests since they were issued.

The Review Board is concerned that these delays, for which Tyhee is responsible, are compromising the timeliness of the Review Board's environmental assessment process. The Review Board now requires Tyhee to provide evidence of progress and a clear estimate for the anticipated submission of the updated Project Description and responses to the June 2012 information requests. The Review Board requires this information by **January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013**.

Upon receipt of a satisfactory response, a new target schedule and updated timeline for the environmental assessment process will be provided to Parties. If this information is not submitted, the Review Board may consider the adjournment of this environmental assessment. The Review Board looks forward to your timely response. If you have any further questions, please contact me using the information provided below.

Sincerely,

Vern Christensen  
Executive Director