

December 18th, 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 29th, 2012.

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

- On May 22nd, 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 11th, 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 31st, 2012.
- Many parties requested an extension to the submission of their information requests, which were initially due on June 8th, 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 26th, 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 16th, 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 18th, 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