November 10, 2011

VIA EMAIL

Chuck Hubert Environmental Assessment Officer Mackenzie Valley Review Board

Ph: (867) 766-7052 Fx: (867) 766-7074

chubert@reviewboard.ca Web: reviewboard.ca

Dear Mr. Hubert,

Re: EA0809-004, NICO Project, Fortune Minerals Limited – GNWT Response to Tlicho Government Information Request

Please find attached the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) response to the Tlicho Government's Information Request TG32 for the NICO Project.

Please feel free to contact me at <u>Loretta_ransom@gov.nt.ca</u> or (867) 920-6593 with any questions you may have regarding the attached response.

Sincerely,

Environmental Assessment Analyst

Environmental Assessment and Monitoring

Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT

Phone #: 867-920-6593

cc Gavin More, GNWT

Rhonda Batchelor, GNWT

Laura Duncan, Tlicho Government

IR Number: TG 32

To: Government of the Northwest Territories

Source: Tlicho Government

Subject: Airport Use at Whatì

DAR Section: n/a

Terms of Reference Section: n/a

Additional Source Material: Fortune Minerals' September 30, 2011 DAR Update Letter

Preamble: Fortune Minerals released information on September 30, 2011 to the parties to the EA that there will be the relocation of the project airstrip to the Whatì airport. Please see the Tlicho Government IR to the developer.

Request and Response:

32.1 Please provide a summary of the discussion on this topic with Fortune Minerals.

Response: On September 28th, 2011, Fortune Minerals representatives invited the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Transportation (DOT) to an informal meeting to discuss a) the potential use of the Whatì airport as opposed to an onsite airstrip at the mine site and b) the possibility of Fortune's development of a lease site at the Whatì airport. DOT provided information to Fortune Minerals on the current capacity of the public airport (runway length, etc.) and also referred Fortune Minerals to the Commercial Development section of the GNWT DOT Airports Division if they wished to obtain further details on the process for securing airport lands for development.

32.2 What type of planning needs to be done in order to accommodate this request by Fortune Minerals?

Response: The planning process for a proponent interested in pursuing developments on airport lands would start with the proponent establishing contact with one of the GNWT DOT Airport Division's Commercial Development officers to discuss land needs, land availability and the lease application process.

32.3 What authorizations, ancillary developments need to be sought in order to plan for this Fortune Minerals request?

Response: A proponent would require a Lease (in accordance with the Commissioner's Public Airport Lands Regulations under the *Public Airports Act*) and approval for any development from Transport Canada, NAV CANADA and the Airports Division of the Department of Transportation.

For certified facilities any construction on airport property would require the airport to submit a "Plan of Construction Operations (PCO)" to Transport Canada for review and approval. It may also require notification to NAV CANADA if there is likely to be an impact to air navigation, or navigational aids.

Further information on NAV CANADA requirements can be found at: (http://www.navcanada.ca/NavCanada.asp?Language=en&Content=ContentDefinitionFiles\Services\LandUseProgram\default.xml).

32.4 Did GNWT-DOT make any efforts to contact the Tlicho Government or the community government of Whatì about this potential development prior to September 30, 2011? If not, please provide a rationale.

Response: Fortune Mineral has only approached the GNWT DOT for an informal and exploratory discussion about the possibility of developing infrastructure at the Whatì Airport (September 28th meeting, 2011). At this early stage, GNWT DOT would expect a proponent to discuss their project design concepts with other parties including the Tlicho Government and community government.