



Feb 18th – 20th, 2013

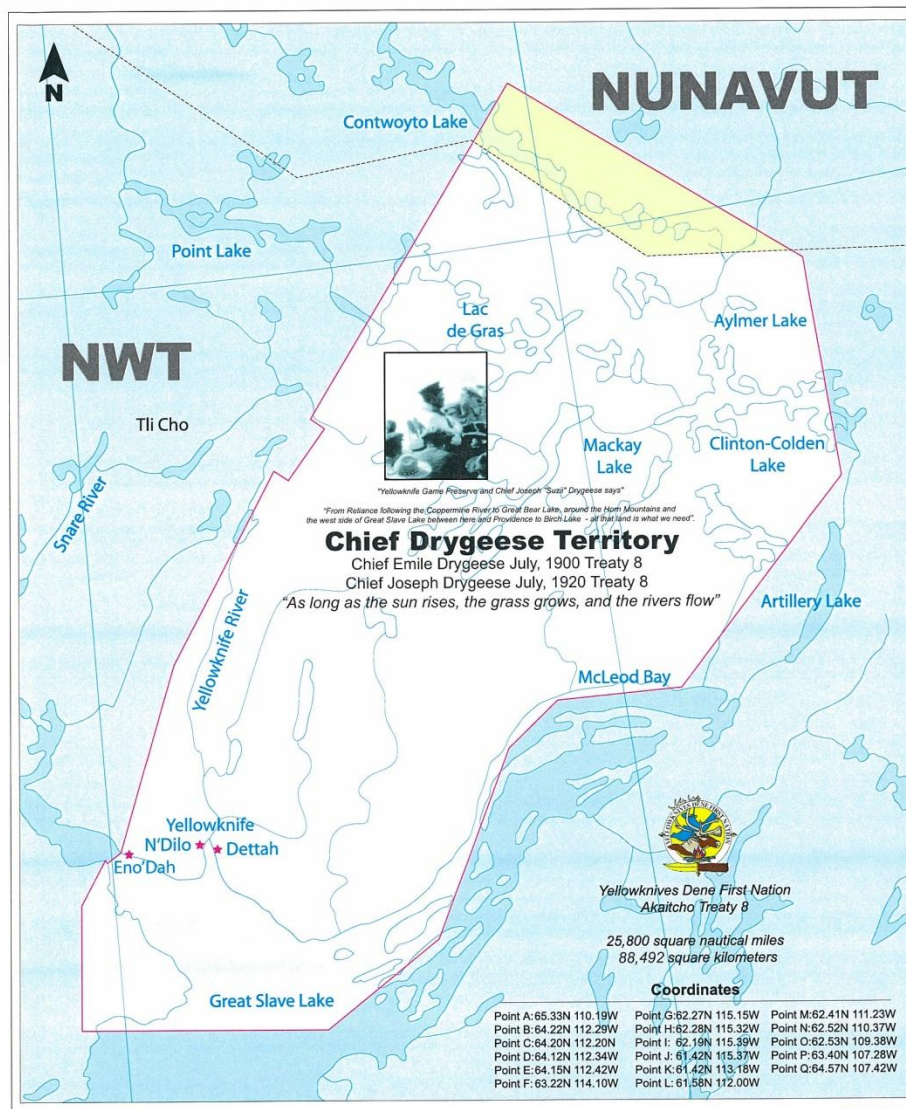
MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD
Avalon Rare Metals Inc. – Thor Lake Project (EA10111-001)

INTRODUCTION



Members of the Yellowknife Dene First Nation are descendants of people whose very existence depended on utilization of the rich resources of the lands and waters north of Great Slave Lake, known as the Chief Drygeese Territory. The Yellowknives Dene continue to practiced traditional, constitutionally enshrined rights, as they have for generations, to hunt, trap, travel and enjoy what is one of the most environmentally intact places in the world. Since 1935 the environment and traditional use of the Chief Drygeese Territory has been threatened by mineral exploration and mining. We have seen the devastating results of this in the many abandoned and contaminated mine sites north of Great Slave Lake, we're here today to ensure that doesn't happen again.

- YKDFN Team:
 - Shannon Gault: Director, Lands Management
 - Randy Freeman: Traditional Knowledge Specialist
 - Chief Edward Sangris



Feb 18th – 20th, 2013

MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD
Avalon Rare Metals Inc. – Thor Lake Project (EA10111-001)

WORKING WITH AVALON



- IBA negotiations currently at a stand still
 - Without a final Agreement, YKDFN will not endorse permitting of this project
- Community information sessions have not occurred or been discussed
 - There remains considerable unease among YDFN community members about the scope of work and potential impacts of the Thor Lake Project.

Feb 18th – 20th, 2013

MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD
Avalon Rare Metals Inc. – Thor Lake Project (EA10111-001)

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS



- Impacts occur both from direct activity and indirect response. Indirect effects tend to occur across a broader spatial scale.
 - Mitigations have proven effective to reduce/avoid direct impacts
 - Mitigations to indirect impacts have been weak and ineffective
- Efforts to push these companies to monitor and assess cumulative effects have been met with a response indicating that this is a government responsibility. However, YKDFN have seen little response to this over the last 15 years.

YKDFN DO NOT CARE WHO FULFILLS THIS ROLE, BUT IT MUST BE COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS WILL RESULT.

LAND



Traditional Use:

Travel routes

Traplines

Access to traditional areas (mine trespassing)

Wildlife:

With the current level of development, plus known projects in permitting, the level and range of impacts will be much higher. Presently 3/4 active mines on the Bathurst Caribou range – likely to be 10 in the near future.

Existing: Ekati, Diavik, Snap Lake, Jericho

Late EA: Avalon (2015), Fortune (2015), Gahcho Kue (2015)

Early EA: NWT Gold, Izok (2017), Back River (2018)

Starting EA in 2013: Hackett River, Courageous Lake

Noise:

WATER



- Pollution of docking/staging area
 - Spills
- Navigation Protection Act
 - Changing regulatory regime and future challenges to First Nations engagement in mining development
- AEMP design
 - Inclusion of TK in monitoring and management
 - Fish health
- Barging
 - Noise and visual interference with use of traditional cabin sites on north shore
 - Alternate routes?
- Tailings

CLOSURE



- Tailings monitoring
- Restoration of waterfront
- Removal of infrastructure
- Restoration of traditional trails

“YKDFN’s closure goal is to return the area to an environment as close to pristine as possible so that wildlife, and environmental quality will once again thrive and be conducive to Traditional practices”

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE



- Avalon Rare Metals Inc. contracted EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd. to “obtain Traditional Knowledge from the YKDFN community that is specific to the Thor Lake Project’s proposed project sites and the geographic North Slave region”.
- Interviews with 17 YKDFN members were conducted in Ndilo and Dettah from September 20th to 25th, 2010.
- From these interviews a Summary Report was produced in January 2011.

It is the opinion of the YKDFN’s Lands and Environment that this project has failed to fulfill the MVEIRB’s requirement to adequately consult YKDFN on either traditional or current use of the Thor Lake area.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE



What's wrong with Avalon/EBA's TK study:

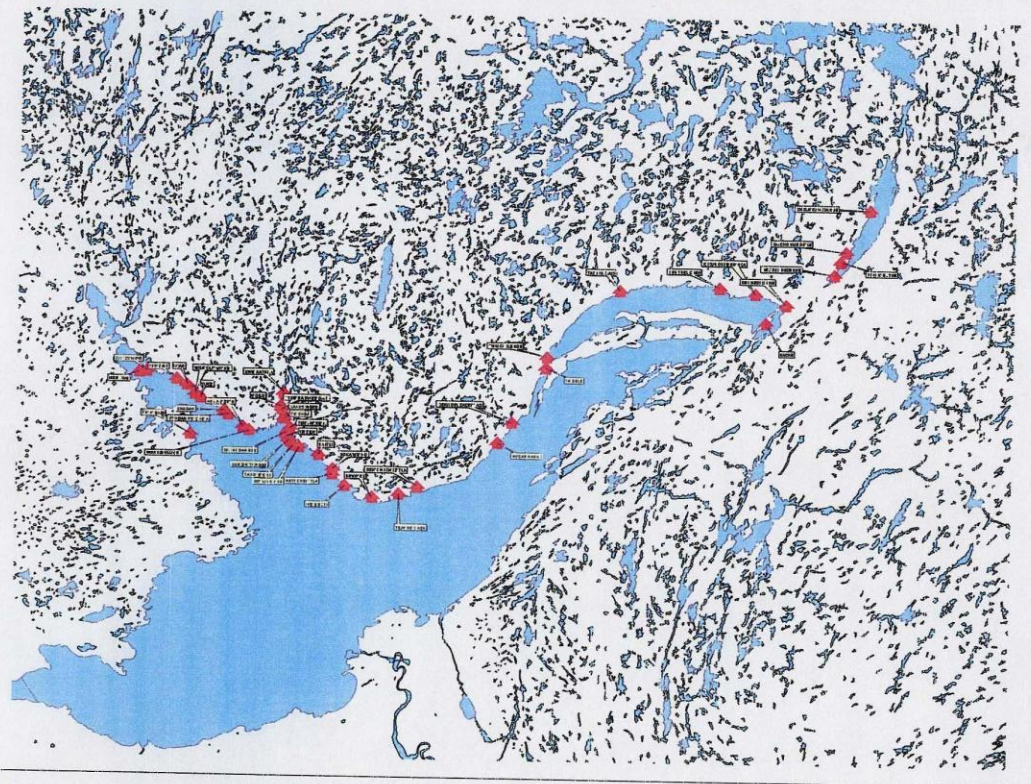
- No spatial or temporal context to the study
- No background historical or cultural research
- No contextual perspective
- The questions asked are mostly meaningless
- No follow-through to the answers given on the questionnaire

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE



三

NWT Treaty 8 Mapping Project Traditional Villages



◆ Traditional Villages
■ Water bodies



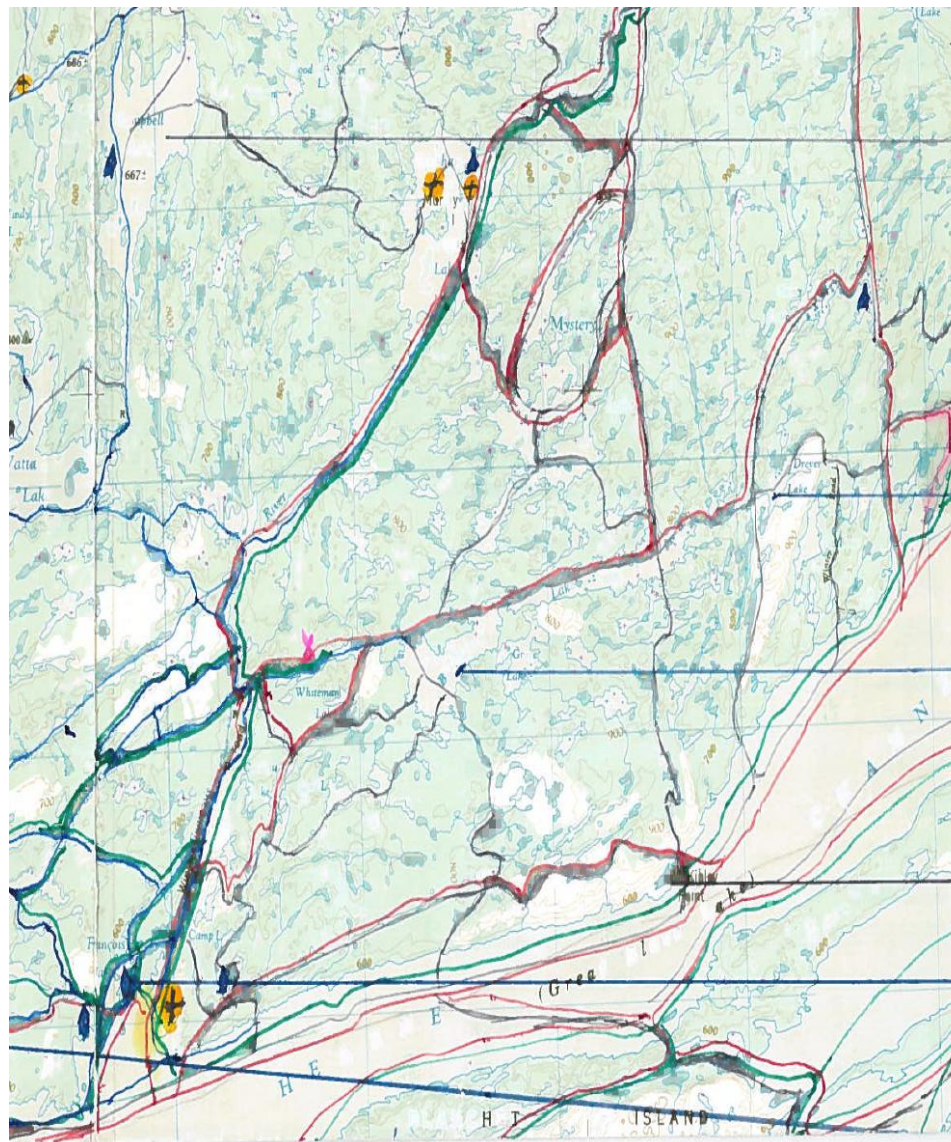
50 0 50 100 Kilometers

Aug 21 2001

Feb 18th – 20th, 2013

MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD
Avalon Rare Metals Inc. – Thor Lake Project (EA10111-001)

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE



Feb 18th – 20th, 2013

MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD
Avalon Rare Metals Inc. – Thor Lake Project (EA10111-001)

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE



Feb 18th – 20th, 2013

MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD
Avalon Rare Metals Inc. – Thor Lake Project (EA10111-001)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEASURES



- 1) Cumulative Effects Monitoring for Bathurst Caribou Herd
- 2) YKDFN involvement in Environmental Monitoring and Management
- 3) YKDFN involvement in AEMP (as prescribed by GNWT)
- 4) Oversight?
- 5) Communication with YKDFN on Project progress, opportunity to discuss Barging alternatives/impacts/effects
- 6) Revisiting TK study with YKDFN