

October 30, 2015

Mrs. Marjorie Matheson Maund
Implementation Facilitator, Special Projects
Tlicho Government
PO BOX 412
Behchokò, NT X0E 0Y0

Dear Mrs. Matheson Maund:

Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation Jay Project Environmental Assessment (EA1314-01) – question from Mr. Henry Zoe regarding participant funding and consultation

On 16 Sep 2015 at the public hearing for the Jay Project, Mr. Henry Zoe asked a question of the GNWT regarding participant funding and the consultation requirements around the establishment of said funding. Specifically, Mr. Zoe asked:

“...can GNWT and Canada investigate and publically report on the establishment of a permanent participant funding program for environmental assessment held under Part 5 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act within one year of the acceptance of the report of the environmental assessment?... And since the GNWT is in charge of that now,... What kind of consultation would you consider to be advisable in the establishment of this participant funding program?”

In response to Mr. Zoe's question, the Chair of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) asked that the GNWT “respond directly to the Tlicho Government outside this process.”

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With respect to the first part of Mr. Zoe's question, GNWT supports informed decision-making in the environmental assessment process, and recognizes that funding to parties may enhance their ability to contribute to the process. The *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) is federal legislation and GNWT sees Canada as having an important role in any potential participant funding activities under the MVRMA. The GNWT is open to discussing participant funding with Canada and other interested parties. Participant funding is part of the overall environmental assessment regime in Canada; the GNWT's view is that participant funding in the Mackenzie Valley remains a federal responsibility (i.e. the authority for participant funding was not transferred by Canada to the GNWT with devolution).

With respect to the second part of Mr. Zoe's question regarding the advisable consultation on establishing a participant funding program, the GNWT wishes to reiterate that while the GNWT is open to discussing participant funding with Canada and other interested parties, the GNWT is of the view that Canada remains responsible for participant funding in the Mackenzie Valley.

Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact Lorraine Seale (Lorraine_seale@gov.nt.ca), Manager, Project Assessments, or Melissa Pink (melissa_pink@gov.nt.ca) Project Assessment Analyst.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Hall', written in a cursive style.

Terry Hall
Director
Land Use and Sustainability
Department of Lands

c. : Mr. Chuck Hubert, MVEIRB