

Liidlii Kue First Nation's Presentation

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact
Review Board:
EA1415-01 Canadian Zinc All-Weather Road

April 28, 2017 public technical hearing

Liidlii Kue, Deh cho

Preamble

- We are Dene, current descendants of the original peoples of our lands and resources including our collective responsibility of protecting the ecological integrity of our sacred waters through which all life begins
- It is through our continued practices of our culture and lifestyle that we continue to govern over and share resources equally amongst our neighbours of which those relationships have been built over time immemorial
- Our laws have sustained us for millennia through the precedent of utilizing the wisdom, guidance and language of Our Elders
- Through them and our willingness to share, we will continue to prosper and meet our obligations to the Creator for the well being of future generations and we commit to work together to achieve this

Liidlii Kue Go'tine Land Use and Occupancy

- We have extensive historical use of the Nahanni area shown through our Indigenous Knowledge studies related to our Dehcho Land Use Plan and Nahanni National Park Expansion agreement processes including living knowledge and use of areas, features and resources within the project area
- Our Denendeh Resource users utilize their indigenous knowledge of the Water, Mountain Caribou, Sheep, Moose, Fish, Vegetation, and minerals wherever they occur
- Our people have the right to hunt, fish, trap and gather resources and the right to protect those resources and the lands upon which those resources are located including the project area
- Our land use and occupancy is not limited to “traditional” land use and occupancy data, but also the ability to continue our cultural activities including ceremony, spirituality and cultural continuity
- Cultural continuity is foundational to our Dene Health, self determination, self sufficiency, resilience and capacity to respond to impacts

Liidlii Kue Go'tine Approach in Conservation

- Being Dene and practicing Dene Ways is conscientiously looking at the world around us with the intent of protecting the land for future generations
- Denendeh signifies our connection to the land and Ke'hodi, "taking care of the land" which allows us to share our experiential knowledge and evidence through oral traditions including stories, lessons and other education and engagement opportunities
- Recognition of Cultural Impacts requires utility of considerable participation, acceptable practice and insight from Liidlii Kue Go'tine
- Liidlii Kue First Nation has developed policies and processes prior to and towards our Dehcho Resource Management Authority including decision making through Chief and Council, Committees and our interim Liidlii Kue First Nation Traditional Knowledge Policy

Concerns regarding safety

- extreme traversing of terrain along the ROW including passes; bridge width; traffic; approaches; and signage during winter weather conditions
- avalanche risks
- the compounding of risks (ie. Funeral Creek pass + likelihood of collision + roll over potential risk + supply + terrain + speed + weather + darkness etc.) and how this may create a significant adverse impact to people and the ecosystem

Recommendation for measures on permitting should consider:

- CZNs acceptable level of risk of Funeral, Sundog, Tetcela
- how mitigation efforts will reduce or eliminate moderate, high, and very high risk areas of the proposed road
- the driving distance of higher risk areas specifically the percentage of driving distance in higher risk areas from the mine to the Liard highway

Liidlii Kue First Nation supports Dehcho First Nations concerns on road width and safety issues which include the recommendation to provide data regarding detailed design for baseline data which does not exist.

Concerns regarding Karst and Permafrost

- high volume traffic increases potential impacts to permafrost given the frequency of traffic
- data to identify impacts to permafrost and karst areas since there is no detailed design

Recommendation for measures on permitting should consider:

- the predicted significant adverse impacts to drainage in high snow volume areas, permafrost areas and high freshet areas.
- maintaining natural drainage, cross drainage, road maintenance, and side sloping road
- the erosion of corduroy Road Logs and the resilience to rapidly changing environmental conditions
- detailed road design
- permafrost monitoring during construction phase and maintenance

LKFN would like to be included in the monitoring of the project.

Concerns regarding Wildlife

- significant adverse impacts to Mountain Caribou, Sentinel and Migratory Herds
- CZN's conclusions on trace occurrences of Northern Mountain Caribou

Recommendation for measures on permitting should consider:

- clear commitments from CZN on mitigating impacts to caribou
- baseline studies on the presence of mountain caribou, sentinel and migratory herds
- monitoring that would include local Denendeh Resource monitors

LKFN agrees with Parks Canada data on occurrence of caribou in the area and the potential of affecting the caribou.

Concerns regarding Fish and Fish Habitat

- the presence of arctic grayling and trout migrating, for purposes of spawning and wintering, to the fish bearing creeks (ie. Funeral and Sundog Creek) impacted by the project
- the risk of significant adverse impacts due to realignment; dust; erosion; and other factors

Recommendation for measures on permitting should consider:

- baseline studies to determine what measures should be taken to mitigate the risk for significant impacts

Concerns regarding Water Quality

- community anxiety due to potential for spills
- sediment and safety concerns at Tetcela River Crossing terrain and approach due to the extreme terrain
- alignment of Sundog Creek increases the risk of spills and severity of spills due to terrain conditions
- blasting and water quality at Kp24-29

Recommendation for measures on permitting should consider:

- baseline data and monitoring to ensure proper water capacity, velocity, TSS and turbidity
- the time of year that blasting is proposed

Concerns regarding Vegetation

- viability of vegetation with the offsetting
- potential for rare, valued and protected plants and assemblages
- potential for significant adverse impacts from invasive species

Recommendation for measures on permitting should consider:

- baseline studies on the vegetation and rare species prior to permitting
- baseline studies to investigate potential for significant adverse impacts from invasive species on riparian habitat within the project and implementation of control measures if recommended
- we agree with Dehcho First Nations recommendation to encourage involvement from the First Nations in monitoring to assist in building capacity

Concerns regarding Heritage Resources

- Naha'deh is considered a sacred area of transition

Recommendations for measures on permitting should consider:

- archaeological surveys to be conduct prior to development

Concerns regarding Cultural Traditions

- disruption to Dene way of life including important fish and wildlife
- diminished supply of culturally important food and tools
- industry influences on the Dene beliefs, values and practices

Recommendations for measures on permitting should consider:

- study on the impacts of industry on the cultural traditions of the Dene and the Dene way of life
- completion of a traditional knowledge study with Liidlii Kue

From “The Nahanni Portfolio” Bernadette Norwegian, 1955, Fort Simpson, NT

“I want you to see the hills in native profile,
Along the shores of the midnight river.
I want you to see the noon moon bask above
The fields of the island flatland.
I want you to see the fury of the sunset
Caught between white pillars of the high Nahanni peaks.

I want you to hear the rush of wind,
The whisper of legends and stories untold.
I want you to hear old trees moan, young fires
Crackle, and ice tinkle in the spring.
I want you to hear the night through canvas walls.

I want you to know the ancient one, this land,
Whose voice is likened to a thousand spirits chanting.