

**Title :** CBC Media Inquiries about BHP development projects

**Background :** Lee Selleck, reporter for CBC-TV's Northbeat program is working on a story about the BHP development expansion and associated environmental approvals process. He phoned on January 8, 1999 to ask whether the MVEIRB will be doing the 'review' of the BHP expansion.

He made the following comments:

- In Selleck's discussion with Steve Traynor at DIAND, Selleck said Traynor told him that the initial BHP land use permit applications were not accepted by DIAND. BHP was told to reapply and that this re-application would trigger the MVRMA process.

- In Selleck's discussion with the NWT Water Board office, Selleck said he was told that BHP's application for a water licence was made before December 22<sup>nd</sup> and that this would trigger a review under the CEAA process.

Selleck was looking for some clarification as to which body would be doing the EA on this project. At this point he was not looking for a public comment or response from the Board. The impression he gave was that he was doing some homework on a story he was preparing. The other impression he gave was that he was not familiar with the environmental assessment process for either CEAA or the MVRMA and was making erroneous assumptions about how these processes worked.

Responded to Selleck by pointing out that the MVEIRB does not issue licences or permits itself. It only does environmental impact assessments of projects referred to it. Also pointed out that the MVEIRB does not get involved in any particular development until the referral is made. Any discussions as to how things are handled before that point are left to respective bodies and departments to sort out for themselves. Discussed some other MVRMA items in a general way, such as who was doing permits and licences in the absence of the MVL&WB, and how the regional boards (Gwich'in and Sahtu) fit into the process.

Extended an invitation to Selleck that if he needed information on how the MVEIRB worked, he could call us for information.

*Jan. 11 Michelle Lafontaine, CBC radio phoned. Asked for the same information. Told her it was in the hands of the federal government. Waiting for their decision.*