



Wildlife, Lands and Environment Department

Lutsel K'è Dene First Nation
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August 31, 2012

To: Chuck Hubert
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Review Board
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chubert@reviewboard.ca

Re: EIR0607-001 Final Public Hearing Locations

Dear Mr. Hubert,

Please accept this letter as the Lutsel K'è Dene First Nation expressing our concern of the Review Board's decision to hold the Gahcho Kue technical hearings in Yellowknife as per the document *Gahcho Kue, Next steps, Aug 10 to Dec 7, 2012* posted to the public registry on August 15th 2012. Instead, we are respectfully insisting that the Technical Hearings be held in Lutsel K'è on the same dates the Review suggested, Wednesday December 5th to Friday December 7th.

LKDFN wants to make it clear for the record that our community is the only directly impacted community for this proposed project, therefore it has the most significant concerns and each member of the LKDFN must be allowed to participate. In discussions with you on Friday August 17th Mr. Hubert, you noted that funding will be available to the residents of Lutsel K'è for travel to Yellowknife for the hearings, yet we believe that it will be necessary to transport the entire community of Lutsel K'è to Yellowknife, which may be difficult logistically. The potential impacts will be too great not to have the hearings in our community, and have the voices of the directly impacted, heard.

In the past, when our community had the potential to be directly impacted, we have held entire MVEIRB public hearings in Lutsel K'è (i.e. UR Energy Inc., Screech Lake, EA0607-003). If the hearings of the MVEIRB process are part of satisfying the Crown's Duty to Consult, then the public hearing must be held here as part of our accommodation. We cannot stress enough the high likelihood for this proposal to have significant negative impacts on LKDFN's aboriginal and treaty rights, culture, and way of life; so again, we insist that the panel hear our concerns in our own community.

You also mentioned Mr. Hubert that the panel looked into the availability of facilities in the community at the time of the hearings. We want to assure you that this proposal is of the highest priority for the community and the facilities will be available, along with the necessary billets, catering, and equipment required to host successful hearings.

Lutsel K'e believes that the community hearing can still be held in Dettah, but strongly encourage the Board to change the location of the two-day technical hearings to the community of Lutsel K'e.

LKDFN believes it is best practice to hold hearings in the community most impacted by the development, and as Lutsel K'e has all the necessary requirements to hold these hearings, we hope our community will be granted the opportunity to host this part of the regulatory process. We are concerned that the Panel may have made a hasty decision in determining the location of the hearings, but it is not too late to correct this minor error and we hope to hear a positive response from the Panel regarding this most respectful and reasonable request.

Thank you for your consideration,



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