Gahcho Kué Project

TŁÌCHÇÒ GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
• TG RECOMMENDATION 1: The proponent will consider, in setting the SSWQOs, the traditional use of the Aboriginal people of the region and the levels will be set suitably to protect these traditional uses.
  – Level of use and protection at various endpoints (in Kennady Lake and downstream)
  – De Beers commits to consider uses, but not to protecting use (in all the variety of forms set out by AANDC)
The recommendations set out in these areas were satisfied through ongoing work and the responses of De Beers.

- Water quality
- Fish compensation
- Approach to TK
- Independent monitoring
TG 6: Request for study

• Economic analysis and labour force study that evaluates a series of likely scenarios to determine what options would provide maximum benefits for the residents of the Mackenzie Valley and to identify the labour force and barriers to this Aboriginal labour force in particular.
  – Study commissioned
  – Interpretation needed of study
TG 7, 8, 9

• Socio-Economic Commitments
  – Adaptive support to Tłı̨chǫ Government services
  – Require on the land counselling
  – Space for contractors

Satisfied that these have to be managed by the proponent and the Tłı̨chǫ Government, if there is a satisfactory IBA.
Ekwò (Barren-Ground Caribou)  
AN ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL KEYSTONE SPECIES

Ekwò are essential to Tłı̨chǫ language, culture and way of life and their continued existence and availability for harvesting is of critical importance to the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the Tłı̨chǫ people.

Tłı̨chǫ culture and way of life is based on the caribou and its migration patterns; Ekwò provided food, shelter, clothing, and bedding.

Ekwò are the basis of traditional land use, knowledge, legends, and practices.
Recent History

INFLUENCE OF CARIBOU SCARCITY
Bathurst Caribou Decline
TREND IN ABUNDANCE OF BREEDING FEMALE CARIBOU BASED ON CALVING GROUND PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEYS, 1986-2012

Source: GNWT-ENR
Adaptive Co-Management

IMPLEMENTING THE TŁɁɬɬɬ AGREEMENT

REVISED JOINT PROPOSAL ON CARIBOU MANAGEMENT ACTIONS IN WEK’EEZHII

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Submitted to:
Wek’eezhii Renewable Resource Board

Submitted by:
TłɁɬɬɬɬ Government
Bethel, NT.
And
Department of Environment and Natural Resources,
Government of the Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, NT.

June 22, 2011

- C. Review Information, Management
  - May: Calving Ground Surveys: Photographic Survey (2012)
  - June: Systematic Reconnaissance Composition Survey (Number of Cows, Calf:Cow Ratio)

- B. Review Information, Management
  - Jan: WOLF HUNTING, TRAPPING
    - Monitor wolf kills: Numbers seen, killed; condition, diet
  - Feb: Rut Survey: Monitor sex ratio (bulls:cows)

- A. Review Information, Management
  - Aug: FALL HUNT
    - Monitor Fall Hunt: Kill locations
      - Number killed, sex ratio
  - Sept: WINTER HUNT
    - Monitor Winter Hunt: Kill locations
      - Number killed, sex ratio
      - Caribou condition & pregnancy

- Apr: Spring Composition Survey: Monitor calf:cow ratio

Mar
Dec
Environmental Assessment

PREDICTED IMPACTS

Impacts?

Impacts?

Impacts?
Environmental Assessment

PREDICTED IMPACTS
Mine(s), Roads & Access
TG Recommendations

OVERSIGHT & MONITORING

Independent oversight
The proponent and respective Parties should collaboratively develop an agreement that creates an independent oversight body.

Enforceable wildlife monitoring plan
The proponent should develop an enforceable Wildlife Monitoring Plan to be undertaken principally by De Beers, and under purview of the independent oversight body.
TG Recommendations

IMPACTS TO CARIBOU

Winter access road & Vehicle traffic
Monitoring should test whether the Winter Access Road and associated vehicular traffic affects behaviour and/or impedes movement by caribou.

Zone of influence (ZOI)
Define and estimate a ZOI for the Gahcho Kué mine through its development phases from construction to closure.

Effects of mine on caribou behavior
Estimate impacts to behavior and activity of caribou that enter the ZOI.
TG Recommendations
IMPROVING ASSESSMENTS

Regular & comprehensive analyses of monitoring programs;
Update cumulative effects assessment

• Advance the ‘state-of-the-art’ in assessment methodologies
• Test and update critical assumptions
• Contribute to a regional cumulative effects monitoring approach
• Incorporate a review of range-wide industrial development activities relative to recovery and health of the Bathurst herd
MAHSI CHO!