



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

By: fax and letter mail
Our file: EA0506-005 and EA0506-006

Tuesday, February 6th, 2007

Rachel Crapeau,
Manager, Land and Environment Committee
Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Dear Ms. Crapeau,

Tapsell:

Re: Potential workshop with the YKDFN

Last month, staff from Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) corresponded with Mr. Joe Acorn concerning the organizing of a potential workshop with members of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) regarding the environmental assessments of Consolidated GoldWin Ventures and Sidon International's proposed mineral exploration projects. The purpose and potential results of that workshop are described in the correspondence attached to this letter.

Last week, YKDFN consultant, Mr. Luciano Azzolini called our office to discuss the proposed workshop. During the conversation he stated that he believed it unlikely that YKDFN members would be participating in a workshop originally scheduled for February 6, 2007. I sincerely hope that the YKDFN will be able to attend a future workshop, as we believe that the workshop could provide a useful opportunity for parties to interact and share knowledge in a setting that is less formal than a public hearing.

The Review Board would appreciate it if you would confirm in writing with us whether or not the YKDFN will participate in a future workshop. If yes, please provide us with a "doable date", and the Review Board staff will coordinate the workshop. The hearings are scheduled for April 3rd and 4th and we would like to hold a workshop well in advance of the hearings.

Should you have any questions about this matter, or about the environmental assessment in general, please do not hesitate to contact me at 766-7063 or by email at mtapsell@mveirb.nt.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Tapsell".

Mary Tapsell,
Manager, Environmental Assessment

Attached: Email from Patrick Duxbury, MVEIRB to Joe Acorn, YKDFN

Patrick Duxbury

From: Patrick Duxbury
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007 4:24 PM
To: 'Joe Acorn'
Cc: Mary Tapsell
Subject: RE: EA0506-004 (Consolidated) and EA0506-006 (Sidon)

Good afternoon Joe,

I am just following up from our phone conversation this afternoon regarding the possibility of organizing a workshop to deal with some of the issues related to these two environmental assessments. The idea of this workshop was initially suggested in the Review Board's December 22, 2006, letter concerning the work plan for the two EAs.

The Review Board gave consideration to the Information Request Responses that the YKDFN filed with it on December 18, 2006. The Review Board appreciates the effort that the YKDFN put into its submission. However, the Board felt that it would be helpful if the YKDFN IR response could be expanded upon.

What MVEIRB has contemplated is a workshop that would have knowledgeable persons from the YKDFN (i.e. elders, land and environment committee members, harvesters) provide their insights regarding the areas that have been identified by Sidon and CGV as potential mineral exploration targets. While these areas have already been addressed in the YKDFN IR response, the Board is hoping to flesh out the existing information.

The Review Board would be represented by its staff for this workshop. Staff members are working to prepare large maps depicting all the areas in questions. The Review Board hopes that the YKDFN members in attendance could work from those maps and be able to speak about the values in the areas that may be potentially affected by the proposed developments. MVEIRB staff would be there to facilitate the workshop and to take notes that would later likely form the basis of a report that would be submitted to the Board and become part of the public record. Since this would be a MVEIRB facilitated event, it would be open to the public, but we would encourage interested parties not to send huge contingents in order to keep things less formal and less intimidating. The focus is on getting information from the persons who know the land, whatever their perspective may be. A special invitation would however be extended to the developers and their consultants. A location hasn't been contemplated, but Dettah would seem to be appropriate.

While it is hoped that most YKDFN members could speak freely as possible, it is appreciated that some sort of process might have to be hammered out regarding the discussion of any traditional knowledge that may be deemed sensitive by the respective TK holders.

I hope this gives you an idea of what the Review Board has been contemplating. I've CC'd Mary Tapsell on this message as well as she might have some other things to say about it.

It is hoped that the YKDFN would have interest in participating in such a workshop. While the Board suggested Feb. 6 as a possible date for the workshop, it was made clear from our discussion this afternoon that the timing may be not very convenient for bringing together the persons who you might want to have at such an event. That said, it would be beneficial to attempt to have such a workshop well in advance of the hearing. We would like to hear your ideas on the matter. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me.

Regards,

Patrick Duxbury, M.Sc.
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Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board P.O. Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue
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-----Original Message-----

From: Joe Acorn [mailto:jacorn@ykdene.com]
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2007 2:43 PM
To: Patrick Duxbury; Mary Tapsell
Cc: Crapeau, Rachel; Louie Azzolini
Subject: EA0506-004 (Consolidated) and EA0506-006 (Sidon)

Hi Patrick and Mary,

In its Dec. 22nd letter, the MVEIRB proposes to hold the pre-hearing conference/workshop on Feb. 6th and the hearing on Mar. 27th.

The Feb. 6th date is acceptable for YKDFN but we do have a conflict on Mar. 27th. We would like to request that the hearing be delayed until sometime in the week of Apr. 2nd-6th.

Thanks,

Joe Acorn
Director of Land Management
Yellowknives Dene First Nation
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E-mail: jacorn@ykdene.com