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Your file - Votre référence

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September 12, 2007

Alan Ehrlich
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 5102-50th Ave
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Ehrlich:

Thank you for the September 6, 2007 correspondence regarding the supplementary information requests for the environmental assessment of Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Incorporated (EA0506-005). Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) appreciates the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (MVEIRB) efforts to circulate draft measures and seek input from the parties to the environmental assessment.

INAC has reviewed the submissions that were filed with the MVEIRB registry and has several comments in response to these submissions. These comments are listed below:

IR Number: 2.1

Source: North Slave Métis Alliance

Subject: The suggestion to, "...require the proponent to submit an "Environmental Management Plan" for approval, prior to the construction of any access route".

Rather than requiring the proponent to submit an Environmental Management Plan for approval, INAC recommends that the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board include environmental management requirements directly into the Land Use Permits. The terms and conditions included in a Land Use Permit are more appropriate to ensure compliance and enforcement control, as long as the terms and conditions are within the intent of the *Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations*.

IR Number: 2.1

Source: Government of the Northwest Territories

Subject: Winter Road

Canada

INAC has no objections to the developer monitoring the use of the road.

INAC would like to inform the MVEIRB, the developer and all reviewers that the winter road proposed by the developer will be on public land, and that the general public has a right of access to all public roads and lands, unless restricted by law. Therefore, in INAC's view, the developer does not have the legal authority to restrict public access to the winter road it is proposing to build on public lands.

IR Numbers: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5
Source: Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Subject: Consultation

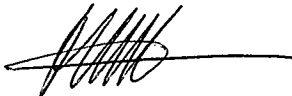
The Government of Canada is currently developing a national, comprehensive policy to guide its approach to section 35 Crown consultation. In the interim until this policy is developed, INAC has been developing an "Interim Approach to section 35 Crown consultation" ("Interim Approach").

As stated in previous INAC correspondence to the MVEIRB on other projects, consultation processes undertaken by the MVEIRB will be taken into account by the Crown in the Interim Approach for the purposes of determining the adequacy of consultation (and accommodation, where warranted) relating to any specific project proposal. These processes elicit information from the proponent and other parties about the potential impacts that a proposed resource development project may have on the environment wildlife harvesting, or socio-cultural and economic well-being.

INAC and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation have met to discuss the Interim Approach and future meetings are being planned. INAC is continuing to work with Aboriginal peoples, including the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and with resource management boards, to further develop the Interim Approach.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Charlotte Henry at 669-2616 or via email at henrych@inac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



for David Livingstone
Director, Renewable Resources and Environment

cc. INAC Internal Working Group