

# GEOFIN

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Honourable John Duncan, PC, MP  
Honourable Gail Shea, PC, MP  
Honourable Michael Mitenberger, MLa

Re: Consolidated GoldWin Ventures  
And  
Sidon International Resource Corp.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact  
Review Board

Land Use Applications EA -05-06 -005 and 006 Originally Commenced in September 2004  
as MV2004C0033 & MV2004C0039

## **BY Email**

Dear Sir,

I was made aware of your letters to the YKDN and Metis referring to this file and as the main consultant to the companies, Consolidated GoldWin Ventures (now Encore Renaissance Resources) and Sidon International Resources, I am responding to your request for written comments.

First of all, what are you smoking down there in Ottawa?

This permitting process is almost 7 years old and you are worried about semantics! Changing names, changing a few words and then giving a 4 page rationale for doing it!

This is ludicrous.

The state of mineral exploration in the NWT is non-existent!

The diamond market the saving grace for the economy of the NWT has fallen on hard times with the Country of Botswana buying DeBeer's corporate debt.

And you want to re-arrange the chairs on the Titanic!

This started out seven years ago as a simple request for a permit to conduct non-intrusive exploration, the kind mineral exploration companies have been conducting for 100 years and that have led to creating worldwide respect for Canada's professional explorationists. It has contributed to the Canadian economy at home and abroad (by technology transfer) to put our country in the G8.

I can't even remember if it was 3 sites, 5 sites or 10 drill sites. Permitting like that takes 30 days in BC, a day or two in Quebec, 2-3 weeks in Ontario and rarely more than 6 weeks anywhere in Canada for the scale of proposed exploration. Even in the tough US Bureau of Land Management regime, 3 months is usually sufficient and their environment (Nevada especially!) is as fragile as the NWT. This is not a new technique, a new method or a new type of ground disturbance.

Yet seven years and we're talking about semantics!

The cost in damage to Canada's reputation (not helped, by the way, by your recent Federal interference in the Tasko Mines debacle in BC) as a mining friendly regime is substantial.

California, which was created by the development of mineral resources, turned its back on them and through bureaucratic fiat has made it one most inhospitable regimes for mining in the world. Last I heard that state was heading towards bankruptcy!

Mining and mineral exploration have made some environmental mistakes in the past, but the industry has changed substantially and we tend to try to avoid those pitfalls today. The overall disruption of the environment by mineral extraction still is a very small percent (I remember a display of a 1x1 inch square representing mining on a 30" x 40" display board) and exploration with less of a permanent foot print, is smaller!

There are controls and rules we follow and have done so in the past in the NWT, that have worked fairly well in preserving and restoring the environment. Successful exploration leads to more in depth and detailed permitting as the scale of work increases. We are not even allowed to make the initial assessment of the property's exploration potential due to this convoluted time consuming permitting process in the NWT that has extended for 7 years!

The costs to these companies have been substantial! Not only has shareholder's capital been spent pursuing this LUP but Federal Tax incentive programs have been disrupted by the "actions" (rather inaction) of the Federal Ministry of Natural Resources – who after we had gone through the full public process and had a favourable MVEIRB decision, refused to issue the LUP and referred it to more study.

This is a preliminary non-permanent non intrusive exploration project! And it gets delayed again and even further.

This is ludicrous; we may have to pay some additional cost to another Federal Ministry due to the actions of this ministry! And this is the industry that built this country!

I don't even know, if the LUP was granted tomorrow, if we could interest enough people to put together the financing to proceed with the exploration program, we proposed so long ago! But don't take that as sign we are giving up. The moratorium on new claims in the area makes it necessary to continue to defer the assessment requirements and maintain our presence. Who knows if the logjam ever clears and someone discovers something the civil suits for loss opportunity might be interesting!

Both companies are pursuing ventures in Tanzania right now, where a Canadian Junior company (Canaco Resources) following on the heels of other Canadian exploration and mining companies (Sutton Resources – now Barrick, and Placer Dome – Now Barrick) have made significant discoveries in the past 15 years, using Canadian exploration techniques and conforming to environmental regulations in a manner that meets Canadian standards.

Sidon has acquired, conducted preliminary exploration and initiated a drill program within 6 months, in Tanzania without any degradation of the environment (some of the original drill holes have crops planted now!).

And in the NWT, seven years and counting....

Re-arrange the deck chairs and let us know how you intend to proceed. We wait with bated breath.

Sincerely

"Laurie Stephenson"

Laurence Stephenson

Consultant

Sidon International Resources Corp.

Encore Renaissance Resources Copr. (Formerly Cons. GoldWin Ventures Ltd.)

CC; Chief Edward Sangris  
Chief Ted Tsetta  
Chief Louis Balsillie  
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