



## Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

June 15, 2006

Mr. Steve Ellis  
Akaitcho IMA Implementation Coordinator  
NWT Treaty #8 Tribal Corporation  
Box 28  
Lutsel K'e, NT X0E 1A0

SENT BY FAX: (867) 370-3209

Dear Mr. Ellis:

**Re: Request to refer MV2006C0008 (Uravan Minerals Inc. exploratory drilling) to an environmental assessment**

Thank you for your letter of May 31, 2006 to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) in which you expressed the concerns of the NWT Treaty #8 Tribal Corporation regarding the Uravan Minerals Inc. application for a Land Use Permit to explore for uranium in the Boomerang and Disco Lakes area of the Akaitcho region, south of the Thelon Sanctuary. Your letter also requested that the Review Board refer this proposed development to an environmental assessment pursuant to Section 126(3) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*.

During its meeting of June 8, 2006 the Review Board reviewed this request and gave it thorough consideration. While the Review Board understands the concerns of the Akaitcho Dene First Nations (AKFNs), it is also bound to act in accordance to the *MVRMA*.

It is the Review Board's interpretation of the *MVRMA* that, once a license or permit has been issued, it no longer has the authority to implement section 126(3) of the *MVRMA*. In this instance, the MVLWB issued the Land Use Permit for the Uravan Minerals Inc. exploratory drilling project on May 5, 2006.

Further elaboration on the Review Board's decision in this regard will be provided in formal "Reasons for Decision" which will be issued by the end of June. As you have identified in your letter, it is important that the AKFNs clarify with the Crown and the MVLWB their respective roles and responsibilities regarding consultation on development applications.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vern Christensen".

Vern Christensen  
Executive Director

CC: Bob Wooley  
Executive Director  
MVLWB