

Ministre des Affaires indiennes et  
du Nord canadien et interlocuteur fédéral  
auprès des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits



Minister of Indian Affairs and  
Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor  
for Métis and Non-Status Indians

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

Ms. Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott  
Chair  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
PO Box 938  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

Dear Ms. Mackenzie-Scott:

**RE: Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision on Ur-Energy Incorporated Screech Lake Uranium Exploration Project (EA0607-003)**

I am writing on behalf of the Responsible Ministers with jurisdiction relating to the above-noted development (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Environment Canada, and the Government of the Northwest Territories, as represented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources), to convey our decision on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) recommendation that Ur-Energy Incorporated's proposal for mineral exploration work, as specifically described in land use permit application MV2006C0019, be rejected without an environmental impact review.

This decision was taken after consideration of:

- (1) the above-noted Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, dated May 7, 2007;
- (2) whether the proposed development might adversely affect established or potential Aboriginal and Treaty rights; and
- (3) the importance of the conservation of the lands, waters and wildlife of the Mackenzie Valley on which the development might have an impact, as required pursuant to section 131.2 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*;

Pursuant to sub-paragraph 130(1)(b)(i) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the Responsible Ministers have agreed to adopt the recommendation of the Review Board. This decision does not affect the legal standing of the mineral claims upon which the work was proposed to be undertaken.

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In addition, the Responsible Ministers received correspondence after the issuance of the above-noted Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision. A list of correspondence considered by the Responsible Ministers is enclosed.

I note that a number of other issues were placed before the Review Board during this environmental assessment. The Responsible Ministers have agreed to work together to develop an approach for addressing the broader long term context for land and resource management in the Thelon watershed. The three non-binding suggestions made by the Review Board in the Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision will be helpful to this work. Clearly this effort will have to be aligned with any ongoing land and resource negotiations with Aboriginal groups in the area. I have asked that a draft plan be prepared and available to be shared with key stakeholders by the end of November 2007.

I wish to thank the Review Board for discharging its duties under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* in this matter.

Sincerely,



Chuck Strahl

Encl.

c.c.: The Honourable John Baird, PC, MP  
The Honourable Michael Miltenberger, MLA

**Correspondence considered by the Responsible Ministers**

| Date          | From  | To   |
|---------------|---|--|
| May 11, 2007  | Moe Luksenberg  | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  |
| May 11, 2007  | Monte Hummel, World Wildlife Fund   | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  |
| May 11, 2007  | Chief Adeline Jonasson, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation  | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  |
| May 14 2007   | Julie Gelfand, Nature Canada  | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  |
| May 15, 2007  | Darryl Sexsmith, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Northwest Territories Chapter   | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  |
| May 25, 2007  | Tony Andrews, Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada; Gordon Peeling, Mining Association of Canada; Mike Vaydik, Northwest Territories and Nunavut Chamber of Mines | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  |
| Week of May 7 | Chief Adeline Jonasson, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation  | Open letter to "companies wishing to explore for uranium and other minerals in Thelon watershed, Akaitcho Territory" |
| May 28, 2007  | Ray Griffith, World Wildlife Fund   | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  |
| May 30, 2007  | William Boberg, Ur-Energy Incorporated  | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  |

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|---------------|---|---|
| June 4, 2007  | Gordon Clarke, North Arrow Minerals Incorporated  | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development |
| June 6, 2007  | Treaty 8 Tribal Corporation:<br>Chief Adeline Jonasson, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation;<br>Chief Fred Sangris, Yellowknives Dene First Nation (N'dilo);<br>Chief Peter Liske, Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah);<br>Chief Bill Norn, Deninu K'ue First Nation | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development |
| June 6, 2007  | Chief Adeline Jonasson, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation  | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development |
| June 6, 2007  | Kenneth Armstrong, Strongbow Minerals Incorporated  | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development |
| May 29, 2007  | George Leary, Bayswater Uranium Corporation   | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development |
| June 6, 2007  | Michael Gunning, Triex Minerals Corporation   | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development |
| June 5, 2007  | Athabasca Denesuline:<br>Chief Victor Fern, Fond du Lac First Nation;<br>Chief Freddie Throassie; Black Lake First Nation;<br>Chief Rosalie Tsannie-Burseth, Hatchet Lake First Nation  | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development |
| June 8, 2007  | Darryl Sexsmith, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Northwest Territories Chapter   | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development |
| June 14, 2007 | John Kearney, Canadian Zinc Corporation   | Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development |