

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development

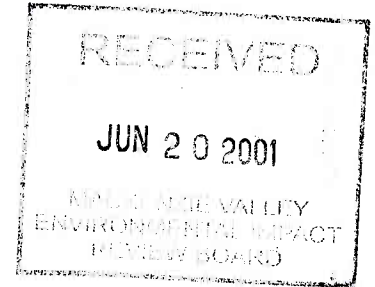


Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

JUN 15 2001

Mr. Eugene Patterson
Patterson Sawmill Ltd.
60 Patterson Road
HAY RIVER NT X0E 0R4



Dear Mr. Patterson:

Thank you for your letter of April 9, 2001, in which you express your concerns regarding the environmental assessment and regulatory processes under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (Act).

The Government of Canada has not reduced the ability of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to manage forestry and wildlife resources through the implementation of the environmental assessment process under the Act. The specialist advice provided by the GNWT, and other responsible Ministers, is an essential component of the assessment and regulatory processes. It is the responsibility of the various Boards to utilize that specialist advice effectively.

I appreciate your frustration that it is now more than nine months since your application for permits and that no decision has yet been rendered on the development. I can assure you that I have more than a 'casual concern' over the matters you have brought to my attention. At my direction, departmental officials are working with the Boards on several fronts to improve the current situation.

As noted in my correspondence to you of March 23, 2001, departmental officials will make every effort to assist the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board in reaching a determination on this development as soon as possible.

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Again, thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
ORIGINAL SIGNÉ PAR
ROBERT D. NAULT**

Robert D. Nault, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Mr. Louie Azzolini
R.P. Bailey