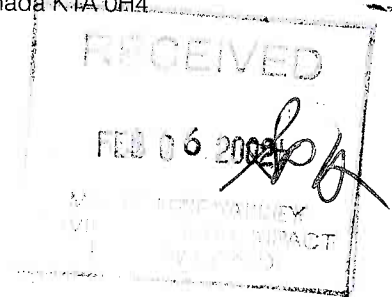


Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development



Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4



JAN 31 2002

Mr. Gordon Lennie
Chair
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact
Review Board
PO Box 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Lennie:

Thank you for your letter of December 20, 2001, in which you identify the outcome of consultations on the Patterson Sawmill Timber Harvesting Application Environmental Assessment Report (EA Report).

I commend the efforts of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Board) and staff, and that of the officials of the Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (in the role of responsible Minister with jurisdiction under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (Act), in successfully concluding this consultation process.

While the Act does not require the Board to amend its report following the modification of any measures contained in the EA Report, I appreciate that the Board's intent is to ensure all relevant changes are placed on the public record.

As the federal Minister under the Act, I will distribute the decision regarding the Board's recommendation on this development to all affected parties, as provided for under paragraph 130(1)(b)(ii) of the Act, in the immediate future.

I am pleased that Mr. Livingstone was able to assist in this matter, and trust that the Board will request his assistance in the future as appropriate.

.../2

Again, thank you for writing to me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Nault". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

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

c.c.: Mr. Bob Bailey