

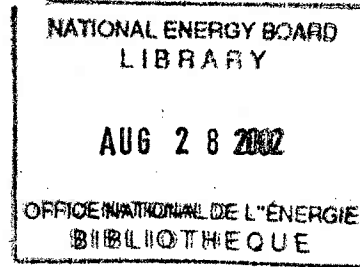
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Files 3400-P097-1  
2620-D-4-7  
27 August 2002



Mr. John Bartlett  
Resource Management Coordinator  
Deh Cho First Nations  
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Facsimile: (867) 695-2038

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

**Paramount Transmission Ltd. (Paramount) - Cameron Hills Pipeline  
Re-vegetation Seed Mixture**

This letter is in response to the questions you posed regarding the re-vegetation seed mixture used for the Cameron Hills Project in your facsimile to the National Energy Board (the Board) dated 24 July 2002. Some aspects of your questions may be best answered by the proponent; however, the Board offers the following responses.

The Board approved the limited use of a non-native seed mix on erosion-prone areas of Paramount's Cameron Hills pipeline project, based on evidence adduced during the joint public environmental assessment process conducted in coordination with the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, and in response to condition 8 of Board Order X0-P097-02-2002 which was previously forwarded to you. In the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* Screening Report issued in January 2002, the Board noted that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) had not yet approved the use of non-native grass species for erosion prone areas. Therefore, the Board imposed a condition requiring Paramount to review and revise its seed mixtures in consultation with the GNWT, other government agencies, and local communities as appropriate. Paramount was also required to develop and implement a follow-up monitoring program to assess the success of natural species re-establishment in both seeded and unseeded areas.

In order to fulfill the requirements of the condition, Paramount supplied evidence that other regulatory authorities, including the GNWT, approved the seed mix and its proposed use. No evidence was brought forward which would indicate that the seed mix was inappropriate for use as proposed by Paramount. Subsequently, by letter dated 18 March 2002, the Board approved the seed mix for use in erosion prone areas along with the re-vegetation monitoring plan. Note that Paramount is required to file the results from its re-vegetation monitoring program with the Board. The information will be analysed by Board staff and strategies for further reclamation will be developed if required, depending upon the results of the monitoring program.

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With respect to your question regarding who would be conducting a site visit to ensure the guidelines set by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board for the environmental assessment are followed, the Board is responsible for recommendations within its own authority. To monitor compliance with conditions and commitments made in relation to the National Energy Board approvals for the Cameron Hills Project, the Board employs several inspectors and environmental assessment specialists, any of whom may be involved with the project at any one time.

Paramount is accountable to the Board, and directly responsible to ensure its re-vegetation program is effective. If you have specific questions regarding Paramount's rationale for selecting the proposed seed mix and details regarding its use, please feel free to directly contact the company at (403) 290-3600 and ask for Tom Hong or Gordon Ferguson. For further general information regarding native plant re-vegetation, enclosed you will find a copy of *Native Plant Re-vegetation Guidelines for Alberta* and a progress report on native plant development for reclamation and habitat restoration, also from Alberta.

If you have further questions with respect to the Board's area of responsibility, please call environmental specialists Jann Atkinson (403) 299-2796 or John Fox (403) 299-3904.

Yours truly,



Michel L. Mantha  
Secretary

Attachments

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