



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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From: Martin Haefele Fax: (867) 766-7074

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Date: May 28, 2003 Pages: 6 including this page

To: Distribution List Fax:

CC:

Re: Northrock Summit Creek Environmental Assessment – Directly Affected Parties
and MVEIRB issued Information Requests

NOTES:

Please refer to the attached letter.

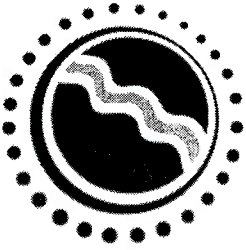
Regards,

Martin Haefele

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Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

May 28, 2003

Distribution List

Dear interested Parties:

**Re Northrock Summit Creek Environmental Assessment
Standing of Parties and Review Board Information Requests**

During its meeting on May 27, 2003 the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board granted standing to those directly affected parties that had identified themselves prior May 22, 2003. These are GNWT-RWED, Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB), and Environment Canada. Parties requesting status after May 22 will be addressed in a separate Board meeting. Please remember that June 30, 2003 is the deadline for identifying yourself. Organizations not responding by then will no longer be on the distribution list. The Sahtu Land and Water Board and the developer are automatically directly affected parties.

During the meeting the Review Board also decided to issue Information Requests to Northrock, GNWT-RWED, and to the SRRB. The Information Requests are attached to this letter. Once all directly affected parties and interveners have been identified, they will have opportunity to issue Information Requests of their own. All Information Requests have to be submitted to, and approved by, the MVEIRB.

The parties who have Information Requests directed at them now are asked to provide the requested information to the MVEIRB by June 20. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require clarification on any of the Information Requests, or if you wish to discuss the requests directed at you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martin Haefele".

Martin Haefele

Environmental Assessment Officer

Encl: (1)

IR Number: 1.1.1

Source: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

To: Northrock Resources Ltd.

DAR Section: Alternatives, E-1 Access

Terms of Reference Section: E. Alternatives, E-1. Access

Contrast environmental impacts of different access routes. Also include, where possible, alternatives to the proposed equipment

Preamble

The DAR contrasts the Keele River and Little Bear River access routes in general terms including total footprint, cost, access to water sources, water requirement, and possible future developments. At the community hearing on May 15, however, Tulita residents continued to argue strongly in favour of the Little Bear route. The main argument is that it would be better to use the existing route than opening up a new one.

Request

The MVEIRB asks Northrock to provide information separately for:

- the Keele River route up to the junction with the Little Bear Route,
- the Little Bear route proposed by Northrock to the junction with the Keele River route,
- the Little Bear route suggested by the community (i.e. the access used for the seismic project) to the junction with the Keele River route, and
- the remainder of the access to the well site.

Please provide the following numbers for each of the above segments:

- Total amount of water required to ice in the road;
- Length of route that requires widening;
- Length of route that requires re-opening old cutlines (excluding lines used in the past 5 years); and,
- Total area involved.

IR Number: 1.1.2
Source: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
To: Northrock Resources Ltd.
DAR Section: J. Cultural and Heritage Resources, J-1 Local Resources
Terms of Reference Section: J. Cultural and Heritage Resources,

J-1 Local Resources:

Identify archeological and other heritage resources as well as sites or areas of cultural significance in or near the project area.

J-2 Direct Impacts:

Describe potential direct impacts on sites or areas identified in I-1

Preamble

The DAR lists several archeological and historical sites and states that there will be no impacts to these sites. During the Community Hearing on May 15, 2003 in Tulita Northrock stated that the company plans to employ an archeologist to verify the locations and nature of the sites and to conduct a search for other possible sites along the route.

Request

The MVEIRB asks Northrock to provide the following information regarding archeological sites:

- For which portions of the project does Northrock propose to conduct an archaeological assessment, and why?
- What mitigation measures does Northrock propose in case this assessment identifies any sites that may be impacted by the project?

IR Number: 1.1.3

Source: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
To: GNWT-RWED
DAR Section: I. Wildlife Harvesting
Terms of Reference Section: I. Wildlife Harvesting

Preamble

Northrock described in its DAR various mitigation measures it believes will minimize any impact on wildlife. The DAR does not specify which wildlife species might be present in the project area.

Request

The MVEIRB asks the Sahtu Regional Office of RWED to supply the following information, to the extent possible:

- What wildlife species are confirmed to be present in the project area, in particular along the two possible access routes (Keele River and Little Bear River routes)?
- What is the abundance of these species and, if available, how are they distributed along the access routes and in the project area in general?
- What other species can reasonably be expected in the area, with what abundance and distribution?
- Are any of these species particularly sensitive to disturbance? If possible rate the sensitivity of each species.
- What habitat types are encountered by each access route?

IR Number: 1.1.4

Source: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

To: GNWT-RWED

DAR Section: I. Wildlife Harvesting

Terms of Reference Section: I. Wildlife Harvesting

Preamble

The DAR gives an overview of the effects the project may have on wildlife harvesting and concludes that there will be little net effect. For the Board to determine if a significant adverse effect on wildlife harvesting is likely, it requires a baseline of harvesting activity and information on the importance of harvesting to the local economy.

Request

The MVEIRB asks GNWT-RWED to supply any statistics it may have regarding harvest in the Tulita region over the past 5 years or longer. In addition to statistics on the level of harvesting, information on the total value of the harvest will be of interest. This would include value as food source. Lacking specific information on Tulita, statistics involving the Sahtu Settlement Area will be helpful.

IR Number: 1.1.5
Source: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
To: Sahtu Renewable Resource Board
DAR Section: I. Wildlife Harvesting
Terms of Reference Section: I. Wildlife Harvesting

Preamble

Northrock Resources detailed its efforts to determine the level of harvesting activity in the project area in its DAR and provided information on harvested furs for the Tulita district. The Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement defines harvest to include gathering, hunting and fishing in addition to trapping. The SRRB conducted a harvest study for the Sahtu Settlement.

Request

The MVEIRB acknowledges the confidentiality of any information related to individual harvesters and does not request any information that could be traced back to an individual. Furthermore, the MVEIRB does not request any location specific information, but rather summaries for certain areas. The MVEIRB asks the SRRB to provide the following information from the ongoing harvest study to the extent possible:

- What species and in approximately what numbers were harvested since the study began in the area traversed by the Little Bear route to where it joins the Keele River route?
- What species and in approximately what numbers were harvested since the study began in the area traversed by the Keele River route to where it joins the Little Bear route?
- What species and in approximately what numbers were harvested since the study began in the area traversed by the access route from where the Keele and Little Bear routes meet to the well site.
- Does the available data show any trends towards an increase or decrease in harvesting levels for any of these areas?
- How accurately does this information from the harvest study reflect actual harvest?

Please include the width of the corridor along each route you choose for the analysis, as well as rationale for this choice.