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Western Arctic Area Office
Suite 101, 5204 50th Avenue
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1E2
PH: (867) 669-4900
FX: (867) 669-4940

Page 1 of/de 3 (including cover)

DATE: July 11, 2003

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JUL 11 2003

MACKENZIE VALLEY
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REVIEW BOARD

TO/A:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Name/ Nom | Sherry Sian |
| Organization/Company Organisation/Compagnie | EA Officer, MVEIRB |
| Telephone Number/ Numéro de téléphone | |
| Facsimile Number/ Numéro de téléphone | 766-7074 |

MESSAGE:

FROM/DE:

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name Nom | Elaine Blais, Area Habitat Biologist |
| Telephone Number Numéro de téléphone | (867) 669-4912 |
| <p><i>The documents accompanying this transmission contain confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose. The information is private, and is legally protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or taking of any action in reference to the contents of this telecopied information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original to us by regular mail.</i></p> | |

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Suite 101, 5204-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, Northwest
Territories
X1A 1E2Your file *Votre référence*Our file *Notre référence*SC02167
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SC03022

July 11, 2003

Sherry Sian
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7**RE: General Cumulative Effects Assessment for Drybones Bay/Wool Bay - Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. MV 2003C0003; North American General Resources Corp. MV2003C0008; New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd. MV 2003C0016**

Dear Ms. Sian,

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans – Fish Habitat Management (DFO) has reviewed the draft terms of reference for the cumulative effects assessment and offers the following comments for the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (MVEIRB) consideration.

- Page 2 – the timeline mentioned in the last paragraph does not correspond to the timeline outlined in Table 2 on Page 7;
- The Cumulative Effects Assessment Practitioner's Guide published by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency discusses regional planning and land use studies or strategic environmental assessments in Section 4.2. The Guide states that project-specific Cumulative Effects Assessments (CEAs) cannot be forced into the role of a regional planning study. I understand that this CEA will be carried out by the Board itself and not be the responsibility of each of the developers in this case. However, it is not clear how the residual impacts (if any) from the project-specific EAs will be factored into the CEA. The Terms of Reference could discuss how all the assessments will be combined and considered to eventually form a decision of the Board.
- DFO will assist the MVEIRB where it can to carry out the CEA but if there is a need for fish assessment work, the developers will be responsible to gather the necessary information.

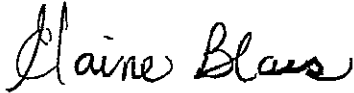
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- The contractor carrying out the CEA could develop maps depicting past, present and future activities on a watershed boundary basis to aid in understanding if there are cumulative effects on fish and fish habitat. However, given that the potential residual project-specific impacts on fish and fish habitat are not yet documented by each of the developer's in environmental assessment reports, it is not clear how the contractor can carry out the CEA without knowing the residual impacts and how they might affect fish and fish habitat and subsistence and commercial fisheries in a cumulative fashion. The MVEIRB should consider having each of the developer's carry out its own project-specific CEAs if required and a regional planning study be carried out separately to address the broader concerns raised by the Aboriginal groups and other interested stakeholders.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please call me at (867) 669-4912.

Sincerely,



Elaine Blais
Area Habitat Biologist
Fish Habitat Management-Western Arctic Area