

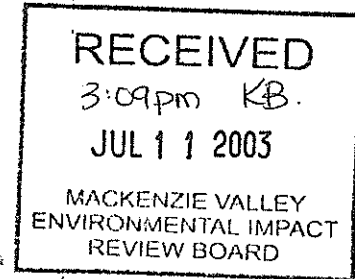


Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

July 11, 2003

Sherry Sian
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre, 5102-50th Avenue
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2N 7



Re: Comments on the Draft Terms of Reference and Schedule for the General Cumulative Effects Assessment of the Drybones Bay/Wool Bay Area for the following four projects:

Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. MV 2003C0003.
North American General Resources Corp. MV 2003C0008.
New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd. MV 2003C0016.
Snowfield Development Corp. MV 2003C0023

Dear Ms. Sian:

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has reviewed the Draft document for Cumulative Effects (CE) Assessment of the Drybones Bay/Wool Bay Area and the proposed format for developing a decision making guideline for these projects. An initial observation is these developments are exploratory in nature and would be unlikely to contribute to long term CE impacts. INAC suggests that the CE study assessment process focus on the short term temporal nature of the developments being assessed.

The CE study for the Drybones Bay/Wool Bay area should provide information to guide and assist the MVEIRB in determining the potential cumulative effects impacts of the proposed individual projects to the environment, and the significance of any identified cumulative impacts. It is important the CE study interviewing process be applied consistently between developments and be available for the public record.

In the Terms of Reference for the CE study a number of items require clarification:

- Has a standard interview format or series of questions been developed for proposed interviews with developing companies and the government departments? Are these available for review and what type of analysis will be used to assess these responses once acquired?
- How does the MVEIRB consulting contractor plan on sharing the information sourced from other parties involved in the Environmental Assessment process?

- Does the MVEIRB plan on developing a composite timeline for development activities related to these four projects and the Diamonds North Resources program which received approval earlier this year. It is recommended that Gant Charts be developed to include each of the projects annual programs plus the impacts of forecasted future years developments?
- Will the MVEIRB be assessing and/or forecasting what the cumulative effects of the Diamonds North Resources projects was in the Drybones Bay area as well as other projects land use activities?
- What process has the MVEIRB adopted for ranking and prioritizing each of the respective projects regarding their cumulative effects? How will the CE studies results be applied to the individual projects EA?

Please note that INAC has information regarding mineral development and various database compilation in the DIAND-MDD Geology Division for assessment. District offices are also a source of information for land use activities, permits, and mitigation completed.

If you have any questions on the attached comments for these four projects on CE study for the Drybones Bay Area, please call members of our Environmental Assessment(EA) team, Lionel Marcinkoski at 669-2591, Miki Promislow at 669-2616, or Fraser Fairman at 669-2587 or by email.



Lionel Marcinkoski
Environmental Scientist
Environment & Conservation
Renewable Resources and Environment

LM/MK/FF
cc: Eric Yaxley