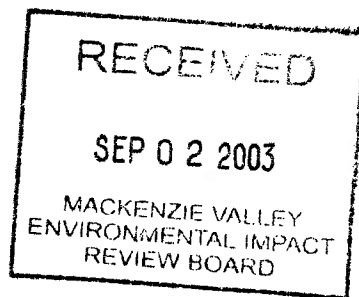




Fish Habitat Management
Suite 101, 5204-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, Northwest
Territories
X1A 1E2



Your file *Votre référence*

Our file *Notre référence*

SC02167
SC03022
SC03002

September 2, 2003

Sherry Sian
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7

RE: Comments on Developer's Assessment Reports for Drybones Bay/Wool Bay - Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. EA-03-002; North American General Resources Corp. EA-03-003; New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd. EA-03-004.

Dear Ms. Sian,

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans – Fish Habitat Management (DFO) has reviewed the Developer's Assessment Reports (DAR) for the projects as listed above and offers the following comments for the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (MVEIRB) consideration.

Consolidated Goldwin Ventures EA-03-002/SC 02167

- On page 3, the DAR states that the company through its contractor conducted a water depth survey in the spring of 2003. This information must be submitted as data for fish habitat assessment.
- On page 8, Section C-5 Water Use, water use is estimated to be about 25,000 litres per hole. For the on-land drill site near the Hearne channel water is to be withdrawn from a small unnamed pond adjacent to the drill site. The company needs to provide specific information pertaining to the source waterbody as indicated in the DFO Letter of Advice dated March 17, 2003.

North American General Resources Corporation EA-03-003/SC 03022

- On page 54 of the DAR, Section 10.4 *Possible Direct and Indirect Impacts and Mitigating Measures*, the impact to fish and fish habitat is said to be negligible. However this section does not describe the drill

locations to the south of the island where water is deeper. Drill sites must not be located on shoals where lake trout or whitefish could spawn.

New Shoshoni Ventures Inc. EA-03-004/SC03002

- The DAR on page 7, Section C-3 *Operations* describes three main drill site areas where up to ten holes are expected to be drilled. This information contradicts that presented in the original land use application and that presented in Section C-2 of the DAR. The last paragraph of page 6 states that "Most of the drill site areas are located in Great Slave Lake and along the shoreline area of Drybones Bay. The other potential drill site areas are located on land in a low-lying area and to the north of Drybones Bay." This discrepancy of the number of drill sites is also evident when reading Section J-3 *Direct and Indirect Impacts* (second paragraph) where 3 sites are listed in one sentence and the next sentence describes more than 3. The discrepancy with the number of sampling sites needs to be clarified.
- The DAR on page 21 also states that shoals are utilized by lake trout for spawning or rearing to a depth of 10 metres. As the drill sites are reported to be in water depths exceeding 15 metres it is projected that there will be no impact to the shoals. This depth data must be provided to verify that there are no shoals in the vicinity of the proposed drill sites.

DFO requires this information in order to conclude its review of the Environmental Assessment.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please call me at (867) 669-4912 or Dave Balint at (867) 669-4926.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

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

DB

Copy Julie Dahl, Habitat Chief,