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Mr. Vern Christensen-Executive Director, MUEIEB

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766-7074

Dear Mr. Christensen.

Please find attached INAL's Request for Ruling letter on the Dryhones/Wood Bay area's Environmental assersments.

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MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

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Your file - Volra référence

Our file - Notre référence

November 6, 2003

Mr. Vern Christensen
Executive Director,
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 200 Scotia Centre, (5102-50th Avenue)
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7
Fax: 867-766 7074

Re: Request for Ruling - Drybones/Wool Bay Areas' Environmental Assessments

Dear Mr. Christensen:

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) requests that the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB), pursuant to section 44 of the Rules of Procedure for Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Review Proceedings, rule on a number of issues prior to the Public Hearing for the Drybones/Wool Bay Areas' Environmental Assessments.

INAC would like to request that the MVEIRB rule on the following questions:

- 1. How will the MVERIB use the Cumulative Effects (CE) Study in relation to the three Environmental Assessments in the Drybones/Wool Bay Areas?
- 2. As this is a new process whereby a CE Study is being used and it is intended that one Public Hearing will cover three separate EAs, how will the MVEIRB reconcile its decision making process? Will the MVEIRB combine the three EAs in any respect or will they treat the EAs separately and on their own merits? Can the MVEIRB explain/clarify this new process?
- 3. How will the Snowfield Development Corporation factor into the Public Hearings, if at all? Will this EA be dealt with separately?

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4. INAC identified numerous omissions, deficiencies, and incomplete findings in the CE Study by Gartner Lee Limited. Will the MVEIRB be submitting a Final CE Study with all parties' comments and issues summarized for the Public Registry?

INAC requests these issues be resolved prior to the Public Hearings to ensure the public and other parties or regulatory agencies are clear on the EA process for the proposed developments in the Drybones/Wool Bay Areas.

If the MVEIRB has any questions regarding this Request for Ruling, please contact Lionel Marcinkoski, at 669-2591, or Fraser Fairman, at 669-2587.

Sincerely,

Eric Yaxley,

Acting Manager,

Environment and Conservation

& L. Gazley

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

All