

Ref # 61

July 3, 2003

Chief Peter Liske  
Dettah, and  
Chief Darrell Beaulieu  
N'Dilo  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation  
Box 2514,  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 2P8

Dear Chiefs Liske and Beaulieu:

**Re: Cumulative Effects Study of the Drybones – Wool Bay Area**

Thank you for your letter of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003 outlining the Yellowknives' plans to conduct a cumulative effects study in the Drybones and Wool Bay areas over the course of this summer. The Review Board appreciates the clarification you have provided of your proposal and your plans.

The Review Board also welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the YKDFN in the conduct of its cumulative effects assessment for the Drybones and Wool Bay areas. Our collaboration must, however, respect the limits imposed on the Review Board by the rules of fairness and the need to ensure the independence of the Board in the interests of all participants in the EA.

I respond to the specific points raised in your letter below.

First, the Review Board approved a draft Terms of Reference and Work Plan for the conduct of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the developments in the Drybones and Wool Bay areas. These documents were circulated, as you know, to the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) and other parties to the EA for comment. The comments that have been provided by the YKDFN are helpful. Thank you very much.

The Review Board will consider all comments received and approve and circulate a final Terms of Reference and Work Plan for the EA.

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Further, the Review Board has retained Gartner Lee Ltd. to assist in the preparation of a cumulative effects assessment report for the Drybones and Wool Bay areas. The Review Board has distributed the Terms of Reference and Work Plan for this cumulative effects assessment for comment by the parties to the EA. These comments are to be provided by July 11<sup>th</sup>.


We have also noted your suggestion to pool resources associated with the data collection component of the cumulative effects assessment. As we indicated in previous correspondence, the Review Board is not in a position to provide funding for the YKDFN efforts. The Review Board is, however, willing to collaborate in data collection and to share any information collected by our consultants Gartner Lee Ltd. during their assignment. We will instruct our consultants accordingly. Once the field work and research is completed though, the Review Board must, through its consultants, interpret the information collected and prepare its own report on the cumulative effects of development in the affected areas. Any report prepared independently by the YKDFN will also be an important addition to the evidence considered when the Review Board makes its decision on this EA.

The Review Board's report will be completed on a timeframe consistent with the final work plan for the EA. Upon completion, the Report will be filed on the public record to these proceedings. Our report will be available for comment by parties to the EA, including the YKDFN.

As we have previously indicated, Ms. Sherry Sian is the Environmental Assessment Officer assigned to this file. I have instructed her to discuss your letter and the collaboration we have agreed to with Gartner Lee Ltd. Ms. Sian will then contact Ms. Rachel Ann Crapeau about our cooperation in your field work and other research efforts related to the cumulative effects assessment. I expect that a plan for our cooperative efforts will result.

Since the Review Board has now initiated its process for the Drybones and Wool Bay EAs, our Rules of Procedure require that correspondence related to these proceedings be addressed to our Executive Director, Mr. Vern Christensen. This requirement is intended to preserve the independence of the Board and to ensure that our most senior manager is aware of and able to respond expeditiously to all matters relevant to the conduct of the EA. Please direct any future correspondence related to the conduct of the cumulative effects assessment of the Drybones and Wool Bay areas to Mr. Christensen's attention.

Yours truly,

  
Todd Burlingame  
Chairman

