

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Our Files: EA-03-002
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August 27, 2003

Ms. Rachel Crapeau
Land and Resources Coordinator
Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Box 2514,
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

Dear Ms. Crapeau:

Re: Report on Field Studies in the Drybones Bay/Wool Bay Areas

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) now expects to receive the report from its consultants, Gartner Lee Ltd., on the cumulative effects study of the Drybones/Wool Bay areas on September 4th. One of the major gaps in this report will be traditional use information for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. We had hoped to access the research report on your related work this summer in the Drybones/Wool Bay areas so that it could have been incorporated into the Board's cumulative effects study.

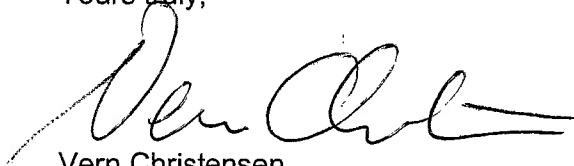
We anticipate that the Yellowknives' Dene report may provide important information for the Review Board's consideration. As you know, hearings have already been scheduled in the Drybones/Wool Bay environmental assessments (EAs). The conduct of the hearings will be undertaken consistent with the rules of fairness and natural justice. Timely disclosure of the Yellowknives' report is needed so other participants may consider all the relevant evidence as they prepare for participation in the hearings.

Based on the current EA schedule the Yellowknives' traditional use information should be available in a format appropriate for distribution to the parties by September 4th. The Yellowknives' traditional use information can then be distributed to the parties at the same time as the cumulative effects study report.

We understand that there may be some sensitive information in your report. Should you have any concerns about the sharing of this information, please communicate your concerns in writing before September 4th so that the Review Board can rule, if necessary, on how to treat this information in the Environmental Assessment process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any questions or we may be of further assistance.

Yours truly,



Vern Christensen
Executive Director

cc. John Donihee, Counsel

