



Our Files: EA-03-002
EA-03-003
EA-03-004
EA-03-006

November 12, 2003

To: All Parties

Re: Confidential Reports of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (EA-03-002, EA-03-003, EA-03-004, EA-03-006)

On November 7, 2003, a meeting was held with Review Board staff and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN). The purpose of this meeting was to establish a mechanism for sharing YKDFN's confidential reports¹ in a manner that will protect the sensitivity of these materials while ensuring that those parties that need to review the reports can. The approach set out below was developed in consultation with YKDFN and meets the Review Board's need to ensure that the information sharing process is fair for all parties.

Parties accessing the reports should be aware of the YKDFN concerns about sharing the information, namely:

- The reports include site specific information about heritage sites that have not yet been assigned Borden numbers such that they are not fully protected under law;
- Information in the reports is proprietary including traditional knowledge collected by and at the expense of the YKDFN;
- The research reports are preliminary, based on two weeks of field research, and more extensive surveys would be required before the YKDFN would consider the information about the Drybones area to be complete; and
- Accurate interpretation and the appropriate use of the information in the reports for development planning should involve further consultation with the YKDFN.

Page 1 of 2

¹ Reports are: *A Preliminary Report on the Cultural and Historical Resources of the Drybones and Wool Bay Areas*; *Archaeological Assessment of Mineral Exploration and Aggregate Extraction in the Vicinity of Drybones Bay and Wool Bay, Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories*; and *Wildlife and Wildlife Related Activities in the Wool Bay and Drybones Bay area, Great Slave Lake, NWT by the Yellowknives Dene*.

The YKDFN understand the need for full disclosure of the information in these reports in the interest of procedural fairness. YKDFN has agreed to make confidential reports available to the parties that need to see them. The Review Board will therefore accept the reports and place them on the record for the Consolidated Goldwin Ventures, North American General Resources, New Shoshoni Ventures, and Snowfield Development Corporation's EAs. Controlled access to the reports will help protect sensitive information, such that:

- Only those parties advising the Review Board in writing that they need to see the information will be permitted to do so;
- Parties wishing to see the materials must commit to viewing the information under the terms and conditions described herein;
- The reports will be made available to parties which require access to the information for viewing in the Review Board office only;
- Reproduction of any portion of these materials is prohibited but notes about the contents may be made for use in the EAs; and
- Any information drawn from the YKDFN's reports should be attributed to YKDFN and cited appropriately.

All parties wishing to view the YKDFN's materials may do so starting November 12, 2003. Parties may indicate their need to review the reports in writing by letter to the Executive Director of the Board. The threshold for a "need to see" the documents is simply that they will or may be relevant to a party's hearing submissions.

The reports may be requested during regular office hours (8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.) from Monday to Friday.

Sincerely,



Sherry Sian

Environmental Assessment Officer

Cc: Rachel Crapeau, YKDFN Land and Environment Committee

