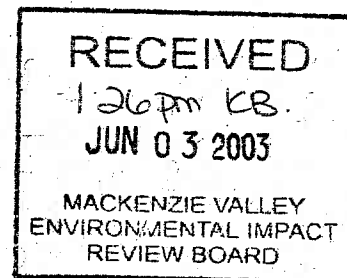




Yellowknives Dene First Nation  
Box 2514, Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2P8

Detah Ph.: (867) 873-4307  
(867) 873-8951  
Fax: (867) 873-5969

June 2, 2003



Todd Burlingame  
Chair: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Box 938, 200 Scotia Centre, (5102-50<sup>th</sup> Avenue)  
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2N7  
Fax: (867) 766-7074

**RE: Referral to Environmental Assessment of North American General Resources**

Dear Mr. Burlingame:

I have received and considered your letter dated May 26, 2003 and am requesting that you maintain the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) on your fax and email distribution lists as a directly affected party in this environmental assessment proceeding.

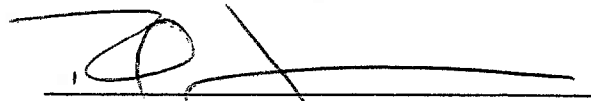
The YKDFN emphasizes to the Review Board that the Drybones Bay and Wool Bay areas of inestimable value to the Akaitcho First Nations. Therefore, the YKDFN will be asking that the Department Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) exercise the precautionary principle respecting its fiduciary obligations as the very act of having the YKDFN community in a position of having to justify the spiritual and cultural significance of its spiritual and cultural places is an infringement of Aboriginal rights.

The YKDFN accepts *without prejudice* that the Review Board has the legal authority under Part V of the MVRMA to establish the Scope of the Development in determining the Scope of the Assessment; however, the Review Board is obligated to consider comments from the public.

The YKDFN notes, however, that MVRMA ss.117 (2)(e) burdens the Responsible Ministers with an authority and responsibility equal to that of the Review Board in determining the Scope of the Assessment. The YKDFN believe this obligates the Government of Canada to communicate and consult with the YKDFN regarding appropriate scope of assessment factors. The YKDFN is planning a meeting/workshop with the Responsible Ministers to facilitate their scope of the assessment efforts as soon as reasonably possible.

The YKDFN also offers to prepare a professional EIS suitable for the consideration of the Board, the Responsible Ministers and the Federal Minister conditional upon the company accepting the offer.

Sincerely,



Chief Richard Edjericon  
Dettah



Chief Darrell Beaulieu  
Ndilo

c.c. Yellowknives Dene First Nation Legal Counsel, Edmonton, Alberta  
Review Board Members, Mackenzie Valley Impact Review Board:  
Charlie Snowshoe, Frank Pope, Danny Bayha, John Stevenson, Gordon Wray