

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7
www.mveirb.nt.ca

From: Sherry Sian
EAO
Date: December 2, 2003
To: Snowfield Development Corporation
Fax: 867-766-7074
Phone: 867-766-7063
Pages: 3 including this page
Fax:
CC: MVLWB
Subject: Clarification from YKDFN re: Request for Deferral of Public Hearing (EA-03-006)

NOTES:

For your review.

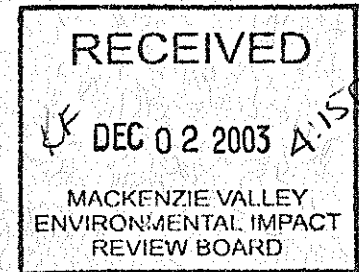
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Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Box 2514, Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2P8

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

December 2, 2003



Sherry Sian
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 200 Scotia Centre, (5102-50th Avenue),
Yellowknife, NT. X1A 2N7
Fax: (867) 766-7074

**RE: Reasons for Postponement of the Snowfield Development Corporation (Snowfield)
Environmental Assessment Public Hearing**

Dear Ms. Sian,

At the Pre-hearing conference on November 28, 2003 the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) was notified by Sherry Sian, Environmental Assessment Officer that the Review Board would rule on the YKDFN's request to postpone the public hearing component of the Snowfield Development Corporation environmental assessment the week of December 1, 2003. The YKDFN would like to outline several additional factors that are affecting its ability to effectively participate in the Review Board's proceedings.

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation have invested considerable time and resources into the previous hearings of November 25 and 26th, due to the short time period between the two public hearings. There is insufficient time to adequately prepare and brief and community members who wish to make representations. This is particularly difficult in light of the rapidly approaching Christmas season.

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation Band council meeting is scheduled for December 16 in Dettah and several potential speakers not to mention the Chiefs may be unavailable for the public hearing because of Band Council commitments.

In addition to the issues associated with having a hearing shortly before Christmas, the YKDFN do not believe the wholesale transfer of public registry information onto the Snowfield public registry satisfies its concerns regarding the inclusion of oral testimony and traditional knowledge. Because these forms of knowledge are not reducible to transcripts, the YKDFN would appreciate the opportunity of providing its membership an opportunity to appear before the Review Board and provide oral evidence.

If there are any questions please contact Rachel Ann Crapeau at the Land and Environment office at 669-9002.

Sincerely,



Chief Peter Liske - Dettah

Chief Darrell Beaulieu - Ndilo

c.c. Yellowknives Dene First Nations Legal Counsel, Edmonton, Alberta
Fax: (780) 424-5852