



## Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Box 938 , 5102-50th Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7  
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From: Sherry Sian Fax: 867-766-7074  
EAO Phone: 867-766-7063  
Date: December 1, 2003 Pages: 4 including this page  
To: Snowfield Development Corp. Fax:  
CC: MVLWB  
Subject: SDC and NWT Métis Nation Comments on YKDFN Request for Ruling (EA-03-006)

### NOTES:

For your information. Please note responses to comments will be accepted if received Tuesday by 10:00 am.

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## Sherry Sian

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**From:** Chris Heron [rcc.nwtmn@gardtal.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2003 3:01 PM  
**To:** Sherry Sian  
**Cc:** Ursula Rusch; Robert Tordiff; Jason E Lepine  
**Subject:** Snowfield Development - Request for ruling from YkDFN

Sherry:

The Northwest Territory Metis Nation is in agreement with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, we would agree with the reasoning for the delay in the process. As the time is short for the participants to prepare for the public hearing, and with the holiday season coming fast there exists a possibility that we may not have all the participants available for the hearing. If the hearing is postponed to January 2004, this would allow all participants to have sufficient time for preparation.

It should be noted that Mr. Jason Lepine is not available for the hearing and that I will be attending. Therefore, any pertinent materials be forwarded to myself. Should you have any question please do not hesitate to contact myself at the address below.

Thank you,

Chris Heron  
Regional Contaminants Coordinator  
Northwest Territory Metis Nation  
Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0  
Phone: 867-872-2770  
Fax: 867-872-2772  
E-mail: rcc.nwtmn@gardtal.com

**Snowfield Development Corp.** 100 - 1009 Expo Boulevard, Vancouver, B. C. V6Z 2V9  
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December 1, 2003

Ms. Sherry Sian  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Box 938, 5102-50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Your File: EA-03-006

November 13, 2003

Dear Ms Sian,,

**Re: Yellowknives Dene First Nation ("YKDFN") Request to Postpone Snowfield E.A. Hearings**

Snowfield Development Corp. ("Snowfield") is in receipt of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation letter dated November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003, and marked received by your office on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003, as delivered to Snowfield by yourself on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003, referencing Information Requests and requesting that the Review Board postpone the upcoming Snowfield pre-conference hearing (November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003) and public hearing (December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003). Snowfield wishes to take this opportunity to place on the public record its most vigorous objection to any changes to the public hearing previously scheduled for Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

It is submitted that this request from the YKDFN is unjustified and can only be construed as being a further delaying tactic by the YKDFN. This request for a ruling from the Board has been submitted at an extremely late date in the process and, based on the lack of meaningful or substantive evidence submitted in support of such a ruling, surely cannot be seriously considered. The suggestion that Snowfield "can benefit from the upcoming hearings for the three concurrent environmental assessments of ----" or that this will enable the proponent, Snowfield, "to benefit from the results of the hearings, provide any supplemental information and provide an opportunity for the proponent to work with the YKDFN in meaningful consultation" is simply self-fulfilling hyperbole on the part of the YKDFN and is not considered by Snowfield to be of any benefit whatsoever. Snowfield cannot conceive of any advantage accruing from the proposed delay of hearing and can only foresee disastrous, debilitating consequences to the company should decisions on land use permitting be further delayed beyond the present potentially achievable time frame.

Snowfield is fully prepared to proceed with the public hearing, as scheduled, on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003. The public hearing for the Snowfield environmental assessment is a stand-alone hearing, totally independent of any other hearings and must be heard and assessed on its own merits. It is submitted that there is no direct relationship between the hearings held for New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd., Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Ltd. and North American Resources Corporation which were site specific to the Drybones Bay and Wool Bay areas and the environmental assessment reviewing the merits of Snowfield's proposed basic exploration programs which are located in a very different geographical location with significantly different environmental and cultural considerations and impacts. Snowfield cannot conceive of any benefit accruing to the Company from the very different circumstances of the three preceding hearings and has no wish to be judged thereto.

Furthermore, any unjustified delay in the scheduled hearing will cause an untenable and unjustifiable financial and operational penalty and burden upon Snowfield which is totally dependent upon a reasonable, previously scheduled, lead time in which to undertake its public financing's for annual exploration and administrative funding. Should the hearing be delayed, but Snowfield be successful in obtaining a land use permit, the 2004 winter/spring exploration season will be lost and, in that Snowfield's proposed exploration programs are primarily environmentally dependent upon winter operations, the consequences of not moving ahead operationally or economically for a full year would seriously jeopardize the Company's very existence. Additionally, on a human level, Snowfield has staff members who have already changed Christmas holiday bookings to accommodate the December 16<sup>th</sup> hearing date in addition to the Company having already made travel and accommodation arrangements for its staff and consultants attending the hearings.

Additionally, in view of the recent decision of the Review Board to allow the evidence heard at the Public Hearings held on November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003, with respect to the Environmental Assessment for New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd., Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Ltd. and North American General Resources Corporation, to be treated as evidence before the Snowfield Environmental Assessment hearing should surely alleviate some of the concerns of the YKDFN, as orally stated by Mr. Azzolini, their representative, on November 28, 2003. Snowfield is confident that the Review Board will include and consider all relevant evidence, particularly the evidence submitted by the respected YKDFN Elders, as it may be applicable to Snowfield's proposed exploration programs while setting aside any submitted evidence that was submitted with respect to those other three proponents and was site specific to the immediate Drybones Bay and Wool Bay areas.

For all of the above stated reason, Snowfield respectfully requests that the Review Board set aside the request from the YKDFN to alter the scheduled date for the public hearing of Snowfield's environmental assessment and allow, as previously promulgated, Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003 to stand as the date for that public hearing.

Respectfully

*"Robert T. Paterson"*

Robert T. Paterson,  
President & C.E.O.  
Snowfield Development Corp.